

Archdiocesan Guidelines

First Confession

A child's readiness for the celebration of the sacrament of First Confession will be judged using the following criteria:

1. A trust in God's forgiving love
2. A sense of self-worth, a self-image based on a good relationship with God
3. A sense of belonging to the Church community
4. An understanding of forgiveness, a desire to receive and give forgiveness
5. A sense of right and wrong and of the reality of evil
6. Knowledge of sin, an ability to describe wrong doing in his/her own words
7. A desire for reparation, to make amends for wrongs done to God, to others
8. An ability to make a good examination of conscience
9. Knowledge of how to confess sins to a priest
10. An ability to say "I'm sorry," to express a sense of repentance, contrition, metanoia (change of heart)
11. Awareness of God's gift of grace
12. Ability to pray an Act of Contrition
13. Understanding of the need for continual conversion and renewal
14. Knowledge of the Sacrament of Penance and the Rite of Penance, individual and communal

First Communion

A child's readiness for the celebration of the sacrament of First Communion will be judged using the following criteria:

1. Desire to receive the Eucharist
2. An understanding of the Eucharist as the real body and blood of Christ, that what appears as bread and wine are actually His living body.
3. An awareness of the significance of participating in Sunday Eucharist
4. An understanding of God's action of grace in their lives and of their responsibility to be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist worthily.
5. An awareness of God's invitation to be His child and friend.
6. In addition, child(ren) must attend Mass on Saturday Vigil or Sunday.
7. Awareness of the main events of Jesus' life

Questions?

Contact Lila at 281.240.6721 or lila.jimenez@stthomasaquinas.info

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

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FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & GUIDELINES



2009-2010

Sacrament Preparation Guidelines

In order to ensure celebration of Sacraments at scheduled time, child must fulfill all requirements below.

† Child must be at least seven years old to begin the preparation process.

† Child must be baptized in the Catholic Church. * Parents must turn in a copy of child's baptismal certificate at the time of registration.

If your child was baptized at St. Thomas Aquinas please e-mail Linda linda.righter@stthomasaquinas.info and notify her of your child's full name and the date he/she was baptized

† Must have attended and completed one full year of CCE or Catholic School during the 2008-2009 school year.

† Child must be currently enrolled in CCE either on Wednesday from 5:00-6:30pm or Sunday 3:00-4:30pm.

† Child needs to attend CCE weekly. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in postponement of the celebration of First Confession/First Communion.

† Family must attend ALL required First Confession/First Communion preparation classes, meetings and retreats.

† Family must attend Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass every week.

RCIA Adapted for Children

**If your child is not baptized or was baptized into another faith other than Catholic, please contact the Parish Office to enroll in RCIA adapted for Children.*

Class/Retreat Schedule

FALL 2009: Preparation for First Confession

Mandatory Parent and Child Class (must attend ALL three classes):

1. Monday, **October 5** from 6:00-7:15pm in St. Michael Youth Room
2. Monday, **October 12**, from 6:00-7:15pm in St. Michael Youth Room
3. Monday, **October 19**, from 6:00-7:15pm in St. Michael Youth Room.

Family Day Retreat
Parents and Child must attend ONE of the following retreats:

Saturday, **November 14** from 1:00-6:00pm in St. Michael Youth Room.

OR

Saturday, **November 21** from 1:00-6:00pm in St. Michael Youth Room.

First Reconciliation Practice
Thursday **December 10** from 6:00-7:15pm in the Church

Celebration of First Reconciliation: Saturday, December 12 at 10:00am in the Church (please arrive by 9:30am)

SPRING 2010: Preparation for First Communion

Mandatory Parent and Child Class (must attend ALL three classes):

1. Monday, **February 8** from 6:00-7:15pm in St. Michael Youth Room
2. Monday, **February 15**, from 6:00-7:15pm in St. Michael Youth Room
3. Monday, **March 1**, from 6:00-7:15pm in St. Michael Youth Room.

Family Day Retreat
Parents and Child must attend ONE of the following retreats:

Saturday, **March 6** from 1:00-6:00pm in St. Michael Youth Room.

OR

Saturday, **April 10** from 1:00-6:00pm in St. Michael Youth Room.

First Communion Practice

Thursday **April 15** from 6:00-7:15pm in the Church

Celebration of First Communion:
Sunday, April 18 at 2:00pm in the Church (please arrive to the Church by 1:00pm)

***Group Picture in Church and Reception in Aquinas Center to follow**