

December 27, 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you and your families had a wonderful Christmas! Looking toward the new year, First Communion time is approaching! I wanted to send out a couple of reminders, as well as some new information. If you know of anyone who has a child preparing for First Communion and does not seem to have received this email, please feel free to share it with them. The registration form will be added to the website soon and included in parish Facebook posts and the bulletin.

1 – Please complete the registration form for First Communion at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfId4sV3N9RNpVE4BhtY3QwG_mcKjNhCAuKeG1OQ9qnnSismQ/viewform?usp=header.

This is distinct from the registration you did at the beginning of the year for sacramental prep/faith formation. The purpose of this registration is to collect all the information we need to properly record your child's reception of the sacrament in our sacramental registry. Please make sure all names are spelled correctly and given in their full form, as recorded on birth/baptism certificates.

2 – Please be sure to turn in your child's baptism certificate. I have placed a basket/folder on the desk in the welcome center labeled "First Communicant Baptism Certificates". Please place a copy of your child's baptism certificate in that folder by February 15th.

- If your child was baptized here at Mother of Sorrows, you do not need to provide a copy of their baptism certificate.
- If your child was baptized at a parish in Pittsburgh that has since merged with other parishes, you will need to contact the Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives to get a copy of their baptism certificate. Instructions on how to do so can be found here: <https://diopitt.org/sacramental-record-request>.

3 – A sign-up link with dates/times for the 2025 First Communion Masses will be sent out towards the end of January.

4 – Preparation for First Communion, specifically preparation sessions for the sacrament of Reconciliation, reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, and immediate preparation for First Communion will be held in early 2025. While I will continue to send out reminders in advance of the different sessions, you can also check the online calendar to view things in advance: <https://motherofsorrowschurch.org/religious-education/>.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you all soon in the new year!

Blessings,

Ellen Mady