



Sacramental Preparation Policies

Students preparing for First Reconciliation/First Communion or Confirmation attend a weekly class from 4:30pm-5:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, OR Wednesday.

Registration

The registration deadline for the 2019/2020 academic year is **August 9, 2019**. **First Communion classes are kept to 13 students per class and Confirmation classes are kept to 18 students per class and are filled on a first come, first served basis.** All new registrations must include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (unless the Baptism took place at St. Pius X) and record of any other Sacraments they have received.

Attendance and Classroom Behavior

Enrollment in Sacramental Preparation at St. Pius X is a year-long commitment. **Classes begin promptly at 4:30pm each week**, and each student is expected to arrive on time and prepared for class. Weekly attendance is **crucial** to be fully prepared to receive the sacraments and excessive absences or late arrivals will not be tolerated. If any extenuating circumstances arise in your family that result in extended periods of absence, please contact the office immediately.

If a student must be dismissed early, the Early Dismissal Request Form must be filled out prior to dismissal EACH TIME a student is to be dismissed before 5:30pm. A representative from our office will go to their classroom and escort your child to the office to be dismissed.

Parents of children enrolled in sacramental preparation must attend **FIVE (5) MANDATORY** Parent Sessions as part of the requirements to receive the sacraments. These dates will be communicated clearly and with plenty of time to schedule accordingly.

It is expected that parents act as an example of the courtesy, respect, responsibility, and Christian attitudes expected of their children throughout the year. Our catechists have volunteered their free time each week to share their faith with your children. Disrespectful and disruptive behavior towards other students, catechists, staff, the Religious Education Center, or learning materials will result in removal from the program. **If your child has any specific learning or behavioral special needs, please let our staff know at the time of registration, so that we can best serve them.**

To maintain balanced classes and to alleviate potential behavioral concerns, **we DO NOT accept requests for students to be placed with friends.** We encourage all children registered to meet other children in the parish who they may not have otherwise been introduced to.

Pick Up and Drop Off

Please follow all marked and communicated traffic directions and pick up procedures. Note the **one-way** traffic flow from the Faith Center Office to the Barn exit, which is marked **EXIT ONLY**. **Students preparing for First Communion must be walked into the building by a parent or guardian at drop off and must be picked up at their classroom door at the end of class each week.** Students preparing for Confirmation may be dropped off and picked up outside if they **DO NOT** have a sibling preparing for First Communion. Those using the fire lane in front of the building for pick up are not permitted to leave their vehicle at any time. **If you need to leave your vehicle for drop off or pick up, you MUST park.**

Communication and Calendar

Important details regarding your child's preparation, cancellations due to inclement weather, dates, changes to the calendar and policies, etc. will be sent via email or text message using Flocknote. Flocknote is designed for

parish use and allows us to communicate with you effectively and efficiently regarding this important time in your child's spiritual life. We will also post these updates on our Facebook page, <https://fb.me/SPXSacramentalPrep>, and the St. Pius X website, www.st-pius.org. **Please be sure to provide an accurate cell phone number and at least one email address that your family checks regularly on your registration.** Our staff is not responsible for any missed communications due to a faulty email address or phone number.

Our calendar closely follows that of the Fairfield Public Schools. Classes begin the week of September 9, 2019 and run through the week of May 4, 2019. First Communions will be celebrated at Masses on Saturday, May 9 and Saturday, May 9. Confirmation Masses will be announced as soon as we have received the dates from the Office of the Bishop.

In case of inclement weather, when Fairfield Public Schools are closed or dismiss early, we **WILL NOT** have class. Class cancelations will be posted on our Facebook page and the parish website. When there is a scheduled early dismissal at Fairfield Public Schools, we will still meet for sacramental prep. If you ever have any questions regarding when classes do not meet, please consult the calendar posted at on the Sacramental Preparation home page, www.st-pius.org/sacrament-prep-home

NOTE: This calendar is subject to change! Always check the posted calendar online to be sure you are receiving the most up-to-date information.

Safety Procedures

Food: There is **NO** food allowed in any of the classrooms at any time.

Medications: We are unable to distribute ANY medications to children. If your child uses an EpiPen for allergies, please be sure to request the form for Self-Administration so that your child may keep an EpiPen with them during class time. If your child is unable to self-administer, a VIRTUS trained parent **must** stay on the premises with an EpiPen during class time.

Building Safety: The Religious Education Building will be locked during class time. The door will be locked 10 minutes after classes begin and will remain locked until 5 minutes prior to dismissal. **Any adults who are not catechists, substitutes, or those supporting their child with an EpiPen are not permitted to walk around or linger in the building during this time.**

Sacramental Preparation Parent Agreement

As a Catholic parent, I desire that my children know, love, and serve God. I want my child to fulfill God's purposes in their lives for His glory, the good of the Church and world, and for their happiness. I acknowledge that at their Baptism I promised to be the primary educator of my child in the faith, and I recommit myself to fulfilling this most important obligation. To this end, I specifically commit to the following:

- * I will attend Mass with my children every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation
- * I will attend the five scheduled sessions for parents and make an effort to learn more about our Catholic faith
- * I will set an example of maturity and respect towards staff, catechists, classmates, and other families that that my children will follow
- * I will discuss with my children what they are learning in sacramental preparation classes
- * I will pray with my children at home

Thank you for allowing us to share the teaching of our Catholic faith and the joy and love of Jesus with your children. We are committed to their growth in the knowledge of our Church and our growth together as a parish.