



Saint Mary
Magdalene
Sacrament Preparation
Processes
2011

Saint Mary Magdalene

Sacramental Preparation: Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation.

In keeping with diocesan policy, Saint Mary Magdalene offers immediate preparation for sacraments to the following groups:

Reconciliation	Grade 2 and above
Confirmation	Grade 3 and above
First Communion	Grade 3 and above

Parish Policy Regarding Sacramental Preparation:

- Children enrolled in sacramental preparation **must** also be enrolled in the **regular Religious Education** process for that calendar year.
- In addition to current enrollment, students who enroll in any of the sacramental processes must have been involved in a structured Catholic Religious Education program either at Saint Mary Magdalene, another parish or a structure home study program ***at least one year immediately prior to*** the preparation year for a sacrament, with no significant gaps in faith formation.
- Children past grade three who have been baptized but have not been enrolled in an RE program at Saint Mary Magdalene or another parish on a regular basis should enroll in the *ECCLESIA* process with their family prior to entering a sacramental preparation process. See the *ECCLESIA* page for more information.
- Children who have been participating in a home study program should attend the parish RE program during the year of sacramental preparation.
- Children who attend Catholic School should prepare for their sacraments at this, their home parish. They do not have to be enrolled in the RE program but must register and attend the sacramental preparation sessions.
- **Students will complete immediate preparation for the celebration of a sacrament in a process separate from the Family Catechesis program.** This enables us to accommodate students in various grades who may need to prepare for a sacrament and it allows us to involve parents, which supports the right of parents to prepare their children for the celebration of the sacraments.
- Children entering the preparation for First Communion/Confirmation must have celebrated the sacrament of First Confession. **No student may prepare for all three sacraments in one year.**

ECCLESIA

Older Children and the Sacraments

A special process for the families of children and teens who have experienced more than a year's absence from a religious education process immediately prior to this time and who are otherwise of age to celebrate the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and/or first communion.

Is this process for your child ?

Your child(ren) is fourth grade or older and of an age to celebrate one of the sacraments of initiation.

_____Yes _____No

There has been a gap of more than one academic year in your child's participation in a parish religious education or formal home study program.

_____Yes _____No

**If you answered YES to both of these questions
then the *ECCLESIA* process is for you and your child(ren)**

How Does It Work?

ECCLESIA is a group process involving the candidate for sacramental celebration and at least one parent. Meeting once-a-month for eight months, both parent and child(ren) are provided with an opportunity to review and renew basic understandings of the Catholic Church, its sacraments and spirituality. The child is also expected to be enrolled in a regular weekly religion education class.

At the end of the eight month sessions, the child(ren) will be eligible to participate in the next scheduled preparation sessions for the celebration of the sacraments. Families may enter the process at any time during the year, but actual celebration of the sacraments may not occur until the following academic year.

If you feel this process is for your child and family, you can enroll at your RE registration interview.

First Confession

The sacrament of First Confession, or Reconciliation, is an important step for our children as they begin to take responsibility for their relationship with God. Second graders who have completed a *full year* of religious education prior to this year are eligible to enter the preparation process for this sacrament.



In order to make the preparation process as meaningful as possible for the children, there will be both a spring and fall preparation session for this sacrament.

Students who are in grade two whose birthdays are before March 1, 2004 will prepare for and receive the sacrament in the fall. Any student in grade three or above who wishes to enter the process will also prepare at this time.

Second grade students whose birthdays are after March 1, 2004 will prepare for and celebrate the sacrament in the spring.

Children must celebrate First Confession before they are eligible to enter the process for First Communion and Confirmation. Students celebrating First Confession this year will enter the process for Confirmation and Communion next year.

The Restored Order of Confirmation and First Communion Grades 3 and 4

Bishop Thomas Olmstead has led the diocese of Phoenix in moving the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation to its restored order, before First Communion. As a result, children in the third grade may be eligible to celebrate their Confirmation and First Communion at the same liturgy.

The first step in this process is to be sure your child is eligible to enter this sacramental process. Check the sacramental policy in this packet for requirements. Contact Jayne LoConti at the parish office if you have any questions.

If your child is eligible, parents should attend one of the **mandatory** information/registration meetings listed below. We will be outlining the details of the preparation process and accepting registration at that time.

Both parents are encouraged attend; please make arrangements for your children to remain at home.

Parent Meeting times:

Thursday, September 8th 6:30-8:00

Sunday, September 11th 1:00-3:00

Children who are not registered for the sacrament programs at one of these two meetings will enter the process next year.



Third and Fourth Grade
Communion/Confirmation Families only

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for the following mandatory retreat

Saturday, September 24th

9:00-noon

Confirmation/Communion Family Retreat

Candidates and at least one parent must attend



The Restored Order of Confirmation and First Communion Middle School and Teens

Students who are above grade 4 who are eligible and who wish to prepare for the sacraments are welcome to enter a sacrament process as well. See the sacrament policy (page 2 of this booklet) for specific eligibility information.

Enrollment for students in grades 5-8 will take place at registration interviews. The process for middle school students will begin in January, with a series of workshops and a retreat designed to provide catechetical and spiritual preparation for the sacrament.

Information about teen Confirmation will be made available through the high school ministry program. Teens expecting to prepare for Confirmation should regularly attend youth ministry on Sunday evenings.

