

**DIOCESE OF MADISON  
 AGREEMENT REGARDING  
 CONFESSION & FIRST EUCHARIST**



Office of Evangelization and Catechesis  
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*The purpose of this form is to facilitate clear and open communication between a pastor and parents regarding the pastoral and canonical issues surrounding the preparation for and reception of the sacraments of confession and First Eucharist. Parents are encouraged to read through and complete this form with the pastor a few months prior to the anticipated reception of the sacraments.*

**CANDIDATE FOR CONFESSION AND FIRST EUCHARIST**

Candidate: ..... Date of Birth: ..... Age: .....

Name of Father: ..... Name of Mother: .....

Address: .....  
 (Street Address) (City) (State)

Phone: ..... Email: .....

**PARENT / GUARDIAN AGREEMENT**

*\*To be completed and signed by the parent/guardian of the candidate*

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, understand and agree that parents and pastors are called to work harmoniously in fulfilling the evangelizing mission of the Church by taking joint responsibility for ensuring that children receive suitable instruction prior to the reception of the sacraments, and I hereby request:

**Preparation for the Sacraments**

- to entrust the preparation for the sacraments to the parish catechetical program
- to take upon myself the duty of providing the preparation at home (see below for additional agreement)
- to entrust the preparation to a Catholic school (please list): .....
- to entrust the preparation to an alternate parish catechetical program (please list): .....

**Reception of the Sacraments**

- reception with the other students in the parish catechetical program
- reception with the students of a Catholic school (please list): .....
- reception with the students in an alternate parish catechetical program (please list): .....
- reception in an alternate church or oratory (please list): .....
- reception by someone under 7 years of age who has already attained the use of reason

**Agreement for Preparation at Home (if applicable)**

I understand and agree that while parents are the “principal and first educators of their children” (CCC 1653), it is for the pastor to judge that children are properly disposed and suitably instructed before allowing them to receive the sacraments and that such judgment must be made in light of the minimum requirements of canon law. I understand and agree that this may require prior to the reception of the sacrament an assessment or interview given by the pastor or his catechetical leader to determine readiness, in accord with canonical norms, respecting the age and intellectual capability of each of the faithful. I, the undersigned parent/guardian, intend to use the attached *catechetical materials* (e.g., Catechism, textbooks, online materials, books about the saints, etc.) and *practices of the faith* (e.g., Mass attendance on Sundays and holy days of obligation, regular confession, the rosary, pilgrimage, corporal works of mercy, etc.) to prepare my child for the sacrament (see attachment):

.....  
 Signature of Parent / Guardian

.....  
 Date

**PASTOR AGREEMENT**

*\*To be completed and signed by the pastor of the candidate*

Name of Parish: .....

Pastor: ..... Catechetical Leader: .....

Address: .....  
 (Street Address) (City) (State)

Phone: ..... Email: .....

I, the undersigned pastor, understand and agree that parents and pastors are called to work harmoniously in fulfilling the evangelizing mission of the Church by taking joint responsibility for ensuring that children receive suitable instruction prior to the reception of the sacraments. I understand and agree that while parents are the “principal and first educators of their children” (CCC 1653), it is for the pastor to judge that children are properly disposed and suitably instructed before allowing them to receive the sacraments and that such judgment must be made in light of the minimum requirements of canon law. I understand and agree that this may require prior to the reception of the sacrament an assessment or interview given by the pastor or his catechetical leader to determine readiness, in accord with canonical norms, respecting the age and intellectual capability of each of the faithful. I further understand and agree that the faithful have the right to receive the sacraments (can. 213) and that the sacraments cannot be denied to those who fulfill the basic canonical requirements for receiving them (can. 843 §1). Consequently, I understand and agree that if a member of the Christian faithful meets the basic canonical requirements for the reception of the sacrament, even if he/she has not fulfilled the requirements of a given parish catechetical program or diocesan expectations, he/she cannot be refused the sacrament.

I, the undersigned pastor, hereby assent to the request(s) indicated above on the first page.

.....  
 Signature of Pastor

.....  
 Date

**STATEMENT OF PREPAREDNESS**

*\*To be signed after the preparation has been completed*

I, the undersigned pastor / catechetical leader, have completed an assessment of the above-named candidate, and I have judged him/her to be properly disposed and suitably instructed for the reception of the sacraments, in light of the minimum requirements of canon law, respecting the age and intellectual capability of the candidate.

.....  
 Name of Pastor / Catechetical Leader

.....  
 Signature of Pastor / Catechetical Leader

.....  
 Parish

.....  
 Date of Assessment

***Requisite Documents***

*Parents must present a copy of the candidate’s baptismal certificate or certificate of reception into the Catholic Church.*

***Copies of the Agreement Form***

*A copy of the signed and dated agreement form should be given to: 1) the parents, 2) the pastor, 3) if applicable, the pastor of the parish catechetical program where the child is being prepared, and 4) if applicable, the rector of the church/oratory where the reception of the sacraments will occur.*

***Scheduling the Interview***

*At least one month prior to the scheduled reception of the sacrament, the parents are to contact the pastor in order to arrange for the aforementioned assessment or interview given by the pastor or his catechetical leader to determine readiness in accord with the norms of canon law.*

***Sacramental Records and Certificates***

*Regarding confession, it is impossible to provide a certificate of confession or for there to be any record of a sacramental confession, since the priest hearing a confession is bound by the sacramental seal (c. 983). Regarding the reception of First Eucharist, there is no requirement that it be recorded (c. 535). However, if a pastor or parish catechetical leader wishes to record it, it should be recorded in the register of the parish where the sacrament was received.*