

First Reconciliation

Preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance) for the first time is an exciting time. It is a time for focus on God's mercy, how we forgive among our family, friends, and community, and how we celebrate forgiveness. Children of the parish who are in second grade or up are invited to begin the formal preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In order to register for this preparation, the children must meet the requirements (listed below) and the family must submit a Faith Formation **registration form** even if a particular child will not be attending faith formation classes at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

About this Preparation

Our parish preparation for Reconciliation is set up for parents and children to prepare mostly at home using a workbook since it is the home where each child's faith is most cultivated. The workbook has six lessons which will guide families through familiar Bible stories, offer discussion points, and suggest activities for you and your child while on this journey. The finished books are then returned to the parish. In order to support parents during this time, the parish offers workshops for both parents and children and separate parent meetings. More information is mailed to parents a few weeks before the beginning of the preparation.

Of vital importance to a child's preparation is the family's participation at Mass on a weekly basis. The Mass is a revelation and the greatest expression of the Catholic faith. It is here that the preparation for this Sacrament comes alive. It is where as a community we offer as a sacrifice our successes and failures and where God accepts them with great joy guiding us to a deeper relationship with Him.

Requirements to start preparation

- Child must be in second grade or up.
- Children must be attending regularly the year they prepare for this sacrament.

- St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish must have on file a copy of the baptismal certificate (or other acceptable proof of baptism) of each child preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist before completion of the preparation. If a family no longer has a copy of the child's original certificate, the parish of baptism can be directly contacted to request a copy (note that most churches require a few weeks notice).
- If a child was baptized in another faith tradition, parent must contact the Faith Formation office before the start of the preparation.