



Saint Mary
Magdalene
Sacrament Preparation
Processes
2013

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 full year immediately prior to*** the preparation year for a sacrament, with no significant gaps in faith formation.
- Children in grade 4 or above 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. This is a prerequisite to entering a sacramental process.
- 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 Formation 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 below grade 6 may prepare for all three sacraments in one year.

ECCLESIA

Older Children and the Sacraments

A special process for the families of children 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 reconciliation, confirmation and/or first communion.

Is this process for your child ?

Your child(ren)
has been
baptized

-----Yes

-----No

Your child(ren)
is fourth grade
or older

-----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 all of these questions
then the *ECCLESIA* process is for 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-week throughout the year, the children are provided with an opportunity to review and renew basic understandings of the Catholic Church, its sacraments and spirituality.

This will take the place of the regular RE program

Regular attendance will result in students being able to prepare for and celebrate the sacrament of First Confession (Reconciliation) in the spring.

The following year they will enroll in the regular formation program and be eligible to prepare for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

If you feel this is the program for your child, registration for Ecclesia can be done during any RE registration time.

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 apply for entry the preparation process for this sacrament.



Students who are in grade two who are applying to enter this process are expected to know the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be and the Ten Commandments. Students should attend RE registration with their parents so a check can be done. Students who are successful will be placed in the fall preparation session. Students who still need to work on these benchmarks will be postponed until spring when they will be rechecked.

Any student in grade three or above who wishes to prepare for this sacrament should follow the same process.

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, August 29th 6:30-8:00

Sunday, September 8th 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

Friday September 27th

6:00-8:00 p.m.

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 in grade 5-8 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. The process for middle school students will begin in October, with a series of monthly workshops and a retreat designed to provide catechetical and spiritual preparation for the sacrament.

High school students who wish to celebrate sacraments should contact Lita Arroyo
lita@smarymag.org

Enrollment in the Sacramental Processes

If you feel your child is eligible to participate in a sacramental preparation process, you can discuss that with us when you register for RE.



Registration for First Confession , *ECCLESIA* or Upper Level sacraments will be completed when you come to RE registration. See the Re booklet for times and dates for registration.



Registration for Restored Order of Confirmation and First Communion for grades 3 and 4 will take place at the mandatory parent meeting mentioned in this booklet.



Please feel free to contact Jayne if you have any questions.
jayne@smarymag.org 480-279-6737