

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Religious Education – English Sacrament Preparation

Thank you for bringing your child to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church for sacrament preparation. We are happy to support you in the preparation of your children to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist (Communion).

There are three components to the sacrament preparation process:

Regular religious education classes - Children who are preparing to celebrate sacraments for the first time must attend religious education classes for two years. Though the traditional time for beginning sacrament preparation is in the First grade, we understand that some children may be beginning their preparation in a higher grade. Children are placed in their own grade level no matter what their level of religious education. They attend the first year and then in the latter part of the second year they attend the classes focused on sacrament preparation. These classes are described below.

Weekly mass attendance - All Catholics are called to celebrate the Eucharistic liturgy every week. The Catholic mass is what Pope John Paul II called the “source and summit of our Christian life” and an essential part of our Catholic faith. Children who are in their first and second year of religious education are required to attend mass every week. Mass attendance will be verified through a check-in process at the Saturday evening and Sunday morning liturgies. Children who do not attend mass will not be eligible to receive their sacraments.

Sacrament Preparation classes – Intense preparation for sacrament preparation takes place beginning in January of the second year of religious education. Children and parents (or another adult family member) take part in four special classes for Reconciliation preparation and four special classes for Eucharist preparation. These classes are held during the regular class time and begin with a prayer service in the church. The class then continues with more instruction in the hall. The classes are designed to be attended by a parent or other adult (such as a godparent or grandparent) along with the child. Parents are strongly encouraged to plan their schedules so that they can participate along with their child. Attendance at each of the sacrament preparation classes is mandatory for the children. Parents are also required to attend one parent meeting before Reconciliation preparation and one parent meeting before Eucharist preparation. Children preparing for Baptism are given special instruction at a time to be arranged with the parent and catechist.

First Reconciliation usually takes place in February and First Communions and Baptisms take place in May.