



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Parish & School

FIRST COMMUNION FAQ

MASS ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY?

For students in Sacramental prep years (1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th), attendance of Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is expected. It is necessary to fulfill this expectation in order to receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. If this expectation is not fulfilled, the reception of these Sacraments may be delayed.

CAN MY CHILD OCCASIONALLY ATTEND SUNDAY MASS & STILL RECEIVE FIRST COMMUNION?

Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is *expected* for reception of First Communion. It is understandable to miss occasionally due to sickness or severe weather, but a pattern of missed Masses will not be excused and will delay the reception of the Sacrament.

WHAT IF WE ATTEND A DIFFERENT CHURCH FOR MASS?

If you attend a different parish for Mass, a bulletin with the date, your child's name and a signature from the priest who celebrated Mass at that parish can then be brought to school the next Monday, or CCD class the next Wednesday.

WHEN WILL MASS ATTENDANCE BEGIN BEING RECORDED?

We will begin keeping track of the Mass attendance on September 1.

DOES SATURDAY NIGHT MASS COUNT? OR DOES IT HAVE TO BE SUNDAY?

Yes - Saturday evening vigil Masses fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.

WHY IS ATTENDING SUNDAY MASS NECESSARY?

The observance of "keeping holy the Lord's Day" goes all the way back to Genesis, when God created the world and then rested on the 7th day. The Sabbath -- Sunday -- is a gift from God to us; it is an invitation to rest and be rejuvenated, to look forward to Heaven and to rejoice in the Resurrection. The Catechism states, "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice" (CCC 2181). As such, all Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation: this is the First Precept of the Catholic Church, and one of the "indispensable minimum" requirements for practicing Catholics (2041). Furthermore, "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (2181).

DOES THE FRIDAY SCHOOL MASS COUNT IF WE CAN'T MAKE IT ON SUNDAYS?

No, although we encourage Mass attendance throughout the week, the only one that will fulfill this obligation is the Sunday (or Saturday evening vigil) Mass.

WHEN WILL THE FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION BE THIS YEAR?

Each child that has prepared for the reception of First Communion by attending Mass regularly and Religious Education classes will receive his or her First Communion on April 27, 2025.

DO WE HAVE TO ATTEND CCD IF WE EDUCATE AT HOME OR GO TO THE SCHOOL?

Catechesis is a requirement for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, regardless

of where the child attends school. It is also required by the Diocese that individuals preparing for First Communion must be in formation for two years prior to the reception of that sacrament - thus, typically through 1st and 2nd grade. If the child attends St. Francis Xavier school, this requirement is fulfilled. However, if the child is educated at home, the fulfillment of this requirement will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Evangelization Coordinator for more details if you educate your children at home. For non-sacramental prep years, Religious Education Program is never required for anyone, but highly suggested.

