

Office of Religious Education

St. James the Apostle
490 South Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

August 1, 2023

Dear Parents,

This year your son/daughter will be in their second and final year of preparing for reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Eucharist. We are very excited about this year and are happy to have your student receiving these sacraments at St. James. The purpose of our ministry in the Office of Religious Education is to support your efforts as a parent to raise your child of God in the faith that we all profess. We hope you take a few moments to reflect on what receiving these Sacraments meant to you and assist your child in preparing.

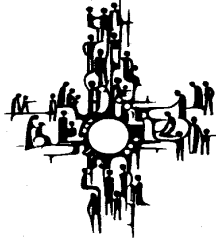
We recognize that there are many activities in your family's life; therefore, we ask you to remember that an integral part of their formation has been, and always will be, attendance at all classes. Absences of 3 or more classes will require a meeting between the candidate, parents and the RE staff to discuss the candidate's readiness to receive this sacrament. Students that attend St. James School, please follow the instructions of your teacher to complete formation requirements; some may be completed in class while others you will complete at home. Thank you for your guidance to arrange your child's schedule to ensure their attendance at classes and the formation events.

We wanted to give you the dates of the major events that you and your child will be required to attend in order to complete this two year formation process. As the dates approach we will provide you with additional details via our electronic newsletter, **Sacramental REinders**, which is sent the end of every month. We primarily use email to communicate with you throughout the year, so if your email address changes, please notify us at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to celebrating these sacraments with your child and your family. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Joyfully,

Elizabeth Weesner
Coordinator of Religious Education



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The following dates have been set; please mark your calendar:

Tuesday/Wednesday October 24/25, 2023 (during class): First Reconciliation

Your student will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during class on one of the above dates. As this sacrament is private, there is nothing for you to do or attend. We give you this date to mark on your calendar so that you may give your student support, before hand, and congratulations once they've received the Sacrament.

Saturday, February 3, 2024: 1st Eucharist Retreat (10:00-11:30)

This MANDATORY retreat is for all students receiving the sacrament of 1st Eucharist and a parent. If a parent is not available, another adult can attend in their place. A link to RSVP to this event will be sent in mid-December, 2023.

1st Communion Square: Each First Communicant and their families are given the opportunity to create a 1st Communion Square which will adorn the pews of the Church during the 1st Communion masses. Detailed information regarding the project will be given to each 1st Communicant at the 1st Eucharist Retreat and the completed square will be due Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Sunday, April 14, 2024 & Sunday, April 28, 2024: 1st Eucharist Mass (2:00 PM)

Two celebrations of 1st Eucharist will take place for all the students of St. James the Apostle Parish. These celebrations will be held on Sunday, April 14th and again on Sunday, April 28th both 2:00 PM with Fr. Keith Wolfe as celebrant. A link to sign-up for your preferred 1st Eucharist celebration will be sent to you on **Monday, December 4, 2023 at 8:00 AM**. Each celebration will be limited to 30 students and requests honored on a first come/first serve basis.