



2025-2026

Holy Trinity - St. Anthony - St. Mary



Holy Cross Family of Parishes Religious Education

Parishes of Holy Trinity, Mary, Help of Christians, St. Anthony, St. Joseph,
St. Mary, St. Peter & St. Paul

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2nd Grade Students & Parents,

Thank you so much for your support of the religious education program and for assisting your child in attending and increasing their knowledge of the faith.

Your children are preparing for First Communion in their religion classes. They, as well as yourself, will be expected to participate in specific events throughout the year. These events are outlined in this packet.

It's important as Catholics that we demonstrate the areas that matter most in life, and, while we are busy in this ever-changing and fast-paced world, sometimes it's also important to demonstrate how to slow down and enjoy the peace and love of Jesus Christ. Ways to do this include, but are not limited to, attending Mass together on Sundays, attending Confession together, making special times for prayer, or even completing acts of charity together. Also, talk to your children regarding your own faith journey and pray with them and for them, strengthening them in the process. Thank you for all that you do as their role models and primary facilitators of the faith.

Feel free to ask your teacher or contact me with any questions you may still have.

Thank you,
Sarah Klosterman
Coordinator for Religious Education
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All of the requirements for First Communion are listed below.

Dragon Slayer Retreat Information - January 17th, this is a **mandatory retreat** for students and parents.

First Reconciliation - This will take place in the spring. If this is made outside of the scheduled times, this will need to be communicated with the CRE.

First Communion Practice - This will be held the Wednesday prior to the First Communion Mass.

First Communion Mass - The Sacrament of First Communion will be held separately at each parish.

Please note that students can receive the Sacraments at any of our 7 parishes as long as it is communicated with the CRE.

First Reconciliation 10am - 12pm	First Communion Practice	First Communion Mass
HT - Saturday March 14th	HT - April 15th @ 6:30pm	HT - April 19th @ 10am
SA - Saturday, March 7th	SA - April 22nd @ 6:45pm	SA - April 25th @ 4pm
SM - Saturday, March 21st	SM - April 22nd @ 6:45pm	SM - April 26th @ 12pm
MHC - Saturday, March 28th	MHC - April 15th @ 6pm	MHC - April 18th @ 4:30pm
SPL - Saturday, March 21st	SPL - April 15th @ 6pm	SPL - April 19th @ 11am
SPT/SJ - Saturday, March 7th	SPT/SJ - April 22nd @ 6pm	SPT/SJ - April 26th @ 11am

If your son/daughter has not been baptized into the Catholic church please reach out to the Religious Education office immediately.

HT = Holy Trinity | SA = St. Anthony | SM = St. Mary | MHC = Mary Help of Christians | SPL = St. Paul | SPT/SJ = St. Peter/St. Joseph

First Reconciliation

St. Anthony / St. Mary - Please arrive before or at the start time of 10 and find a seat in one of the center pews of the church. (This is to avoid hearing individuals in the confessionals.) Once you have received the sacrament of confession please find either your teacher or Sarah for your certificate!

Holy Trinity - Please arrive in the Grotto 10 minutes before your scheduled time and sign in. You will receive further instructions from there. Make sure not to leave until you have collected your certificate after receiving the sacrament of confession.

Holy Trinity Sign Up -



Please fill in the earlier times first to prevent large gaps and to keep things moving!

First Communion - Ministry Roles

We will need family members (grandparents, godparents, etc.) to help in ministry roles during our First Communion Masses. Parents are not able to help with these roles as they will need to remain with the communicants during Mass.

St. Anthony	Holy Trinity	St. Mary
EMHC - 1 person	EMHC - 3 people	EMHC - 4 people
Lector - 1 person	Lectors - 2 people	Lectors - 2 people
Ushers - 2 people	Ushers - 4 people	Ushers - 2 people
Servers - 4 people	Servers - 4 people	Servers - 4 people

If anyone is interested, please reach out at any point during the year.

Reminders will be sent in the spring.

Dress Code

For our First Communion Masses please follow the following dress code.

Girls: White dress. Veils and accessories are optional and left to family discretion.

Boys: White or light colored shirt and tie with dark dress pants (Please avoid loud colors).

Jackets are optional.

Blessing of Items

Either the weekend following a parish's First Communion Mass or the weekend after all First Communion Masses, we will offer a special opportunity to have First Communion gifts blessed. This will take place after the same Mass time in which First Communion was celebrated at that parish.

Families may place their items in the church basement or the corresponding school hall either before or immediately after Mass. Items will be grouped into categories, as each type receives its own special blessing. Below is a list of the categories the items will be sorted into:

- Rosaries/ Rosary bracelets
- Miraculous Medals
- St. Benedict Medals / bracelets
- Brown Scapulars
- Images or Statues of Our Lord/Mary/Saints
- Crucifixes
- Everything else (Holy water fonts, candles, etc.)

Please be sure to label your items clearly so they can be returned to the correct family.

Mary Crowning

First Communion mass will be combined with the crowning of Mary. This will take place at the end of Mass, where we will have 1-3 female First Communicants bring up the flower crown and flowers for Father to crown Mary. These students will be chosen by the CRE and 2nd grade teachers. Following this, we will pray a Litany. All attending this Mass are welcome to bring in flowers to leave at the feet of Mary.

Enrollment of the Scapulars

At the end of Mass, Father will enroll the students in the scapular. Please refrain from moving about the church until after this takes place as our celebration is not complete until the enrollment is complete. All students should wear their scapular for the group photo following Mass. Below is a brief look into why we have scapulars and their history.

Scapular History

The scapular, the two small pieces of wool most people think of when they hear the word, is a sacramental based on the habit worn by the monks of the St. Benedictine order. A true scapular, in the original use of the word, is a piece of cloth, about shoulder width, that is worn over the shoulders and falls not quite to the wearer's feet.

In the middle ages, it was common for the lay faithful to join religious orders in an affiliate sense, as a tertiary. Since some did not take full vows, they would not wear the full habit. The non-monastic, one not taking full vows, would be granted a "reduced scapular" to wear. This was two pieces of wool, about 2 inches by 3 inches each, held together by a band or cord and worn over the shoulder with one rectangle in front and one in back. Still larger than the devotional scapular worn by many Catholics, the shape and small size of this scapular is closest in appearance to what many lay Catholics wear. They are still often worn by tertiary members of the Franciscan, Carmelite, and Dominican orders.

Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Also called simply the Brown Scapular, this small scapular is the most well-known and likely the earliest form of the devotional scapular. Tradition holds that the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Simon Stock on July 16, 1251 in England, with a scapular in her hand and said to him:

"Take, beloved son this scapular of thy order as a badge of my confraternity and for thee and all Carmelites a special sign of grace; whoever dies in this garment, will not suffer everlasting fire. It is the sign of salvation, a safeguard in dangers, a pledge of peace and of the covenant."

Although it may be worn by any Catholic, even an infant, the investiture must be done by a priest, and the scapular must be worn in the proper manner. The Catholic Church has approved eighteen different kinds of scapulars of which the best known is the woolen brown scapular, or the Scapular of Mount Carmel, that the Virgin Mary bestowed on Simon Stock. His feast day is May 16th.

Group Photo

Directly following the events of Mass, we will line students up for a group photo. We ask that all families refrain from taking photos until the church assigned photographer is finished. From there we will keep students lined up for no more than 5 minutes for everyone to take their personal photos. Once we release students you are welcome to leave or take photos around the church grounds.

Dragon Slayer Retreat

On Saturday, **January 17th**, all second grade students and a parent will be attending the First Communion Retreat. This retreat will be held at the **Coldwater High School** from **9:00 am-12:00 pm**. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and donuts and drinks will be provided.

The retreat will be led by Dr. John Wood and his wife, Kristin, who give this presentation all over the country! In the second hour of the retreat, while the kids are having their own session, John Wood will be offering a presentation specifically for the parents. John has spoken at hundreds of parishes and schools across the country, and his book, "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission," has sold over 240,000 copies. New York Times Bestselling author Matthew Kelly has said, "I believe John is one of the great emerging Catholic voices of our time. John Wood has a passion that is contagious...read this book and make an effort to hear him speak!"

This is not an informational meeting. This is an inspiring talk that we promise will be worth your time and help you prepare with your son or daughter for these important sacraments.

While at least one parent is required to attend the retreat with the child, we hope BOTH parents can attend. For more information about the retreat, please scan the QR code to watch the retreat video. We look forward to seeing you on January 17th!



God Bless,
Sarah Klosterman
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