



# St. John XXIII Catholic Church Sacramental Program for Children

ST. JOHN XXIII  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Overview:

The sacramental program for children at St. John XXIII Catholic Church is a two year program composed of parent and family formation sessions, as well as a homeschooling component in which parents help prepare their children to receive the Sacraments. The materials used to prepare children is from the Saints Among Us program published by the Archdiocese of Denver and is available for order from [restoredordercurriculum.com](http://restoredordercurriculum.com). Other curriculums may be used in place of the Saints Among Us program, approved on a case-by-case basis. Please ask if you'd like to use a different curriculum.

## Progression:

### 2nd grade (ages 7-8) Preparation and First Confession

*Materials Needed: Salvation History Student Workbook and Teacher Book;  
Reconciliation Student Workbook and Teacher Book*

Children are prepared to make their first confession during 2nd grade, or between the ages of 7 and 8. This year focuses on knowing Salvation History and the progression of God working through human history as presented in Scripture. After Salvation History is covered, the focus turns to understanding the nature of sin and forgiveness, with an emphasis on the Sacrament of Confession and the Ten Commandments. If there are enough students enrolled in the program, a retreat is provided for children that focuses on reinforcing what they have learned about the Sacrament of Confession. Children make their first confession sometime in the spring, after they have completed the first half of the curriculum.

### 3rd grade (ages 8-9) Confirmation and First Holy Communion

*Materials Needed: Confirmation Student Workbook and Teacher Book;  
First Communion Student Workbook and Teacher Book*

Per the mandate from Archbishop Aquila, we have restored the original order of the Sacraments so that children in 3rd grade receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the same Mass. The fall semester is spent learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation, and the spring semester is spent learning about the Eucharist. If there are enough students enrolled in the program, there is a retreat in the fall for Confirmation, and a retreat in the spring for First Communion. The date for Confirmation and First Holy Communion is scheduled according to the date given by the Archdiocese of Denver. If your child has received first communion already and not confirmation, please contact the parish directly to learn more about the requirements for confirmation without preparation for first communion.

## **Program Structure:**

The Church has always taught that parents are the primary educators of their children, so the role of staff and clergy within the Church is to support parents as they become the primary representatives of the Catholic faith to their children. With this in mind, there are various elements to our program which support parents in this endeavor.

### **Home Component**

This will be the primary place of instruction for children. Parents will be equipped with different resources and materials that help them instruct their children. There will be various homework assignments related to the Saints Among Us program for each child. These assignments will be turned into the parish coordinator, and this will act as accountability for each family throughout the year. The home component will also have a family prayer focus. Each month will have a different style of prayer as its focus. Families will watch a short video series on the style of prayer, and then implement that style in their family for the month (to the best of their ability).

### **Monthly Parent/Sponsor Formation Classes**

These monthly one-hour meetings serve as a support for parents and sponsors to give them a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church, as well as different methods and techniques used to pass this information on to children in a meaningful way. Parents and sponsors will be asked to watch a video before the session, with group discussion and support happening during the session. These meetings are in-person and are mandatory for parents and sponsors (if the sponsor is local). If a parent or sponsor lives outside of the Fort Collins/Loveland/Windsor/Wellington area, an online option can be made available. Please ask about this option if this applies to your family.

### **Saint Reports and Saint Paper**

Due to the nature of Confirmation being done at a younger age, additional help needs to be given to the child so that they may more fully embrace the graces given in the Sacrament. To foster a deeper love for holiness and virtue, and to create a greater awareness of the body of saints in the Catholic Church, each child receiving confirmation will be expected to research three different saints in the Catholic Church and fill out a report on each. After these three reports, they will need to write a one page summary about their reasons for picking their Confirmation saint name. Three reports will be due in the fall semester of their 2nd year of preparation, and the final saint paper will be due in the spring semester of the 2nd year. More details about the requirements for the reports are given after the child has been registered for the Confirmation program.