



## Our Lady of the Fields

*Do not be afraid... I am the bread of life;  
whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

John 6:20,35

August 2025

Dear Parents,

God seeks to draw each of us closer, to help us become more aware of the delight He takes in us and the love He has for us. That makes this a very special moment for your family and for our community as your child entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or higher is getting ready to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Most of us remember with joy and excitement our own First Communion and the awareness of God's love that it brought us. It is a blessing to share this time with you.

This is an exciting time for you and your child as God seeks to draw all of you closer. We're here to help you help your child (and you, as well) encounter Christ more deeply in our communal, liturgical prayers of Mass and Confession. Together as a community of believers, including catechists, priests, deacons, and other ministers, we'll be working with you to assist you in passing on our faith to your child. Catechists will work with you closely, and the parish will host special celebrations to introduce the children to the sacraments. Working together, we hope to offer the very best preparation for their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

The Church teaches us that Reconciliation prepares our minds and hearts to encounter Christ and that the best way to encounter Christ is in the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of our lives. God strengthens us to become His Presence in the world. It's important to gather each week as a community around God's table to be strengthened to live our lives out in the world. St. Augustine teaches us, "See the Body of Christ. Eat the Body of Christ. Become what you eat." When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we are drawn closer to God, filled with His Presence and fortified to live and bring that Presence into the world. This is the primary reason that the Church asks us to come to Mass every week and why we hope to see your family each weekend at Mass! Please see our website for Mass times on Saturdays and Sundays, <http://www.ourladyofthefields.org>. Children learn best by doing. By preparing for and attending Mass each week, you help to create a hunger in your child to experience Christ in Word and Sacrament. Together, we celebrate and become what we eat: The Body of Christ in the world. This includes, we hope, a deeper understanding of and greater appreciation for Eucharistic Adoration. Over the next few months, our parish community will be increasing opportunities to worship and adore before the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to sharing these blessings with you as the preparation of your child occurs and as your child receives the Body of Christ. It is a phenomenal grace offered to us by God and His Church.

The sacramental preparation process begins with enrolling your child by completing our online application: <https://www.ourladyofthefields.org/first-sacraments-preparation>. Registration is due **by September 15, 2025**. The next step is the **Parent Orientation on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 7:00pm**. This meeting in the Parish Hall is for parents only. At that time, we will review policies, procedures, expectations, and obligations. We'll also review the enclosed calendar of events. Bring all your questions about the preparation process, the celebration of the sacraments, and any individual questions you may have about your child's situation. Each event is essential for preparation and is offered more than once, when possible. Even if you feel that your child may not be ready to receive the sacraments at this time, please join us at the meeting. We can discuss options as you continue your child's faith formation.

We are blessed and excited for the opportunity to work with you and your child in this very important moment. If you feel you have received this letter in error, please notify us so we may correct our records. Please know you have the prayers of our community at this sacred time.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Jaskot*  
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Jaskot  
Pastor

*Andrea McGill Reddinger*  
Andrea McGill Reddinger  
Director of Children's Faith Formation

*Dr. Lauri Przybysz*  
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### Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation

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### Guide for Parents for First Reconciliation and Eucharist Preparation

- Children baptized as infants in the Catholic Faith who have reached the age of reason (understood as age 7) can become a candidate for sacraments. A child receives these first sacraments after the family, the pastor, and the faith formation leaders have discerned that there is a sacramental readiness. Receiving First Reconciliation and First Eucharist should be when a child is spiritually ready; this could be 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or even 5th grade. Engaging in the year of sacramental preparation should be carefully considered, especially if there are other impactful family events happening that year.
- All families with children in this sacramental preparation process need to be enrolled in faith formation classes through the parish or in Catholic school.
- **Enroll your child** in sacrament preparation by completing our online application: <https://www.ourladyofthefields.org/first-sacraments-preparation>. Registration is due **by September 15, 2025**.
- **Parent Orientation on Wednesday, September 24, at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.** For parents only. We will review procedures and expectations.
- We offer group celebrations for both First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, or you may choose individual celebrations. Please see the enclosed calendar and the online registration form for your options. Please be sure to indicate first and second choices for both sacraments.
- **A calendar of events** for the preparation process is enclosed in this mailing and will be reviewed at the Orientation meeting.
- Join us in the church every **First Friday of the month** for an encounter with our Lord and Savior through the mystery of **Eucharistic Adoration**, the Catholic devotion dating back to the early days of the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed and allows time for us to experience the presence of Our Lord as he comes into our hearts through intimate reflection and prayer. Please mark your calendars for the following dates: **September 5; October 3; November 7; December 5; January 2, 2026; February 6; and March 6.** Bring the whole family. If you would like to come for pizza at 6:00PM, or need childcare which is offered from 7:00-8:00pm for candidates' younger siblings, please to RSVP with this link: <https://forms.gle/umRPckPzpbuZT4qy6>.