

Holy Rosary Catholic Church

1416 George Street
Rosenberg, TX 77471
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Holy Rosary/St. Wenceslaus First Reconciliation/First Communion Guidelines 2018-2019

First Communion takes two years of preparation. To begin preparation, the student must be in at least the 1st grade and enrolled in and attending religious education at this parish or a Catholic school. The student must be at least 7 years old and in the 2nd grade in order to receive First Communion.

First Year (typically 1st grade)

- ❖ **Sunday Obligation** – Parents, please ensure that your student is fulfilling their Sunday Obligation by attending Sunday Mass
- ❖ **Baptismal Certificate** – A copy of your students' baptismal certificate is required for your child to receive First Communion.
- ❖ **Faith Formation** – All students must be enrolled in and attending weekly faith formation classes or be a student of a Catholic school. Students preparing for sacraments are allowed only 1 absence per semester.
- ❖ **Prayers by Heart** – Each child will receive a prayer book titled *Prayers by Heart*. This is a keepsake prayer book that will accompany your child through the 5th grade. Please pray daily with your student to help them learn how to pray and talk to God. They should be working on learning all of the 1st grade prayers.

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Second Year (typically 2nd grade)

According to the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, students who have successfully completed the first year of Sacramental preparation are ready for immediate preparation to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. This Sacramental preparation is separate and distinct from the weekly catechesis they receive in faith formation or Catholic school religion class. All Sacrament preparation classes are taught at Holy Rosary as one group. Students from Holy Rosary faith formation, St. Wenceslaus faith formation and Holy Rosary Catholic School come together for Sacrament Preparation classes and retreats in preparation of one Sacramental liturgy celebration.

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- ❖ **Prayers by Heart** – Each child will receive a prayer book titled *Prayers by Heart*. This is a keepsake prayer book that will accompany your child through the 5th grade. Please pray daily with your student to help them learn how to pray and talk to God. They should be working on learning all of the 2nd grade prayers.
- ❖ **Retreats** – Students preparing for first sacraments, should attend a morning retreat for each sacrament with at least one parent.
- ❖ **Sacrament Sundays** – Each child will attend two, three-hour classes for instruction on sacrament preparation for each Sacrament (Reconciliation and Eucharist)
- ❖ **Alter Cloth Square** – All 2nd grade students will be given their square of the altar cloth at the First Reconciliation Retreat. All squares are collected and assembled into an altar cloth banner used during First Communion Mass.
- ❖ **Sacrament Practice** – Practice for each sacrament will take place in the church the week prior to receiving the sacrament. At least one parent should to attend with student

Older students preparing for First Sacraments (3rd grade and older)

- ❖ **Family intake interview** – Parents are asked to meet with Mrs. Leann at the beginning of their preparation to discuss the sacramental preparation process. This is a time to answer any questions, and ensure that your family and student's needs are met.