



St. James the Apostle Catholic Church

Office of Religious Education

480 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

September 2025

Dear Parents,

It is with great joy that I welcome you and your child into this year of preparation for receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St. James the Apostle. It will be a year filled with tremendous growth and excitement in the faith life of your child. We in the Office of Religious Education are here to support YOU, as the primary educator on your child's journey of faith, to know, love and serve the Lord. We have wonderful materials to guide you and your child on this journey, and we look forward to your participation in this momentous year ahead.

We are very fortunate to be using the best materials available with some of the most prominent names in Catholic faith formation. These materials, created by Ascension Press, provide exceptional interactive lessons that engage students and include high quality videos in the lessons. The *Renewed* program offers an Online Parent Certification course, which answers questions you may have about Reconciliation and provides helpful conversation starters and family activities to help you play an active role in your child's faith journey. You will be receiving emails that connect to your child's lessons, and you will be free to utilize entire parent-guided lesson materials online.

We recognize that your family's life and schedule is very full; therefore, we want to give you the dates of the events that your child is required to attend in preparation for the reception of these Sacraments. We depend upon your guidance to arrange your child's schedule to ensure their attendance at class and the annual parent/child formation events. It is extremely important to make these events a priority. Missed events will need to be rescheduled.

The following dates have been set and are mandatory events. Please mark your calendar:

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| Wednesday, October 22nd: | First Reconciliation Parent Meeting - during RE class times
* Session A: 4:45-6pm; Session B: 6:30-7:45pm |
| Wednesday, December 3rd: | Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation - during RE class times
* <i>Parents will attend & are invited for hospitality afterward</i> |
| Saturday, February 7th: | First Eucharist Parent-Child Retreat: 2-5pm (includes Mass) |
| Sunday, April 26th: | First Communion Masses at 9 and 11am |

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at REO@stjamesge.org. We look forward to accompanying you and your family on your child's journey toward receiving Jesus in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist! May God bless you always!

Laura Tumpane
Director of Religious Education