



**SACRAMENT
INFORMATION
PACKET**

**Our Lady of Angels
Allen, Texas
469-467-9669**

Dear Parents,

I am so excited to be a part of this time in your families' lives. Helping your children learn and take this important step toward initiation into the Church is a privilege and an honor. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are gifts that bring us closer to Christ. As we work together to bring our children to these Sacraments, we are called to renew and deepen our own understanding and relationship with Jesus.

As parents, you are the first and primary teachers of your children in the ways of faith as you promised at their baptism. It is my desire that we help you bring your children closer to Christ.

Together we can work to truly prepare your children for these beautiful Sacraments. Through the eyes of your children we hope you will experience the Sacraments anew and that God will touch you more deeply with His love.

In Christ's peace,



Sandy Hernandez
Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator
Our Lady of Angels
469-467-9669 ext. 106
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Our Lady of Angels Sacrament Formation

Eucharist and Reconciliation Two Year Schedule

At Our Lady of Angels, formation for First Communion and First Reconciliation is done in three ways.

1. Faith Formation classes are the ones that are grade specific and held during 23 to 24 weeks a year. With the guidance of catechists and the Christ Our Life curriculum, children review and grow in knowledge and understanding of the basics of our Catholic faith. These classes also provide an opportunity for families to continue formation at home. Your student will bring home handouts from class with information about what they are learning. We encourage you to review this material with your child each week. Loyolapress.com is also a great resource for families.
2. It is very important that families attend weekly Mass together, as this reinforces the lessons that your child is learning in class each week.
3. During Year 2 of Sacrament Formation, two retreats are held in the spring. These retreats are a communal opportunity to learn together as families and provide examples and ways to help build families of faith. This gives parents the tools to help children understand the gifts of the Sacraments and the ability to grow and deepen their relationship with God through prayer, reflection, participation in Mass and other Catholic traditions.

Year One Sacrament Formation

- Student is enrolled in an elementary class to build a foundation of knowledge of our faith.
- Students will receive a packet of materials to work on at home with their parents.
- **Parents and students should attend weekly Mass together.**

Year Two Sacrament Formation

- Student is enrolled in an elementary class to build a foundation of knowledge of our faith.
- **Parents and students should attend weekly Mass together.**
- Two retreats in the spring finalize preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist for parent and child.
- These retreats are the equivalent of 3 classes and are intended to augment what parents are already doing, or to sow the seeds of parent led catechesis.
- Retreat Theme:
 - One: Reconciliation – February 10, 2018
 - Two: Eucharist – April 14, 2018

Attendance at both retreats is required so that you and your child will be prepared. We provide these dates to families as soon as the calendar can be published. If you and your child are unable to go to a retreat, you must contact the Coordinator to see what arrangements can be made.

Missing retreats or more than 20% of faith formation classes may delay your child's Sacrament. Communication is important to help us work with you on your child's faith journey.

Important Dates

DAY	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Saturday, February 10, 2018	8:15am – 12:00pm	Year Two Retreat for parents and students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (Mass begins at 8:30am in the Worship Center)
Saturday, February 24, 2018	9:45am - Noon	First Reconciliation Service will be held in the Worship Center followed by individual confessions. Several priests will be available to hear confessions.
April 14, 2018	8:15am - Noon	Year Two Retreat for parents and students preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. (Mass begins at 8:30am in the Worship Center)
Week of April 22, 2018		If you are making a Sacramental banner, they are due this week. The banners are optional.
Tuesday, May 8, 2018	6:00pm – 8pm	Rehearsal for students with Liturgy assignments: Cross and Candle Bearers 6pm to 6:30; Gift Bearers 6:30pm to 7:00; Banner Carriers 7:00pm to 7:30; Readers 7:30pm to 8:00.
Wednesday, May 9, 2018	4 – 6pm	First Communion photos (by appointment only) Rooms 202-204
Wednesday, May 9, 2018	6 – 7pm	Mandatory General Rehearsal for all students for the 9:30am Mass
Thursday, May 10, 2018	4 – 6pm	First Communion photos (by appointment only) Rooms 202-204
Thursday, May 10, 2018	6 – 7pm	Mandatory General Rehearsal for all students for the 1:30pm Mass
Saturday, May 12, 2018	Arrive at 9:00am Mass begins at 9:30am	9:30am First Communion Mass for Sunday 2 nd thru 5 th grade classes. There is a group photo and reception after Mass
Saturday, May 12, 2018	Arrive at 1pm Mass begins at 1:30pm	1:30pm First Communion Mass for Monday 2 nd thru 5 th grade and middle school classes. There is a group photo and reception after Mass

Baptismal Certificates

Did you know that the church where you were baptized keeps the records of all your Sacraments? That is why we need a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. This gives us the information we need to inform your child's church of record that they have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Please supply a **copy** of your child's baptismal certificate no later than **March 30th**. We do not need the original. You may email a copy to me at shernandez@ourladyofangels.com

If your child was baptized at Our Lady of Angels, please notify us by email so that we may note that in our records. Sacramental records are kept separately from our student records.

All children should be baptized in the Church to make their First Communion. If your child was baptized in a church other than Roman Catholic, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we can work with you to help your child receive the Sacraments.

First Reconciliation Ceremony

On **Saturday, February 24th**, we will gather at the Worship Center to celebrate our students' First Reconciliation.

The plans for Saturday are:

- The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10am. **Please arrive by 9:45am** and check in at the table. You may sit as a family any where in the sanctuary.
- There is a prayer service before confessions are heard which will guide our children through the examination of conscience. Please let your child know that this is a special ceremony for their first confession and that their next confession may be different.
- Once the service is over, we will allow the students to choose a priest and wait in that line until it is their turn. A volunteer will be stationed at each priest in order to keep the line moving, and to keep children quiet and prayerful.
- Teachers and families are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Confession after all the students have made their confession.
- Families are free to leave once everyone in the family who wishes to do so has gone to Confession and completed his or her penance.
- We highly encourage you to make this a special day with your child after you leave. Go celebrate this special gift of mercy that our Lord offers to us!

First Holy Communion Mass

We have two First Communion Masses. All students **must** attend rehearsal prior to First Communion.

First Communion Mass	Rehearsal
May 12 th , 2018 9:30am (for Sunday classes)	Wednesday, May 9 th , 2018 6 – 7pm
May 12 th , 2018 1:30pm (for Monday classes)	Thursday, May 10 th , 2018 6 – 7pm

Any student with a special Mass assignment (cross bearer, candle bearer, etc.) will have an additional rehearsal on Tuesday, May 8th. Students can sign up for these assignments during the Eucharist Retreat on April 14th.

First Communion Mass Suggested Dress

Suggested dress for all students is Sunday dress. Girls' dresses should cover their shoulders and have a modest neckline. Simple street length is recommended and most girls wear white. A veil or headpiece is optional. Gloves are not allowed since they cannot receive communion wearing them. Boys should wear dress slacks and shirt. Suit jacket and tie are optional. The students should not carry anything.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding First Communion.

First Communion Photos

**Hamilton Photography – Bernadette Hamilton – 214-470-6596 –
info@hamiltonclassic.com**

We have made arrangements with a professional photographer, Hamilton Photography, to take photos for First Communion. Only the professional photographer will be allowed to take photos during the Mass. Absolutely no flash photography is allowed during the Mass. Please respect these guidelines.

Hamilton Photography will take photos of every student receiving the Body of Christ and a group photo of the entire group of students at the end of Mass.

Hamilton Photography will also take formal portraits by appointment on Wednesday, May 9th from 4 – 6pm and on Thursday, May 10th from 4 – 6pm at Our Lady of Angels.

Bernadette Hamilton will be available during the April 1st Eucharist retreat to schedule you for a photo appointment.

What is a Sacramental Banner?

In recognition of our child's celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, parents may wish to prepare a sacramental banner, which will be displayed in the Worship Center the week of First Communion.

The banner is an optional opportunity for you to help your child connect First Eucharist with Baptism as the second Sacrament of Initiation. Additionally, it provides witness to the rest of the parish, giving them an opportunity to share in our joy.

It is optional. If you and your child choose not to make a banner, that is fine.

- You can make the banner yourself, using the directions in this packet OR
- You can have the banner made by someone else for a fee. There is information included for a service that will make your child's banner on the following page.

We will try to have examples of banners on display at the retreats.

Directions for Sacramental Banner

The Sacramental Banners are optional. If you would like to make one, you will need:

1. A piece of fabric, felt or canvas, measuring approximately 18” wide by 24” long
 2. Decorations to represent the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.
 3. A wooden dowel, 4 inches wider than the width of your banner.
 4. 18” of decorative rope to hang the banner
- The banner should be approximately 18” wide by 24” long. It can be made of any material. Canvas, felt and broadcloth cotton all work well, but it is up to your personal taste and choice.
 - Sew a hem across the top leaving either end open so that the wooden dowel can be inserted.
 - The banner should have your child’s name or just your family name listed on the top.
 - Along the left side, either list the sacraments or place symbols for Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist. Again, this is entirely your choice. In past years parents have embroidered, used fabric paint, or purchased decals, which were sewed, ironed or glued on. (Hobby Lobby is a good source for this.)
 - Across from each name or symbol, list the date of your child’s receipt of the sacrament.
 - Insert the wooden dowel into the top hem. Tie the rope at either end of the dowel to create a hanger for the banner. Please glue the rope to the dowel.
 - Please put the banner on a clothes hanger when you deliver it to the office. There will be a close rack set up in the office to hang your banner.

Custom Banners

If you want a banner, but don't want to make it yourself, one of our parishioners, Isabel Lozano Patino, makes handmade banners to sell. These are painted with acrylic over cotton fabric.

Boy's and girl's images available.

For more information, please contact Isabel Lozano Patino at:

214 906 6961

or e-mail Isabel_patino@sbcglobal.net

Cost: \$50.00, all materials included.

First Communion Banners Samples

Montse Patiño



Baptism—

11-25-00



1st Reconciliation—

02-23-08



1st Communion—

07-12-08

Marianna Flores



01-15-1999



02-11-2008



05-10-2008