

# INFORMATIONAL PACKET 2025-2026

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

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## FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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**First Reconciliation-Saturday, February 21, 2026 (10:30 AM)**

**First Communion Retreat-Saturday, March 14, 2026 (9:00 AM-12:00 Noon in the Social Hall)**

**First Holy Communion Practice- Friday, April 24, 2026 (6:00 PM-7:30 PM in Church)**

**First Holy Communion- Sunday, April 26, 2026 (11:00 AM)**



## SAVE THE DATE:

The First Holy Communion Retreat (March 14<sup>th</sup>) and FHC Practice (April 24<sup>th</sup>) are mandatory for all First Holy Communion students.

## PLEASE NOTE:

In the event a student is unable to attend the Retreat, he or she must attend a neighboring parish's Retreat. (Dates will vary). It is the responsibility of the requesting family to plan the rescheduling.



## Sacrament Information

### Dress Code

**First Reconciliation:** “Sunday best” for both boys and girls.

**First Holy Communion:**

Girls-White dress, white stockings/tights/socks, veils/hair piece optional. (No purses, heels, flowers, rosaries, gloves, or veils over the face)

Boys-Dark suit (typically navy), white shirt and white tie, dark dress shoes.

### Seating (Open Seating)

There are no First Communion Mass tickets. Families are seated on a first come, first served basis.

## **Pictures**

To maintain the sacredness of the Mass, please refrain from moving around the Church and taking pictures during your child's reception of Communion. A professional photographer (Bradley Digital) will be taking pictures at Mass. More information on ordering pictures will follow. \*No outside photographers, please.

## **Examination of Conscience/Form of Confession**

Please review the types of sin, Examination of Conscience, and Form of Confession with your child before February 21<sup>st</sup> (First Reconciliation). PREP teachers will also be reviewing this information with the children.

## **Resource:**

### Three Types of Sin

God is love, and He created us in love. We all have this love from God in our hearts. We also have sin in our hearts. All sin is evil, and all sin hurts the love we have for ourselves and others. But not all sins are equally evil.

1. Original Sin: The sin that Adam and Eve committed. We are all born with original sin, and we are cleansed of this sin when we are baptized.
2. Mortal sin: A very serious sin. By doing mortal sin, we choose to break our relationship with God. We need to receive God's mercy in the Sacrament of Confession when we commit a mortal sin. For a sin to be mortal, three things must all be true.
  - It breaks the Ten Commandments (Grave Matter)
  - You know that it is wrong (Full Knowledge)
  - You freely choose to do it (Complete Consent)
3. Venial sin: Less serious, but it hurts our relationship with God, but doesn't completely break it. We should try hard to avoid venial sin. If we don't, venial sin will lead to mortal sin.

## **Confession**

**Examination of Conscience:** Think about the times you have chosen not to be nice to others. When did you disobey your parents, grandparents, or teachers?

When you could have done a better job of being more like Jesus? Which sins bother you the most? These are the sins you should confess to the priest.

**Step One:** Say **Hello** to Father

**Step Two:** Make the sign of the Cross.

**You Say:** “**Bless me Father for I have sinned. This is my first confession. These are my sins:**

**For these and all my sins, I am sorry.**

**Step Three:** Penance.

Father will talk to you about ways to follow Jesus’ law of love. He will ask you to say a prayer or do a special act of kindness to show that you want to heal your relationship with God and His people.

**Step Four:** The Act of Contrition

**You Say:** **O My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Your Grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen**

**Step Five:** Absolution

Father will extend his hand over your head to bless you and give you absolution. While he blesses you, make the sign of the cross.

**You Say:** **Amen**

**Step Six:** Father will offer you a sign of peace and say: “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good”.

**You Say:** **“His mercy endures forever.”**

Priest Says: The Lord has freed you from your sins, Go in Peace.

**You Say:** **“Thanks Be To God.”**

**Now it is time to go and say your prayers. If you need help they are listed below:**

### **The Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **The Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **The Glory Be to The Father**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Examination of Conscience



God has given us the Great Commandment of Love, it says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

This commandment teaches us that we should love God above all else and put Him first in our lives. Next, we are to love other people. By loving others and ourselves, we are loving God, too. Can you think of ways you have not loved God or neighbor? The Ten Commandments will help us to think of some ways to keep the Great Commandment.

### **1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have other gods before me.**

We no longer see people worshiping golden idols like in the time of the Bible. We also don't often hear of other gods like the many gods the Greeks had. But we do still place many things before God, and give them greater time and attention. This commandment reminds us to place God first.

- Do I place God first in everything?
- Do I put TV, music, video games, homework, friends or other things before my relationship with God?
- Do I value money, power, popularity, or objects more than God?
- Do I forget to make time for God alone?

### **2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**

Taking God's name in vain is serious because God's name is holy. We use God's name to pray, to worship, and to make an oath. By using God's name in other ways, we are showing disrespect to God.

- Do I use God's name only in a holy way or for prayer?
- Do I say God's name in anger or in a bad way?
- Do I use the names of the saints in unholy ways?
- Do I use bad language?
- Do I make promises with God's name that I won't keep?

### **3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**

This means that Sunday is set apart for loving God. We do this by going to Mass, taking time to pray, and spending time with our families. We should try to not work on Sundays so we can take time for God.

- Do I try to get out of Mass on Sunday?
- Do I fail to pay attention at Mass? During my prayers?
- Do I do unnecessary work on Sunday?
- Do I fail to take extra time for prayer and family on Sunday?
- Do I fail to serve others on Sunday?

#### **4. Honor your father and mother.**

God chose your parents because He knew that they are the best parents for you. He chose your family. He even chose your teachers! God puts people in our lives that we need to respect and even obey because they are doing what is best for us. By loving the authorities in our lives, we are loving God's plan for us.

- Do I talk back or disrespect my parents, teachers, or other authorities?
- Am I disobedient?
- Do I fail to listen to my parents when they are talking to me?
- Do I fail to show my parents love because it does not seem "cool"?
- Do I listen to my friends more than my parents?
- Do I do my chores when I am asked?
- Do I help with my younger brothers and sisters?

#### **5. You shall not kill.**

Perhaps you think that because you have not killed anyone, this commandment does not affect you. This commandment is about having anger and hatred towards others and wanting to do harm to them. Sometimes we all get angry, but we need to not act on it, we need to act in love. To act in love means we love life.

- Do I hate someone?
- Did I have a fight, or try to hurt someone?
- Have I hurt someone's reputation by saying mean things about them?
- Do I fail to control my anger or my temper?
- Am I purposely mean? Do I say things to hurt people?
- Do I fail to help others when they need help?

#### **6. You shall not commit adultery.**

This commandment teaches us to be faithful to each other. We are reminded to be true to our friends and our promises.

- Do I tell my friends I will do one thing and not follow through?
- Do I stand by my friends?
- Do I try to get my friends in trouble?

#### **7. You shall not steal.**

Stealing is taking something that does not belong to you without asking. We must respect other people's property.

- Do I respect property?
- Do I steal even small things?
- Do I damage other people's property?
- Do I borrow things and purposely not return them?
- Have I kept others from having what they deserve?
- Do I use things wisely?
- Do I fail to treat my things with respect?

**8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

To bear false witness means to not tell the whole truth. It is lying, but it is much more than lying. We lie to either make ourselves look good or sometimes to make others look bad. Sometimes we lie to get out of trouble. Sometimes it is so easy to lie, that we don't even realize we lied! The truth is very important because we need to be able to trust and understand each other.

- Do you lie?
- Do you gossip and talk about others when they are not around?
- Do you boast and make yourself look better than you are?
- Do you point out other people's faults unnecessarily?
- Do you not tell the whole truth?
- Do you say things about people that you wouldn't want them to know about?

**9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**

This commandment teaches us to be happy with the relationships you have. Don't be jealous of other people. Be happy with your own family.

- Am I jealous of other friends or families?
- Do I show appreciation for my family?
- Do I treat my friends with kindness?

**10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

Coveting means wanting something badly. It includes jealousy, but also taking things from other people or ruining them so they can't have them. Coveting is a way of being mean. It starts in our thoughts when we judge others.

- Do I always think about things I can't have?
- Do I ever feel jealous about what my friends have?
- Do I want to destroy what others have because I can't have it?
- Do I judge others?

Lastly, if you're not sure if something is a sin, ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" If Jesus wouldn't do it, you shouldn't either. Let Jesus be your guide.



