

First Holy Communion

It is expected that your child will be enrolled in a form of Catholic religious education for their entire childhood. This includes weekly Mass attendance, formation in prayer and doctrine in the home, as well as religious instruction in school. If your child is enrolled at St. Benedict School, their religious instruction will be a part of their weekly school curriculum, and they will receive their first Holy Communion at the end of 2nd grade.

If your child is not enrolled in Catholic school, they should be enrolled in Religious Education from the time they are in kindergarten. They will meet once a week on Sundays at 8:30 A.M. at St. Benedict School. They will also attend Mass at St. Benedict or at another parish with their family every Sunday. At the end of their 2nd grade year of Religious Education they will receive their first Holy Communion.

If your child has not been enrolled in Religious Education since kindergarten, and they are not enrolled in St. Benedict School, they will be required to make up lost time by attending Religious Education for *at least two consecutive years* before they receive Holy Communion. The same weekly Mass attendance requirement applies. There are no exceptions to this expectation.

Please note: Some cultures, particularly in Latin America, have traditions of godparents (“padrinos”) having a special role in a child’s First Communion. However, there is no such thing as an official “godparent” or “sponsor” for First Communion in the Catholic Rite. The child’s parents serve as the main educators of the faith to a child receiving his or her first communion, and they will be responsible for making sure the child has the opportunity to receive communion regularly through Sunday Mass attendance. Godparents of children receiving First Communion are encouraged to attend the ceremony, but they will be given *no privileged or special role* during the Mass.

Please note: If your child has attended Religious Education at another parish and is joining the Religious Education program at St. Benedict, you will need to provide a note from your previous parish’s pastor or director of Religious Education in order to remain on schedule for receiving the Sacraments.

