



Greetings!

We are excited to begin the process of preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion with you and your child! Receiving Jesus Christ in his body, blood, soul and divinity is a pivotal moment in the spiritual lives of our young people and we aim to help you, as parents, to assist your children both in the parish and at home.

Before we begin our formal sessions, please read through all the information below regarding preliminary steps.

**\*If you are seeking First Communion for your son/daughter and they are older than the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, please contact Ben Fleser before you begin registration ([bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org](mailto:bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org))**

### **St. Benedict Parish Requirements**

- **Preparation for First Reconciliation/Communion is open to those who will be at least 7 years old by the time First Reconciliation sessions begin (October 30) and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This is the requirement universally in the Catholic Church.**
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- Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation (if attending Mass/registered at another parish, please contact Ben Fleser before registering)
- Attend all First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion classes (see below for dates). **Preparation for First Reconciliation/Communion must take place in the Catholic parish.** If you will be absent, please contact Ben Fleser about make up work.
- If not enrolled at St. Benedict Catholic School, or in a Catholic homeschool program, please partake in religious education at St. Benedict.
- There is a \$20 fee to cover the cost of curriculum materials for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. However, if your son/daughter is enrolled in Pre K-5 religious education at St. Benedict parish, the fee for First Reconciliation/Communion is already included. Please do not let finances be an issue. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact us.

### **If Members of a Different Parish**

- If you are registered at, or members of a different parish other than St. Benedict, we will need a letter from the pastor of your parish granting permission for your son/daughter to be prepared for the sacrament of First Reconciliation/Communion at St. Benedict.
- Once enrolled for First Reconciliation/Communion, preparation and reception of the sacraments must take place at St. Benedict. It is not permissible to be prepared for the sacraments at St. Benedict and receive them at a different parish, and vice versa.
- **Please aim to have a letter of permission from your parish of registration by our first session on October 30.**

## **Baptism Information**

- If your child was baptized at St. Benedict, no extra documentation is needed. Your child's record of baptism can be found here, at St. Benedict.
- If your child was baptized at a different Catholic church, parents must obtain a new baptismal certificate from the child's church of baptism (a photocopy of the original certificate will not suffice). Baptismal certificates can be obtained by contacting your child's church of baptism and requesting a new certificate. You can have them mail the certificate directly to St. Benedict:

St. Benedict Catholic Church

Attn: Ben Fleser

300 N. Sheppard St., Richmond, VA 23221

- If baptized in a Non-Catholic church, please contact the child's church of baptism to see if they have any record on hand. If they do not keep baptismal records at their church, please seek any type of documentation that indicates a baptism has occurred. This can be the original copy of your own baptismal certificate, a program from the baptism, photographs, etc.
- **Please aim to have your baptismal certificates submitted by November 6.**

\* After your child completes their First Communion, their First Communion record will be sent to their church of baptism. We will keep a copy of the records at St. Benedict, but all sacramental records are kept together at the church of baptism. If baptized in a non-Catholic church, St. Benedict will now be the church where your sacramental records are kept.

## **First Reconciliation/Communion Formation Session Schedule**

\*All Sessions are from 9:45am-10:45am at St. Benedict School

### **First Reconciliation**

- **October 30** (Parents Meet in St. Anselm)
- **November 6**
- **November 13** (Parents Meet in St. Anselm)
- **November 20** (Parents Meet in St. Anselm)

First Reconciliation: **Friday, December 2 at 6:30pm**

### **First Communion**

- **March 5** (Parents Meet in St. Anselm)
- **March 12**
- **March 19** (Parents Meet in St. Anselm)
- **Saturday, April 29:** First Communion Retreat from 9:00am-12:00pm

First Communion: **Sunday, April 30 at 11:00am**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org](mailto:bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org). We will be praying for you all as you begin this journey!

God bless you,

Reverend Father John David Ramsey  
Pastor

Ben Fleser  
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis