



Dear SMSA First Grade Parents,

May 2026

We hope you are as excited as we are that your child is approaching the age of reason (2<sup>nd</sup> grade), which is when the Church says they may receive the Sacraments of First Penance and Holy Eucharist. While ongoing faith formation takes place at SMSA, sacramental preparation and celebration of the Sacraments take place through your Church community.

Registration for these Sacraments at Holy Family will open on July 7, 2026, at 8:00 am. You will find the link for registration on the Holy Family website ([www.hffdl.org/cf](http://www.hffdl.org/cf)) and in *The Good News*. After October 10, 2026, the registration link will be closed and inaccessible, as the Priest Team wants to ensure that all candidates for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion have a proper amount of time to prepare for the Sacraments.

For your child to begin Sacramental Preparation, they must have received the sacrament of Baptism before September 1, 2026, per Archbishop Grob. If your child is not Baptized, please contact Sabina Carter, Director of Christian Formation, by emailing her at [scarter@hffdl.org](mailto:scarter@hffdl.org).

We use a home-based preparation program for First Penance and First Eucharist with a few group meetings. We begin in the fall preparing for First Penance and will celebrate the Sacrament in January. Then we will begin preparation for First Eucharist and celebrate the Sacrament in April or May.

I am excited and blessed to be able to help you and your child through this very special time in their sacramental life.

*Trisha Zimmerman*

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