



Our Lady of the Fields

*Do not be afraid... I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*
John 6:20,35

August 2026

Dear Parents,

God seeks to draw each of us closer; to help us become more aware of the delight He takes in us and the love He has for us. That makes this a very special moment for your family and for our community as your child enters 2nd grade or higher and prepares for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Most of us remember with joy and excitement our own First Communion and the awareness of God's love that it brought us. It is a blessing to share this time with you.

This is an exciting time for you and your child as God seeks to draw all of you closer. We're here to help you help your child encounter Christ more deeply in our communal, liturgical prayers of Mass and Confession. Together as a community of believers, including catechists, priests, deacons, and other ministers, we'll be working with you to assist you in passing on our faith to your child. Catechists will work with you closely, and the parish will host special celebrations to introduce the children to the sacraments. Working together, we hope to offer the very best preparation for their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

The Church teaches us that Reconciliation prepares our minds and hearts to encounter Christ and that the best way to encounter Christ is in the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of our lives. God strengthens us to become His Presence in the world. It's important to gather each week as a community around God's table to be strengthened to live our lives out in the world. St. Augustine teaches us, "See the Body of Christ. Eat the Body of Christ. Become what you eat." When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we are drawn closer to God, filled with His Presence, and fortified to live and bring that Presence into the world. This is the primary reason that the Church asks us to come to Mass every week and why we hope to see your family each weekend at Mass! Please see our website for Mass times on Saturdays and Sundays, <http://www.ourladyofthefields.org>. Children learn best by doing. By preparing for and attending Mass each week, you help to create a hunger in your child to experience Christ in Word and Sacrament. Together, we celebrate and become what we eat: The Body of Christ in the world. This includes, we hope, a deeper understanding of and greater appreciation for Eucharistic Adoration. Our parish community has increased opportunities to worship and adore before the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to sharing these blessings with you as the preparation of your child occurs and as your child receives the Body of Christ. It is a phenomenal grace offered to us by God and His Church.

The sacramental preparation process begins with enrolling your child by completing our online application: <https://www.ourladyofthefields.org/first-sacraments-preparation>. Registration is due **September 14, 2026**. The next step is the **Parent Orientation on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 7:00pm**. This meeting in the Parish Hall is for parents only. At that time, we will review policies, procedures, expectations, and obligations. We'll also review the enclosed calendar of events. Bring all your questions about the preparation process, the celebration of the sacraments, and any individual questions you may have about your child's situation. Each event is essential for preparation and is offered more than once, when possible. Even if you feel that your child may not be ready to receive the sacraments at this time, please join us at the meeting. We can discuss options as you continue your child's faith formation.

We are blessed and excited for the opportunity to work with you and your child in this very important moment. If you feel you have received this letter in error, please notify us so we may correct our records. Please know you have the prayers of our community at this sacred time.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Jaskot
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Jaskot
Pastor

Andrea McGill Reddinger
Andrea McGill Reddinger
Director of Children's Faith Formation

Dr. Lauri Przybysz
Dr. Lauri Przybysz
Pastoral Associate for Evangelization

Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation

1070 Cecil Ave So. Millersville, MD 21108 Phone: 410-923-6953
www.ourladyofthefields.org Faithformation@olfparish.com



Guide for Parents for First Reconciliation and Eucharist Preparation

- Children baptized as infants in the Catholic Faith who have reached the age of reason (understood as age 7) can become a candidate for sacraments. A child receives these first sacraments after the family, the pastor, and the faith formation leaders have discerned that there is a sacramental readiness. Receiving First Reconciliation and First Eucharist should be when a child is spiritually ready; this could be 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or even 5th grade. Engaging in the year of sacramental preparation should be carefully considered, especially if there are other impactful family events happening that year.
- **Enroll your child** in sacrament preparation by completing our online application: <https://www.ourladyofthefields.org/first-sacraments-preparation>.
Registration is due **September 14, 2026**.
- Our parish process for sacramental preparation offers our children the individual attention and personal care they need. You have several choices for celebrating the sacraments:
 - **You are offered the opportunity for your child to receive First Communion at one of our regularly Scheduled Weekend Masses Saturdays at 5PM; Sundays at 8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM, 5PM or weekdays at 8:30AM.** Please note that each of the Masses will be limited to four individual First Communicants.
 - **Group First Communion Liturgies** will take place as planned in the spring. There are a maximum number of children who can receive the Eucharist at each celebration with limited guest seating. Therefore, we are planning for the following dates:
 - Saturday, April 24, 2027, at 11:00 a.m.
 - Saturday, May 1, 2027, at 11:00 a.m.
- **A calendar of events** for the preparation process is enclosed in this mailing and will be reviewed at the Orientation meeting.
- All families with children in this sacramental preparation process need to be enrolled in faith formation classes through the parish or Catholic school.
- **Parent Orientation on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.** For parents only. We will review procedures and expectations.