

Hello OLV families!

I would like to share updates to our Sacramental calendar for our students preparing to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion this school year. We had originally scheduled First Reconciliation in January, but we will be moving First Reconciliation closer to First Communion due to conflicts with scheduling extra priests as well as other factors. We have also moved a few CCD dates around, so please read this letter carefully.

First Reconciliation Information:

First Reconciliation will NOT be Thursday, January 16th as previously published. We will also be dropping the First Reconciliation retreat portion of that evening. Instead, First Reconciliation will take place in April, according to the following schedule:

Friday, April 24th, 2026 @ 10:00am: OLVCS students

Sunday, April 19th, 2026 @ 10:30am: CCD students in Dr. Zazzali's class

Sunday, April 26th, 2026 @ 10:30am: CCD students in Miss Small's/Dr. Puts' class and anyone who missed the prior dates (OLVCS or CCD)

NOTE: Students who are receiving Reconciliation and Communion this year but who are not in 2nd grade should pick one of the CCD Sundays to receive First Reconciliation.

First Holy Communion Information:

First Holy Communion will still be held on **Saturday, May 2nd @ 10:00am (students arrive by 9:30am)**.

Rehearsal will be moved to **Friday, May 1st @ 6:00pm**. This will be a rehearsal only (processing in, seating, practicing receiving, and practicing their special song) and should last about an hour.

Extra activities:

Our schedule changes eliminate any type of retreat or extra sessions as a whole group.

- **OLVCS students** will cover the diocesan recommended material in their regular religion classes as well as via any material sent home by OLVCS teachers, as they deem necessary.
- **CCD families will complete two extra, at-home assignments**, one before First Reconciliation and one before First Communion. These assignments allow us to use one Sunday in our schedule for First Reconciliation and gain one extra instructional session. These assignments will be a review of basic concepts as well as how to receive the sacraments. Details about the assignments will be emailed to CCD families several weeks ahead of First Reconciliation and First Communion (shortly before and after Easter).
- For a special activity, we will keep our **Chalice Painting** as planned, however, **CCD chalice painting will be moved to Sunday, March 1st during CCD class** (previously Sunday, February 22nd). OLVCS students will still have Chalice Painting on Ash Wednesday, February 18th.

We hope these changes will simplify our sacramental prep for this year. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Blessings,
Susan Ishmael