



Mandatory Parent Orientation

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Location: *St. Francis School Gym*

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM - Mandatory meeting for all parents of 2nd grade students who are preparing for First Communion.

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - Mandatory meeting for all parents of students in Grades 1–8 who do not attend Catholic school.

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM - Mandatory meeting for all parents of 9th grade students who are seeking to get Confirmed.

Calendar of Classes for all students in our Religious Education Program

All students must attend the following classes, held on Sundays in the Church basement from 9:15 - 10:15:

- October 5, 2025 (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Grades 1-8 at school gym)
- October 19, 2025 (**Grades 1 & 2 have a mandatory holy hour with a parent in the Church**)
- November 2, 2025 (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Gr. 1-8 at school gym)
- November 16, 2025 (**Grades 3 & 4 have a mandatory holy hour with a parent in the Church**)
- December 7, 2025 (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Gr. 1-8 at school gym)
- December 21, 2025 (**Grades 5 & 6 have a mandatory holy hour with a parent in the Church**)
- January 11, 2026 (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Grades 1-8 at school gym)
- January 25, 2026 (**Grades 7 & 8 have a mandatory holy hour with a parent in the Church**)
- February 8, 2026 (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Grades 1-8 at school gym)
- February 22, 2026 (**Grade 9 has a mandatory holy hour with a parent in the Church**)
- March 8, 2026 (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Grades 1-8 at school gym)
- March 22, 2026 (Optional Holy Hour for parents)
- April 12, 2025 (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Grades 1-8 at school gym)
- April 26, 2026 (Optional Holy Hour for parents)
- May 3, 2026 - (Mandatory session for parents of public school students in Grades 1-8 at school gym)
- May 17, 2026 - (Optional Holy Hour for parents)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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St. Francis Xavier's Religious Education Program

Family of Faith

At St. Francis Xavier Parish, our Religious Education Program follows the Family of Faith model from the Sophia Institute. This model reflects a simple but powerful truth of our Catholic faith:

Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith.

In choosing a family-based model, we're not simply offering an alternative to weekly classes—we're building a program that recognizes the essential role of the family in forming disciples. When children see their parents pray, go to Mass, talk about God, and live out their faith daily, they come to understand that faith is not just something learned—it's something lived.

The Family of Faith model supports families in:

- Deepening their understanding of Catholic teaching
- Creating meaningful faith experiences at home
- Growing together in prayer and love for Christ
- Becoming active participants in parish life, especially Sunday Mass

Children who witness their family practicing the faith consistently are more likely to carry that faith into adulthood. That's why our monthly parent sessions and family holy hours are not just "meetings" - they are opportunities for parents to grow in faith alongside their children, and to lead them by example.

We are here to accompany you - not just your child - on this journey of faith. Thank you for making the commitment to be part of this model. Together, we can form families of faith, rooted in Christ and alive in the Church.

Program Requirements:

- **Classes are held twice per month on Sundays**, between the morning Masses.
- **Time:** 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM (please arrive on time).
- **Location:** Church Basement (unless otherwise noted).

Parent Participation:

- Parents of students in **Grades 1–8 who attend public school are required to attend the first session of each month.**
- During the **second session of each month, a Holy Hour will be held in the Church.** Parents are **invited but not required** to attend except on their one mandatory holy hour date (see calendar).
- Parents of students in **Grade 2** (First Communion students) please continue reading for requirements in this special sacramental year.

****Please see the calendar below for all required classes/meetings.**



St. Francis Xavier's First Communion Program

Students in second grade are invited to join our Religious Education program for preparation to receive their First Communion in May. **First Holy Communion is one of the most important moments in your child's spiritual life.** In receiving the Eucharist for the first time, your child is not just participating in a tradition—they are being united with Jesus in a deep and personal way. The Eucharist is the very heart of our Catholic faith: it is Jesus Himself, truly present, given to us out of love.

As parents, you are the first and most influential teachers of the faith. What you say and do—especially your example of prayer, reverence, and regular Mass attendance—forms the foundation of your child's relationship with God. Attending Mass each Sunday as a family and praying together at home show your child that faith is not just a lesson learned in a classroom but a way of life lived with love and consistency.

Preparing for First Communion is not just about learning prayers and signs of the cross. It's about helping your child fall in love with Jesus. And no one can guide them in that love more powerfully than you.

Program Requirements:

In order to support a vibrant life of faith, **all students** - whether enrolled in **Catholic school or public school** - are expected to:

- **Attend Sunday Mass weekly**
- **Pray daily as a family**
- **Participate in Religious Education sessions twice per month**

Class and Mass Attendance:

- All students must attend **class twice per month**, held on Sundays from **9:15 AM to 10:15 AM**.
- On class days, **2nd Grade students** will attend the **8:00 AM Mass together as a class** and then proceed directly downstairs for class.

Parent Involvement:

- Parents of **public school students** in Grades 2 are **required to attend the Family of Faith adult meeting** held during the **first session of each month**.

During the **second session of each month**, a **Holy Hour will be held in the Church**. Parents are **invited but not required** to attend, except on their one mandatory holy hour on **October 19**.

****Please see the calendar for all required classes/meetings.**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS



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St. Francis Xavier Sacramental Preparation: First Reconciliation and Communion

All students in the 2nd grade whether they are in Catholic or public school are required to attend all classes.

Other Important Dates

(All events held at St. Francis Xavier Church)

First Reconciliation

Sunday January 25, 2026

6:00 PM

First Holy Communion Rehearsal

Thursday April 30, 2026

6:00 PM

First Holy Communion

Sunday May 3, 2026

2:00 pm

Crowning of Mary

Sunday May 10, 2026

10:30 am



St. Francis Xavier's Confirmation Program

Confirmation is not a graduation from religious education—it is the beginning of a deeper, more mature life in Christ.

In this sacrament, your son or daughter will be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, strengthened to live out their Catholic faith boldly and with purpose. It is a sacred moment of grace—but that grace is meant to grow, not remain dormant. The strength they receive in Confirmation only takes root when it is nourished by prayer, active participation in the life of the Church, and, most importantly, regular attendance at Sunday Mass.

At this stage in life, your teen is forming their identity and making decisions that will shape their future. You remain the most powerful influence in their lives. Your example—whether you pray with them, attend Mass with them, and speak openly about your faith—teaches them more than any textbook or class ever could.

Confirmation preparation is not just about fulfilling requirements. It's about helping your teen discover that faith is not something we "check off," but something we live—with conviction, love, and trust in God. When families attend Mass together and make faith a lived reality, it gives teenagers the clarity, confidence, and community they need to follow Christ in a world that often pulls them in other directions.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we can help our young people discover the strength, joy, and beauty of a life rooted in faith.

Program Requirements:

All 9th Grade students, whether attending public or Catholic school, who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation **must attend all Religious Education classes.**

Parent Involvement:

- Required: Parents of 9th Grade students are required to attend the **Holy Hour with their child on Sunday, February 22.**
- **Optional but Encouraged:**
Parents are welcome (but not required) to attend:
 - The monthly Family of Faith parent sessions (held during the first class of each month in the school gym)
 - The monthly class Holy Hours (held during the second session of each month in the church)

****Please see the calendar below for all required classes/meetings.**



St. Francis Xavier Sacramental Preparation: Confirmation

All students in the 9th Grade, whether in public or Catholic school, who are seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will need to attend all of the religious education classes. All classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Church basement.

Parents who only have a 9th grade student in our program are only required to attend a Holy Hour with their child on February 22nd. Parents are not required but more than welcome to attend the Family of Faith Sessions held during the first classes of each month at the school gym and the class Holy Hours during the second session of each month.

- October 5, 2025
- October 19, 2025
- November 2, 2025
- November 16, 2025
- December 7, 2025
- **December 20, 2025 (Regional Confirmation Retreat at St. Teresa of Calcutta in New Bedford)**
 - January 11, 2026
 - January 25, 2026
 - February 8, 2026
- **February 22, 2026 (Mandatory Holy Hour with at least one parent)**
 - March 8, 2026
 - March 22, 2026
 - April 12, 2025
 - April 26, 2026
 - May 3, 2026
 - May 17, 2026

We will communicate the time and date of confirmation as soon as we receive word from the diocese.
