

ORIGINAL ORDER OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST RATIONALE

On November 26, 2017, in response to Synod recommendations, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki promulgated a new norm concerning the restoration of the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation. “Looking then at question of the sequence and age for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, the Synod voted that the Sacraments of Christian Initiation shall be offered in the proper sequence (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) for children as well as for adults. To promote discipleship and stewardship as a way of life from an early age, those who are baptized as infants are to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at about the age of reason, which in this diocese will normally be in their third grade of elementary school, after they have been properly prepared and have made sacramental confession.” (Homily for the Closing of the Fourth Diocesan Synod on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception November 26, 2017)

During the spring of 2019, parishes who normally offer the Sacrament of Confirmation during that time frame will confirm all eighth graders, as usual. Parishes that have been celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with high school age students should prepare all high schoolers to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with eighth graders during this time period. If a parish normally has been confirming seventh and eighth graders, they should continue to do so during this time period. **Note: From the spring of 2019 on, your second-grade children will not be making their First Eucharist.**

Beginning in the fall of 2019 or the spring of 2020, parishes should begin to include these (now) third graders with eighth graders in all celebrations of Confirmation. Third graders will also receive their First Eucharist at this liturgy. This practice will continue each year until all children from fourth grade through seventh grade have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist (see chart for clarification). In limited cases, space may not allow combining grades 3 and 8 in one Mass. Consideration will then be given to offering two Masses, preferably on the same day.

Exceptions to the process may be necessary due to the size of parish (low number of children, established pattern of preparing two classes for reception of the sacraments in alternate years, etc.). Smaller parishes, or parishes with smaller classes, should strive to collaborate with neighboring parishes to combine celebrations. When combining classes, 2nd/3rd grades will be the norm. Because

2nd graders may not have yet reached the age of reason, spring celebrations will occur.

For more information, contact:

<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Deanery</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Cathy Becker	Springfield	cbecker@rcclbenziger.com
Marsha Chomko	Alton	mmchomko@netscape.net
Gloria Couvion	Alton	gcouvion@charter.net
Kim Diaz	Decatur	catkim48@gmail.com
Ann Gage	Quincy	agage1948@yahoo.com
Barbara Hertel	Decatur	bachangel@att.net
Judy Luchtefeld	Effingham	j.luchtefeld@sheff.org

<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Curial Office</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Brandi Borries	Superintendent of Catholic Schools	bborries@dio.org
Kyle Holtgrave	Director, Office for Youth & Young Adults	kholtgrave@dio.org
Chris Malmevik	Director, Office for Catechesis	cmalmevik@dio.org

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS
RESTORED ORDER OF THE SACRAMENTS
TIMETABLE

GRADE	Spring 2019	Fall 2019 / Spring 2020	Fall 2020 / Spring 2021	Fall 2021 / Spring 2022	Fall 2022 / Spring 2023	Fall 2023 / Spring 2024	Fall 2024 / Spring 2025
8th Grade and Older	Confirmation Prep & Reception	Confirmation Prep & Reception	Confirmation Prep & Reception	Confirmation Prep & Reception	Confirmation Prep & Reception	Confirmation Prep & Reception	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation
7th Grade	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation
6th Grade	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation
5th Grade	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation
4th Grade	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation
3rd Grade	Discipleship / Stewardship Formation	Confirmation & Eucharist Prep & Reception	Confirmation & Eucharist Prep & Reception	Confirmation & Eucharist Prep & Reception	Confirmation & Eucharist Prep & Reception	Confirmation & Eucharist Prep & Reception	Confirmation & Eucharist Prep & Reception
2nd Grade	Reconciliation Prep & Reception	Reconciliation Prep & Reception	Reconciliation Prep & Reception	Reconciliation Prep & Reception	Reconciliation Prep & Reception	Reconciliation Prep & Reception	Reconciliation Prep & Reception

In addition to sacrament preparation, discipleship/stewardship formation should complete the curriculum for each year.

2017 Synodal Declaration #6 (Statute n. 80): The Sacraments of Christian Initiation shall be offered in the proper sequence (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) for children as well as for adults. To promote discipleship and stewardship as a way of life from an early age, those who are baptized as infants are to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at about the age of reason, which in this Diocese will normally be in their third grade of elementary school, after they have been properly prepared and have made sacramental confession.⁵