



Hello Families!

My name is Kelly Archer and I work as the Director of Marriage & Families Ministries at St. Vincent's Parish. I know there has been a lot of buzz going around in regards to the new ordering of receiving the Sacraments and questions arising because of it.

I want to address some of these questions here, and also soothe any worries or concerns you might have! As a faith-filled community of the School and Parish, we will all be working together for the smoothest transition possible. Below is a brief explanation of why this change is occurring and answers to other questions you may have. I know one of the biggest concerns that it is all happening so young. Please know this is on our minds as well, and as implementation of the Restored Order continues, we will be working to broaden the possibilities for the younger Confirmed in our community to learn, serve, and develop their relationship with Christ.

Please pray for our community as we navigate and implement this change. If the following information doesn't adequately answer your questions, please know I'd be happy to talk with you in regards to your family circumstances or otherwise.

I look forward to meeting you and working with your family! Pray for me, please, and be assured of my prayers for your family!

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Restored Order of Sacraments for the Archdiocese of Denver					
Current Grade as of 2017-2018	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Pre-K				Reconciliation (as a 2nd grader)	Confirmation & Holy Communion (as a 3rd grader)
Kindergarten			Reconciliation (as a 2nd grader)	Confirmation & Holy Communion (as a 3rd grader)	
1st Grade		Reconciliation (as a 2nd grader)	Confirmation & Holy Communion (as a 3rd grader)		
2nd Grade	Reconciliation & Holy Communion	Confirmation			
3rd Grade	Confirmation				
4th Grade	Confirmation				
5th Grade	Confirmation				

**In 2019-2020 when we begin celebrating Confirmation & Holy Communion in 3rd grade, note that both of these Sacraments will be celebrated at the same Mass by the Bishop or his delegate.*



Why is the Bishop changing the order and the age?

The natural sequence of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation through the history of the Church has been Baptism, Confirmation and then First Eucharist. This is seen at the Easter Vigil when people enter the full communion of the Church. During the first five hundred years or so of the history of the Catholic Church it was always the case that the Sacraments of Initiation were celebrated in this order, and it was almost always the case that all three sacraments were celebrated together at the same time, even with infants.

Later the Roman Catholic Church adopted the practice of waiting until the age of reason for the reception of Confirmation and First Eucharist, but they were still received in that order. However, the “age of reason” was not clearly defined and different bishops and priests interpreted it in different ways. Typically the Sacraments were received together when a child was in their early adolescence. In the early 1900’s Pope St. Pius X defined the age of reason to be 7 years old. The assumption was that as First Eucharist was moved earlier, Confirmation would follow as well. However, most dioceses moved the age of First Eucharist younger and left Confirmation in early adolescence, which is what we have known for most of the last century, but is not the order that the majority of the history of the Church has known. Since Vatican Council II, there have been many documents and decrees from Rome that support and encourage restoring the order.

I still don’t understand. Where can I go to learn more?

Saintsdenver.com/about/ has a lot of information from the diocese! There is a 29 minute video explanation. Also, if you google “Grace for Discipleship St. Thomas More” there is a PDF with a couple of wonderful articles about the history and reasons for restoring the order of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Is every Catholic Church doing this, or just St. Vincent’s?

Every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Denver is implementing the Restored Order of Sacraments. There is a window for implementation, with all parishes fully implemented by 2020.

If I don’t feel like my child is ready, can I wait to enroll them to receive the Sacraments?

Yes! You are the primary educator of your child and we will honor your wishes. Please note though that by delaying Confirmation, First Holy Communion will also be delayed. Per Archbishop Aquila, there will not be an alternate path to which children are able to receive First Communion before Confirmation.

What is the preparation like?

Every child who will receive a Sacrament at St. Vincent’s needs to be enrolled in Sacramental classes at the Parish. For 2017-2018, 2nd graders will enroll for First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion. Any 3rd grader or older child who hasn’t been Confirmed will register for Confirmation classes.

Beginning in 2018-2019, Sacrament Preparation will be a 2-year program. Year 1 will include classes to prepare for Reconciliation. The First Reconciliation ceremony will be celebrated during the Spring. These same families will return for Year 2, which will include preparation for Confirmation and First Communion. Both of these Sacraments will be received at a single Mass sometime during or shortly after the Easter season. The yearly class schedules and registrations will be released at the beginning of each school year. The classes will be about once a month, from October-June.

How do I sign my child up for this year’s Sacraments?

1. To register for Confirmation, go to saintvincents.org → “Sacraments” along the top → Find “Confirmation” → Register. Please register by September 26th.

2. To register for First Reconciliation & Holy Communion, go to saintvincents.org → “Sacraments” along the top → Find “First Reconciliation & Holy Communion” → Register. Please register by December 1st.