



# RESTORED ORDER

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PHOTOS BY MATEA GREGG

## A RECAP

Last September, Bishop Vincke announced that the Diocese of Salina would begin moving toward the restored order of the sacraments of initiation. That announcement may have felt like a big shift, but the goal is simple. We want to celebrate these sacraments in a way that aligns with Church teaching and with what they are meant to do in the life of a Christian.

Too often, we drift into treating sacraments like milestones. A rite of passage. Something you do because it's expected. But sacraments are Christ's gifts to His Church. They are real encounters with grace that strengthen and form us.

This year is about communication, preparation and steady progress. Some parishes will implement the restored order faster than others, but the direction is the same across the diocese. We are building a foundation so that parishes, teachers, catechists and parents will feel equipped as the transition unfolds.

Once the restored order is fully in place, the standard will be for children to celebrate first reconciliation in second grade. Then, in third grade, they will receive confirmation and first holy Communion in the same Mass, restor-

ing the traditional order of initiation: baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

That order is not random. The Eucharist completes Christian initiation, and restoring the sequence helps make the unity of these sacraments more visible again. It puts the emphasis back where it belongs. The goal isn't simply getting confirmed. The goal is a life rooted in baptism, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and nourished by Christ in the Eucharist.

Right now, the diocese is working to ensure parishes have resources for sacramental preparation and ongoing discipleship. If you are a parent, catechist or teacher, thank you. Your role is more important than ever.

Please pray for our diocese as we transition. Pray for Bishop Vincke, our pastors, our catechists, our parents and our young people. Pray that this

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE**  
*of* **SALINA**

**TRANSITION PLAN**  
RESTORED ORDER OF THE SACRAMENTS

**AUGUST 2025**  
Bishop releases a letter announcing the move to the Restored Order of the Sacraments.

**2025-2026**  
The year is focused on education and preparation as our parishes, parents, and teachers learn about the upcoming transition while regular operations continue.

**2026-2027**  
Parishes confirm a significant portion of remaining students (at least half) and begin preparations for their first class receiving sacraments in the restored order.

**2027-2028**  
This will be the most challenging year — the first restored order class begins prep, alongside the final confirmations for remaining grades.

**2028-2029**  
The first group of 3rd graders will receive the sacraments following the restored order.

**2029-FUTURE**  
Transition Complete

isn't just a change but a chance to renew how we understand the sacraments as freely given gifts of grace and an opportunity to place the Eucharist back at the center of what we're doing.

# FAQS

## Q: **What is the sacrament of confirmation, and what does it do spiritually?**

A: The Church teaches that confirmation is not about “choosing to be an adult in the Church,” but about completing the grace of baptism. Confirmation strengthens the baptized with the Holy Spirit, obliging them more firmly to live as witnesses of Christ. It imprints a spiritual character on the soul, deepens one’s baptismal grace and binds the person more closely to the Church. (CCC 1302-1305, Can. 879). It is not a symbol of graduation, but a sacrament of initiation that empowers the Christian for lifelong mission.

## Q: **What is the age for confirmation in the Diocese of Salina?**

A: Confirmation is received in the third grade, following two years of preparation beginning in second grade. First reconciliation takes place in second grade. Then, in third grade, children receive confirmation and first holy Communion together — restoring the original order of the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

## Q: **Are third graders old enough for confirmation?**

A: Yes. Canon Law states that confirmation is to be conferred “at about the age of discretion.” (Can. 891) This is typically around the age of seven, unless the bishops set a different age. Confirmation strengthens baptismal grace and seals us with the Holy Spirit. It’s a gift of grace meant to help our children, not something we withhold until later, when they’ve proven themselves.

## Q: **What do children need to know to be confirmed?**

A: Canon Law 889 §2 requires that candidates be

- Suitably instructed
- Properly disposed
- Able to renew their baptismal promises

Children need to know the basics of the Catholic faith. They do not need to possess a complete or mature understanding of the faith; rather, their understanding needs to be appropriate for their age.

They must be baptized and have a desire to receive the sacrament of confirmation.

## Q: **What does Canon Law say about the order of sacraments?**

A: Canon 842 §2 teaches that baptism, confirmation and Eucharist are all required for full initiation. Canon 866 adds that adults should be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist in that order.

The Eucharist, described in Canon 897 as “the most august sacrament,” is the culmination of initiation — the summit and source of Christian life. Restoring this original order emphasizes that the Eucharist is the goal toward which the other sacraments are directed.

## Q: **What if a child missed confirmation in third grade and is already baptized?**

A: The child should be brought to the pastor or parish catechetical leader to arrange age-appropriate preparation and to receive the sacrament at a later date.

## Q: **What would you say to someone who thinks we need to keep confirmation at the current ages to keep young people attending religious education?**

A: Many worry that moving confirmation earlier could reduce teen participation. I won’t pretend that fear isn’t real, and for many parishes, it is happening right now. But if we’ve unintentionally treated confirmation like the finish line, restored order allows us to correct that.

Confirmation isn’t a graduation or something to earn. It strengthens us with the Holy Spirit, builds on baptism, and prepares us for the Eucharist — so delaying it could mean delaying grace when young people most need the Spirit’s help.

Restoring the original order reminds us that grace is not a prize. And it doesn’t mean formation ends after third grade. It challenges us to keep walking with young people through deeper formation, service, community and discipleship. Confirmation is not the end of formation. It is part of the beginning. †

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