

# **Sacramental Guidelines**

**First Reconciliation**

**First Eucharist**

**Confirmation**



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## **Sacramental Life**

As Roman Catholics, sacraments are a key part of both our formational and worship experiences. Receiving a sacrament (*and its accompanying grace*) is one way we draw closer to God throughout our lives.

Understanding the reception of a sacrament is an integral part of your child's development through our Christian Formation programs. Because the Church feels so strongly about our Sacramental life, we are outlining the preparation process for **First Reconciliation**, **First Eucharist** and **Confirmation**. These processes are begun with the understanding that your child has been baptized in a Catholic (*or other Christian*) religion. If your child is **NOT baptized** or is delayed in their reception of a sacrament (*other than what is listed*) please see the back page for information on how we can work with your family.

Children who have completed the first year of formation (*typically while in First Grade*) enter their second year beginning preparation for the reception of two sacraments.

### **\*First Reconciliation**

Our fall semester prepares your child to receive Reconciliation (*Confession*) in his or her second year of formation.



### **\*First Eucharist**



Our spring semester of second year formation focuses on preparing your child to receive Jesus through the Eucharist. Preparation focuses on learning about the Real Presence of Christ as well as the actions and prayers we share during this special time.

\*Because the second year of formation covers a vast array of concepts it is **vital** that your child has the foundation from our first formative year. Children entering our program who are attending public school grades 1, 2 or 3 will be placed in the first year of formation during the present year, the second year of formation (and sacramental reception) the following year and then move to their appropriate public school grade for the third year.

### **\*Confirmation**

The Sacrament of Confirmation is held in the spring of the candidate's Junior year of high school. Preparation for Confirmation is a two year program. Candidates must complete both years of Christian Formation classes **and** the requirements for both years in order to be Confirmed.

**Requirements** to receive the sacrament of Confirmation are as follows:

- Complete the Christian Formation program in Grades 1-9 OR attend a Catholic school in Grades 1-9
- Complete a two-year Confirmation Program with required attendance (see page 4) - for Catholic High School students, Junior year only
- Complete 8 Mass Reflections each year (see page 2)
- Attend a Youth Holy Hour each year (see page 13)
- Complete 15 service hours Junior year / 10 service hours Sophomore year (*more information about Service opportunities can be found on page 15*)
- Attend an all day retreat Sophomore year
- Attend an all day Confirmation retreat Junior year
- Write a *letter to the Archbishop or fill out the Confirmation Candidate Questionnaire for the Bishop* presiding at the Confirmation Mass (*Junior year*)
- Complete a Confirmation interview (*Junior year*)



\* For Sophomores, all requirements must be completed by March 30, 2022.

\* For Juniors, all requirements must be completed by December 1, 2021 - except for the Retreat and Youth Holy Hour which must be completed by March 1, 2022.

Junior year of high school tends to be an extremely busy year for most youth. Please encourage your child to start working on their service hours and Mass reflections for their Junior year during the summer months. Both service hours and Mass reflections may be turned in starting **July 1** for the upcoming year.

## **Sacraments at a Later Age (SALA)**

There are as many reasons as there are children as to why someone is not prepared to receive a Sacrament at the “usual age.” Each situation is unique — and we have experienced an increase in our students receiving Sacraments at a later age in recent years. We want to work with you to prepare your child to receive missing Sacraments. If your child is **past third grade** (*and Baptized*) or **over the age of seven** (*and not Baptized*), we have a program to assist in preparation.

### **Baptized—Grade Four and Higher**

Students entering Fourth Grade or higher (*and Baptized*) will be placed in their appropriate level formation year and spend that year learning along with their peers. During the second year of formation, students will continue the classroom instruction and additionally, meet with our Pastoral Associate outside of classroom time for small group study focused on the sacraments needed.

### **Not Baptized—Age Seven or Higher**

Students who have reached the *Age of Reason* (age seven) and are not Baptized will follow a similar two year process. During the first year of your child’s formation, he or she will attend classroom instruction with peers. During the second year of formation, in addition to grade level classroom instruction, preparation for full initiation into the Church will be completed. **Full initiation (*reception of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation*) will take place at the Easter Vigil—held Holy Saturday evening. Please plan accordingly.**

**Students with missing Sacramental preparation are expected to complete the appropriate program / materials and be caught up within the first two years of enrollment in our Christian Formation to maintain Athletic Eligibility**