Frequently asked Questions about Sacramental Preparation

Who is eligible to prepare and celebrate First Reconciliation and First Eucharist?

Children of our parish who have been baptized Roman Catholics as infants and have been nurtured in faith as young children, by attending mass and encouraging faith conversations and prayer at home. Children whose parents’ feel are ready may then continue their Christian journey by celebrating First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, usually in the primary grades, typically at the age of 7 or second grade but they may be and are often older.

At least one of the child's parents is a practicing Roman Catholic and registered in a parish. Registration means completing a parish registration form, regular worship with the parish, affiliation with the community and an offer of financial support. In short, we hope parents are living out their own baptismal commitment of living in their faith every day.

*If both parents of a family are of another Christian tradition or a non-Christian tradition, your child is not eligible to be a candidate for reception of these sacraments in our church.

What if we haven’t had our child Baptized yet or we are not Roman Catholic but would like to become Catholic? For children between the ages of 7-16 years not yet Baptized or a child Baptized in another faith tradition but interested in becoming Catholic involves a different process similar to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). If you would like to know more information about this process, please contact Jennie Caldwell at Jennie.caldwell@MQP.org /425-391-1178 ext. 116. I am happy to give you information and explore this process with you.

What do we expect of YOU as a Faith Community? Your faith is particularly critical in your child’s faith development. What we provide as a parish is meant to support and supplement the effort and interest you take in your child’s faith development. As a result, this preparation program assumes that you will work with your child at home, completing all assigned curriculum, model a lively faith by your example, talk about faith and pray with your child at home. We hope your family will participate regularly in weekend liturgies. We expect you and your child will attend the monthly large group gatherings, as well as parent meetings, rehearsals, and of course, participate in the celebration of the Sacraments themselves.

What is the preparation process here at Mary, Queen of Peace? The program has two essential components that families will complete before their child celebrates the Sacraments.

The first component is the text or curriculum portion called “Growing Up Catholic”. This portion of the program is designed to coach parents regarding the Sacraments and to provide parent’s an opportunity to share their faith with their child. This material includes six sessions (6 for each Sacrament) with activities and reading materials and short on-line video segments for you and your child to watch together at home. It includes some great resources for adults to refresh or grow in their own faith.

The second component is our “Large Group” sessions, where you and your child will come together with others who are preparing. There are 4 group sessions for each Sacrament. In order to make it easier for your family to participate, each large group session will be repeated. One session will be offered on a Sunday and then repeated on a Tuesday evening. Your family may choose which day works best for your family calendar. Please see the Sacramental Preparation Schedule for more details.
So for a quick review, you and your child will complete six sessions at home together using the 'Growing Up Catholic' materials. (Which we email you.) Then you and your child will gather 4 times, with others who are also preparing, for a once a month large group session. This process is the same for both First Reconciliation Preparation and First Eucharist.

Parent Information meeting – will be held in the Pope Room on Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30pm and again on Sunday, September 10th at 1pm, again in the Pope Room. This gathering will be designed to help people to get to know one another better, an introduction of the preparation process, a chance to explore the materials your family will be using and an opportunity for questions and answers.

What paperwork is required?

☐ You will need to provide a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate. (If your child was baptized here at Mary, Queen of Peace, there is no need for the copy.) If you are unable to locate your child’s certificate, please contact the parish where it was celebrated and request a copy be sent to you.

☐ You need to complete and submit the Sacramental Preparation Registration Form (enclosed).

The Sacramental Preparation Calendar will be available at the Parent Information meeting.

If you are interested in registering for the Sacramental Preparation Process, please complete the Sacramental Preparation Registration form with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and return it to the Mary, Queen of Peace Parish Faith Formation Office by no later than September 12th. Forms will also be available at the Parent Meeting on Sept 5 and 10th.

We are here to support you in this journey that you make with your child. Our preparation process values you and will make every effort to support you in your ministry of Christian Parenting. In addition, we look forward to your participation in this process and your support of other parish families on this same journey.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and working with your family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Jennie Caldwell, either by e-mail at: Jennie.Caldwell@MQP.org or Children.Family@MQP.ORG or you may also telephone me at 425-391-1178 extension 116.