

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, at this time.*

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 7-11 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. 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. Attend any rehearsals as scheduled.

Should my child attend the regular Faith Formation Sessions offered during the year as well as Sacramental Preparation? We expect and strongly recommend families participate in both the Sacramental Preparation Process and the Building Connections Program. As good as the Sac Prep Sessions are, they aren't enough by themselves to create and build the foundations folks need to build a lasting Faith Journey.

What is the preparation process here at Mary, Queen of Peace? The program has two essential elements that families will participate in, in order for your child to be prepared to celebrate the Sacraments. During this time of COVID where we aren't able to be together in large groups, the process has been adapted to meet the current conditions. *(If we are able to gather again, as before, our First Eucharist Process will return to our previous design with monthly "gathered" meetings offered at the parish. When we are able to make that move, more detailed information will be provided.)*

The first element is the resource text we use at home, called "**BLESSED**" by Dynamic Catholic. This portion of the program is designed for parents to share with their child. This material includes six chapters 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, as well. Your child will receive the "**Blessed**" text after registration has been completed. As part of the Blessed element, there are 2 pages of homework due for each chapter.

The “**Show what you know**” and “**Journal with Jesus**”. These pages are considered the “Homework” pages. Have your child complete the pages then grab a photo of them with your phone and email the pages to me.

The second element is will be weekly **FlipGrid** enrichment opportunities. **FlipGrid** is a Microsoft app that allows me to post a topic/theme (i.e.: God Sightings, community building activities, Bible story and book discussions, etc.) Students are able to login to this app and participate in the topics, uploading their video responses. All students can see each other’s short videos, too. This is an awesome way for the videos to be organized, students can share their accomplishments and reflections with each other, and I can send video responses. This is just a basic overview. There are a lot of other fun features (stickers, filters, etc.).

This application does require that parents give permission for their students to use it. To see the consent form [click here](#).

Here is the quick link to a video giving a basic overview of the site and how to get started.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tfoCgQuqcw>

Once you have filled out the consent form, I will send you your child’s username, the join code, and written directions on how to access to our classroom FlipGrid. weekly Flip Grid enrichment opportunities, where you and your child will come together with others who are preparing.

So for a quick review,

1. **Program Text:** You and your child will complete six chapters at home together using the “**BLESSED**” materials. (Which you will receive after you register)
2. **Homework:** Each chapter includes a page at the end that says: “**Show what you know**” and “**Journal with Jesus**”. These pages are the “Home work” pages. That must all be submitted before your child will be eligible to celebrate that Sacrament.
3. **Flip Grid Enrichment:** Weekly lesson elements to be completed.

Please see the Sacramental Preparation Schedule for more details.

The link for the Virtual **Parent Orientation about our Sacramental Preparation process will be emailed to you on September 13.**

What is required to register?

There are 4 steps you need to follow per each child you want to register.

- Complete and submit the **Sacramental Preparation Registration Form**
- Sign the **FlipGrid permission form**.
- Pay the **Sacramental Preparation Fee:** \$30 (covers the cost of the texts and resources for preparation for both Sacraments)
- Provide a **copy** of your child’s **Baptismal Certificate**.

Important Note:

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. This certificate is required before your child may celebrate the sacraments.

You need to be registered here at MQP or we will need a letter from your parish giving us permission for your child to receive First Eucharist here.

If you are interested in registering for the Sacramental Preparation Program 2020-21, please complete the 4 steps for Sacramental Preparation Registration in the Family Sacramental Prep Letter and submit by no later than September 15th.

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:

Children.Family@MQP.ORG or Jennie.Caldwell@MQP.org