

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION (click on)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW-The Religious Education Program is intended for the children of all parishioners who attend public school. The program provides students with the knowledge necessary to understand and defend their faith as well as to prepare them to receive the Sacraments. Students are expected to attend each year from Grades 1 through 8. Each grade level builds on the information imparted in previous years, so it is vital that students attend each year (Kindergarten is optional). NOTE: If a student has not consistently attended Religious Education, he or she may be required to attend a Special Sacraments Class.

The primary text for Grades 1-8 is the *Faith and Life* Series by Ignatius Press. Special Sacrament classes may use different texts at the discretion of the catechist and DRE.

FIRST PENANCE/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION-First Penance and First Holy Communion are usually received during the same year (typically 2nd Grade). If a child has not been baptized, arrangements must be made before the child can receive First Penance. Parents of children below 7 years of age should contact the Parish Office and make arrangements for baptism as soon as possible. Children who are seven or older will receive basic instruction in their Religious Education Class prior to baptism. All baptismal certificates must be on file in the Religious Ed Office before the child can be admitted to First Penance.

The program preparing for First Penance and First Communion lasts two full years. Most students will prepare during the First and Second Grades. First and Second Grade classes are conducted on Sunday mornings at 8:45 and 10:45 AM and on Monday evening at 5PM.

If a child has missed a Grade or has not received First Communion, the RE Office will assign the student to a Special Sacraments Class with other students in the same age group. Special Sacrament classes for those in the 3rd-6th Grade are also conducted during the same time periods. . Students in the 7th and 8th Grades will complete a Special Sacraments Class on Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM and will receive the Sacraments during the course of one year if they are adequately prepared. These students will then continue with the Confirmation Program.

High School students who have not received First Communion will attend a Special Sacraments Class for High School students on Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM. If a student is over the age of 17 may alternatively enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

CONFIRMATION- The Sacrament of Confirmation is usually received during the 8th Grade. The Confirmation Preparation Program is a two year program conducted on Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM. Students beginning the Program participate in a Rite of Candidacy and are required to complete several essays, perform service hours and attend two retreats with their class.

Students in High School who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation will be enrolled in a two-year Special Sacraments High School Class. Those who are 17 or older may alternatively enroll in the RCIA Program.

All those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation must ensure that their certificates documenting their baptism and First Communion are on file with the RE Office.