

SACRAMENTS

Students in the Parish School, Religious Education program, and those home schooled, prepare together to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are usually received during the second Grade, while Confirmation is usually received in the eighth grade.

In our program, parents take an active role in their children's formation by working together on the sacramental preparation. To prepare for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, the textbook: "Jesus our Life", in the Faith and Life series by Ignatius Press is used. (Holy Trinity School students also use the Loyola religion series for their classroom religion instruction on a daily basis.)

Along with the textbook, families are given a folder for each of the sacraments, which contain supplemental activities to be completed, some of which is required homework that needs to be turned in to the Religious Ed. office. Also required are: a Reconciliation Workshop in the fall and a Eucharist Retreat in the spring. The students receive First Reconciliation in November and First Communion in May together as one parish family.

Eighth grade students are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation according to the guidelines of the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1319. Since Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism, the confirmed person, united with Christ, is equipped for active participation in worship and to be apostles in the life of the Church. To that end, students desiring to be confirmed will be required to know and be tested on the Creed, the Precepts of the Church, Commandments, gifts of the Holy Spirit, Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy as well as various traditional prayers. They are also required to put their faith into action with several service projects. A booklet of materials designed to help them accomplish these objectives will be given to them in May of their seventh grade. There are several events the student attends, some with their parents and/or sponsors. These include a Spirit Day talk to better understand the effects of Confirmation, Doctrine Game Day activities to review Catholic beliefs, Service workshop to process their experiences of serving, and a retreat. The students receive Confirmation in March, as one parish family.

Parents are expected to participate in their child's preparation for sacraments by attending formation meetings, participating with their child in the sacrament workshops and liturgical celebrations planned throughout the year, as well as by working with their child to complete material in the textbooks and other assignments.

Parishioners desiring Confirmation beyond the eighth grade or with minimal religious preparation are assessed on an individual basis and may attend a series of sessions with the Deacon or be instructed in the RCIA program.