

# When should children receive their Sacraments?

**Baptism**- as an infant, or when the family chooses. If a child is no longer an infant and has reached the age of reason, (7 years old); the **Guidelines for Sacramental Preparation** apply. Parents must meet with the Director of Sacramental Preparation to make arrangements and sign up for the children's *RCIA, Sacramental Preparation Program or the Rite of Christian Initiation for Youth, RC1Y.*



**First Reconciliation**— after reaching the age of reason, (7 years old); and be on his/her second consecutive year of Faith Formation, and completing First Reconciliation requirements

**First Eucharist**—After having celebrated First Reconciliation, and having completed First Eucharist requirements



**Confirmation**—At St. Mark, candidates must be of High School age and having completed Confirmation requirements.

**Readiness, not age or grade, determines the reception of the Sacraments.**

**A parent may choose to wait longer than described above for sacramental preparation after consideration of what is in the child's best interest.**



ST. MARK *the* EVANGELIST  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Sacramental Preparation For Infants, Children and Teens

Baptism

First Reconciliation

First Eucharist

Confirmation (High School)

For more information, please contact:

**St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church**

The Faith Formation Office

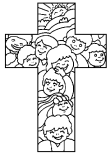
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## **PROCESS OF SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:**



*Whether the student attends a Parish program or Catholic school, Sacramental Preparation must be done in the parish that the family is registered.*

**Remote Preparation**—participation in Catholic School or Parish Faith Formation Program. A student should be enrolled and actively participate in Faith Formation classes for *two years* to prepare for the sacraments.

**Immediate Preparation**—Sacrament Specific Catechesis occurs during the 2nd year of preparation and is a separate and distinct program from Faith Formation.

### **Parent Classes**

According to the Church's guidelines, sacramental preparation requires additional student and family involvement. Parent classes are an important part of this process and, therefore, attendance is required.



One or both parents will need to attend classes for each Sacrament for which the student is preparing.

- Baptism classes are held the 2nd Saturday of each month.
- First Reconciliation classes will be held during the Fall.
- First Eucharist classes will be held during the Spring.
- Consult the Faith Formation calendar for specific dates for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist classes.

## **First Reconciliation Requirements:**

- Complete two years of Remote Preparation either in a Catholic School or in a Faith Formation program.
- Parents attend First Reconciliation Parent Classes prior to preparation.
- Preparation in the home (approx. 6 weeks) with parents and students working together.
- Certificate of Baptism: Parents are responsible for providing the Faith Formation Office with the student's Baptism Certificate at the time of registration.
- Participation in a First Reconciliation Retreat (both the parent and student)

## **First Eucharist Requirements:**

- Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrated prior to preparation for First Eucharist.
- Parents attend First Eucharist parent classes prior to preparation.
- Preparation in the home (approx. 8 weeks) with parents and students working together.
- Participation in a First Eucharist Retreat (both the parent and student)

## **Confirmation Requirements for High School teens:**

- Contact the Coordinator of Youth Ministry for confirmation and to complete paperwork.
- Two years of preparation through Catholic School or St. Mark Youth Ministry.
- Attend three additional confirmation preparation classes during the 2nd yr.
- Attend one Confirmation Retreat each year.
- Participate in one Social Ministry project each year.
- Participate in one church community service project each year.



## **Sacraments for Students in 4th through 8th grade and High School**

Students who are in the 4th through 8th grade, and who have not previously received some or any of the Sacraments; will prepare to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist through the Children's RCIA Sacramental Preparation Program.. High School Teens who have not yet received these sacraments will prepare to receive them through RCIY, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Youth. The requirements are two consecutive years of preparation. During their first year, students will participate in Faith Formation class at their school grade level. During their second year, students will be in a class for sacramental preparation. This class will focus on sacramental preparation for the entire school year, and the students will receive the Sacraments in the Spring.

### **Baptism for Children Ages 7 and Above**

Additional requirements and rites are part of this process since they will be participants in the Children's Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA). Parents must schedule a meeting with the Director of Sacramental Preparation.

### **Baptism for Infants:**

Please contact the Faith Formation Office extension 308, and obtain the ***Infant***

***For all Sacraments, please complete a Sacramental Preparation Form***