

## **Children's Sacramental Preparation at St. John the Baptist 2011-12**

Sacraments are communal celebrations during which we respond to God's creative and renewing love in our lives. Through sacraments we are transformed toward and united with the mission of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

### **To Register Your Child for Sacramental Preparation:**

Parents must actively and consciously decide to enroll their child for sacramental preparation. Visit or call the Parish Office to complete forms and offer payment for materials. We will not automatically decide for you. If you have questions about your child's readiness, please consult with parish staff.

First Reconciliation must precede First Eucharist and children must be at least age seven. Some parents wait until children are age eight or nine. Any child wishing to make his/her First Communion in 2012 must register for the Fall 2011 Reconciliation Preparation.

Confirmation Preparation is offered starting in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

SJB School children receive religious education during the school day, and children in the Religious Education Program receive faith formation weekly, but neither of these includes sacramental preparation. Anyone wishing to receive sacraments must enroll in the sacramental preparation programs.

For baptisms for children at the age of reason, approximately age 8 or older: please enroll in preparation for the Rite of Christian Initiation adapted for children. All three sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist – will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Children in RCIA also participate in ongoing religious education.

### **All sacramental preparation programs are parish-based:**

- 1) Children prepare for and celebrate the sacraments within the parish in which the family is formally registered. Contact the Parish Office about registering.
- 2) Children in the parochial school and those in the Religious Education Program attend the sacramental preparation program together; this is separate from and in addition to regular religion class.

### **Parents Participate in Sacramental Preparation:**

One or both parents or guardians are required to attend sacramental preparation sessions because: 1) sacraments are part of family/home life and 2) parents are required to be refreshed in the sacrament and involved in the program in order to support the child's faith development. Parents are offered enrichment at the adult level so that they may support their child. Non-Catholic parents are encouraged to attend. Working at home with your child is an important part of the preparation.

### **Materials Fees:**

First Reconciliation: \$20      --      First Eucharist: \$20      --      Confirmation: \$90

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**First Reconciliation Preparation Schedule:**

- #1 Monday, October 24, 2011 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- #2 Monday, November 7, 2011 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- #3 Monday, November 21, 2011 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- #4 Monday, November 28, 2011 7:00-8:30 p.m. Celebration of the Sacrament

**First Eucharist Preparation, Winter Option Schedule; Limit 44:**

- #1 Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:15-4:30 p.m. (*snow date February 11*)
- #2 Saturday, March 3, 2012 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
Includes Children's Liturgy and Breaking Open the Celebration

**First Eucharist Preparation, Spring Option Schedule; Limit 44:**

- #1 Monday, March 26, 2012 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- #2 Monday, April 16, 2012 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- #3 Saturday May 5, 2012 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Includes Children's Liturgy and Breaking Open the Celebration
- #4 Monday, May 7, 2012 7:00-8:15 p.m.

**First Eucharist Celebrations:**

Parents wait until AFTER children have completed the preparation for the sacrament before scheduling children's First Communion with the parish secretary. Celebrations are scheduled individually at the regular Sunday Masses with no more than two First Communions at each Mass. Details are given to parents during the parent meetings.

**Confirmation Preparation:**

A detailed schedule will be printed by the Youth Minister. Sessions are:  
Tuesday evenings, January – May, 7:00-8:15 p.m. with a few Sunday gatherings.

Required Parent Meetings:

- Tuesday, September 13, 2011
- Tuesday, November 1, 2011
- Tuesday, January 10, 2012
- Tuesday, March 13, 2012
- Tuesday, May 1, 2012

A personal interview with each candidate is scheduled individually with a parish staff member sometime in May or June. A retreat is held right before Confirmation in the Fall.

**Celebration of Confirmation:**

One Confirmation celebration typically takes place on a Sunday in October. Typically the Archdiocese sets the date and identifies the presiding Bishop by the previous June.

**Baptism for Infants**

Register for a parent preparation meeting. Contact L.J. Milone. Baptisms can be scheduled after preparation.