

The privilege of preparing

Helping a child prepare for the celebration of a Sacrament is a privileged time. As acts of our faith, the celebration of Sacraments should be approached with reverence and faithful hearts.

A helpful approach is to prepare for the preparation process. Ensuring your child has an established base upon which the parish Sacramental preparation and formation programs can build is essential.



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**Stepping Stones
to
Sacramental
Preparation**

Preparing for First Penance & Reconciliation

Before beginning the preparation for the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation it is helpful to work with children on the following topics:

Sin

- Does your child know what sin is?
- Does your child recognize when he/she commits a sin?
- Does your child feel remorse for sinning?

Prayers

- Is your child comfortable with the following prayers?
 - ◊ Our Father
 - ◊ Hail Mary
 - ◊ Glory Be
- Does your child understand that praying is talking to and with God?

Relationships

- Does your child recognize the different relationships he/she has?
 - ◊ With God
 - ◊ With Family
 - ◊ With Friends
 - ◊ With Teachers
- Does your child know that when he/she hurts someone else it hurts his/her relationship with God?

Preparing for First Holy Communion

Before beginning the preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion it is helpful to work with children on the following topics:

The Mass

- Is your child familiar with the Mass?
- Can your child participate in the Mass?

Reconciliation

- Has your child received the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation?
- Does your child recognize the importance of being free of sin before receiving Communion?

Real Presence

- Is your child aware that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?
- Does your child know that it is through the prayers of consecration that the change happens?

Prayers

- Can your child recite the following prayers used in the Mass?
 - ◊ Glory to God
 - ◊ Nicene Creed
 - ◊ Holy, Holy, Holy
 - ◊ Our Father

Preparing for Confirmation

Before beginning the two-year preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the 8th grade, it is helpful to work with youth on the following topics:

Discipleship

- Is your child aware that as a disciple of Christ he/she is expected to act in a charitable and caring manner?
- Is your child aware that Christians are called to continually form and strengthen their relationship with God and neighbor?

Initiation

- Is your child aware that Confirmation seals his/her baptism?
- Does your child recognize the importance of Mass attendance to the his/her life of faith?

Life in the Church

- Is your child ready to accept the responsibility of a Christian life?
- Is your child aware that Confirmation is not graduation, but rather the beginning of his/her life as full member of the Body of Christ?