

# SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION GUIDELINES

*“Faith needs the community of believers”* (CCC 1253)

Because Sacraments unite us to Christ and the His Body, the Church, all families preparing for Sacramental reception need to be registered and active members of St. Rita Catholic Community.

## **Baptism... Welcome Home!**

The Sacrament of Baptism “is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn... we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission” (CCC 1213).

## **Reconciliation** (Confession, Penance)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us the opportunity to repair our relationship with God when we damage it with sin. The grace offered through this post-baptismal Sacrament of Healing enables us to receive the graces of other sacraments by restoring us to a “state of grace.” Two consecutive years of faith formation are required for this sacrament which is normally celebrated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. For example, beginning in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, a child should eventually celebrate Reconciliation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. If, however, a child begins at another time (e.g., the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), he or she will celebrate Reconciliation after the second year of formation (e.g., the 4<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **Eucharist** (Holy Communion)

The Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our faith! Christ is truly and fully present to us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Two consecutive years of faith formation help prepare young people for this sacrament which is normally celebrated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. For example, beginning in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, a child should eventually celebrate First Eucharist in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. If, however, a child begins at another time (e.g., the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), he or she will celebrate First Eucharist after the second year of formation (e.g., the 4<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **Confirmation**

Confirmation strengthens and seals the graces of Baptism, helping us to live as disciples of Christ in the world. Two consecutive years of faith formation are required for this sacrament which is normally celebrated in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For example, beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, a child should eventually celebrate confirmation in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If, however, a child begins at another time (e.g., the 9<sup>th</sup> grade), he or she will celebrate confirmation after the second year of formation (e.g., the 10<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **RCIA adapted for children**

### **Baptism of Older Children (for children age 7-18 years):**

Children who have reached the “age of reason” (typically age 7) are considered competent to receive pre-Baptismal catechesis. In order to adequately prepare our young people to enter the faith community, they participate in at least two consecutive years of faith formation but not more than three years and the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) adapted for children before receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. These children are also to receive other Initiative Sacraments (Eucharist and Confirmation) at the time of Baptism. Preparation may begin prior to age 7.

### **Profession of Faith**

Any young person coming into the Church from another faith tradition will participate in at least two consecutive years but no more than three years of faith formation and the RCIA prior to making his/her “Profession of Faith” and receiving the Sacraments of Initiation. The Catholic Church recognizes all Trinitarian baptisms validly performed.