

St. Maria Goretti Parish

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Sacrament Preparation Classes Offered At **St. Maria Goretti Parish**

Baptism (before grade 2)

Baptism is the first step into full initiation in the Church. During Baptism, the child receives God's grace and enters God's family. The Rite of Baptism is intended for children under the age of discernment (seven years). To prepare for this sacrament, parents and sponsors are required to complete an evening preparation class offered monthly at St. Maria Goretti Parish.

First Reconciliation (grade 2, before grade 6)

Reconciliation involves the recognition and forgiveness of sins. When a baptized child has reached the age of discernment (seven years) he/she is ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. To prepare the child for this sacrament, parents and the child must participate in the process of preparation. This Sacrament is offered in conjunction with First Eucharist, preparation class are offered yearly starting in the fall and concluding the following spring.

First Eucharist (grade 2, before grade 6)

To receive the sacrament of the Eucharist, the child needs to have the desire to receive Christ and to be able to recognize and acknowledge the Eucharist as the Body and Blood of Jesus. Children who have been baptized and have completed the process of preparation for first reconciliation can receive their first Eucharist. This usually takes place when a baptized child has reached the age of discernment (seven years). To prepare the child for this sacrament, parents and the child must participate in the process of preparation. This Sacrament is offered in conjunction with First Reconciliation, preparation class are offered yearly starting in the fall and concluding the following spring.

Confirmation (grade 6 and older)

Confirmation completes and perfects the graces received in Baptism. To be confirmed the young person requires the knowledge and desire to become a disciple of Christ. Confirmation usually takes place when a young practicing catholic reaches the age of 11-12 years. To prepare the child for this sacrament, parents, sponsors and the child must participate in the process of preparation. Community service is a component of this faith formation. This Sacrament is offered every 2 years starting in the fall and concluding the following spring. The next session is scheduled for 2014/15.

A copy of your child's baptism certificate will be required to register for First Reconciliation/Eucharist and Confirmation. A copy of your sponsors Confirmation certificate will be required to register for Confirmation.