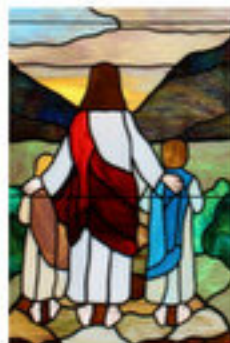


"Through the sacraments, our children encounter Jesus who, in His mercy, desires to walk with them throughout their lives. We want this encounter to be a true experience of grace, and one which provides a foundation for a life of faith."

*-Bishop Robert P. Deeley,
June 2015*



Completing the sacraments of initiation marks the beginning of a new part of a child's lifelong journey of faith. With ongoing formation, children and families will come to a deeper relationship with Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit.

To register or for more information:

Name
Title
Phone
E-Mail

Name
Title
Phone
E-Mail

Parish Name

Parish
Logo

Parish Office:

Address
Town
Phone
Website

PREPARING
CHILDREN
FOR THE
SACRAMENTS
OF
CONFIRMATION
AND
EUCCHARIST



Parish Name

Sacraments

Through the sacraments, Jesus gives us ways to share in His life. In each of the sacraments, we receive God's life and God's help. The sacraments have a transforming effect on our lives as we encounter Jesus in a unique and intimate way. He desires this great intimacy out of pure love. Through the gift of grace freely given in the sacraments, we come to a deeper knowledge of the love of God and can become the holy people God wants us to be.



At **Baptism**, we become members of the Church and God's family. The sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist complete the sacraments of initiation. In the Diocese of Portland, these sacraments have been restored to the original order practiced by the early Church: Confirmation before Eucharist.

Confirmation deepens and strengthens the grace of Baptism, forming us into disciples of Christ through the Holy Spirit. Confirmation leads us to the Eucharist, which is the heart of the entire Christian life. By receiving Christ's Body and Blood, we enter into loving communion with Him. He invites us to return to him in the Eucharist as often as possible throughout our lives.



"How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!"
- Pope Francis

Parents

Preparing to receive the sacraments can be a memorable and exciting time for children. They learn from the support and example of their families and are conscious of the care of the parish community for them. Parents, as co-creators with God, have the right and privilege to be the primary models of faith for their children. Home is where the faith is developed and lived out. At Baptism, parents promise to raise their child in the Catholic faith and give them the Gospel message of Jesus, loving God and neighbor. Our parish provides events and resources to support parents/guardians in their important role. Together, as partners, families and parishes help our children grow in faith.

Parents are the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith, and we depend on their faith as the primary models and motivators of their children.

- *Familiaris Consortio*
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*



Two Year Preparation

Beginning with the 2015-2016 catechetical year, sacrament preparation in the Diocese of Portland is a two year process that includes family involvement. **Year One** provides an initial formation in the foundations of the faith. **Year Two** prepares children to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, which includes receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation.



This process will provide children the time to learn and develop a relationship with God; understand and desire the sacraments; learn their prayers; and be involved in the life of the Church. Throughout both years, faith formation opportunities for parents/guardians will strengthen their own faith and support the formation of their children.