

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Preparation for sacraments have two major components. **Remote Preparation** is the regular catechesis received in a Catholic school religion class or a Faith Formation process. It provides general knowledge of church teachings and practices. **Immediate preparation**, provided by the parish, focuses directly on the sacrament within close proximity to reception of the sacrament. It provides specific knowledge about the sacrament itself and practices relating to the sacrament. **Both components** are necessary in order to be properly prepared for reception of the sacrament.

The IHM Parish Faith Formation Office collaborates with parents to prepare all children and youth of the parish for **Eucharist, Confirmation and Reconciliation**. Traditionally children in 2nd grade prepare for the Sacraments of **Reconciliation and Eucharist** and often older children are also being prepared. Our parish prepares youth in high school for the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. Parent meetings are held before the process begins to inform parents of the upcoming process and to give them the materials used for catechesis. For Confirmation, the meetings also include the potential candidates and their sponsors.

Children/Youth being prepared for these sacraments must be baptized, at least one parent is Catholic and the family registered in IHM parish. If the family is registered in another parish and wishes to have their child receive the sacrament at IHM, permission must be received from the pastor at the parish of registration. It is an Archdiocesan and parish requirement that the child receiving the sacrament have at least 1 year of remote preparation in a Catholic school or Faith Formation program immediately prior to entering the immediate preparation process. In addition it is expected and important that families are participating in the regular life and practices of the church.