

Your Parish Needs You and You Need Your Parish!

By registering at a parish, you are declaring your desire to be part of a Catholic faith community. If you have recently moved to the area or if you are a long-time resident, please consider registering at the parish where you participate. There's information on the Cluster webpage: preciousbloodcluster.org or calling the Business Office.

Top Reasons to Register at a Parish

- A sense of belonging and identity in a parish community.
- It is a commitment to practice your faith.
- Registration enables the parish pastor and staff to get to know you better, to welcome you and to minister to you. This is especially important during a time of crisis so that the pastoral staff can attend to your spiritual needs and the needs of your family.
- Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you. Providing your contact information is important so that parishes provide you timely updates via email, direct mail, phone, etc. Also, if you use offertory envelopes or online giving, you will also receive a year-end statement of your donations for income tax purposes. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of any changes in address or phone number.
- Registered active members are eligible for sponsor/godparent validation.
- Registered active members are sometimes eligible to rent parish facilities.
- Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to a parish and how many Masses and enrichment programs are planned and scheduled.

What about Children who are 18 Years of Age or Older?

Children are considered members with their parents until they turn 18 years old. Once they are 18, it is their responsibility to join a church family, participate in the Mass and to register as a member independent of their parents.

Sacraments:

Worship is integral to our lives as Catholics. When we engage in the prayer and ritual of the Church, we are formed as Church. Our sacramental rites are of primary importance while we are gathered.

The purpose of the sacraments is to make people holy, to build up the body of Christ, and finally, to give worship to God; but being signs, they also have a

teaching function. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and object, they also nourish, strengthen, and express it; that is why they are called "sacraments of faith." The sacraments impart grace, but, in addition, the very act of celebrating them disposes the faithful most effectively to receive this grace in a fruitful manner, to worship God rightly, and to practice charity.

The saving words and deeds of Jesus Christ are the foundation of what he would communicate in the Sacraments through the ministers of the Church. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church recognizes the existence of Seven Sacraments instituted by the Lord. They are the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist), the Sacraments of Healing (Penance and the Anointing of the Sick), and the Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Marriage and Holy Orders). Through the Sacraments, God shares his holiness with us so that we, in turn, can make the world holier.

Can. 840 The sacraments of the New Testament were instituted by Christ the Lord and entrusted to the Church.

As actions of Christ and the Church, they are signs and means which express and strengthen the faith, render worship to God, and effect the sanctification of humanity and thus contribute in the greatest way to establish, strengthen, and manifest ecclesiastical communion. Accordingly, in the celebration of the sacraments the sacred ministers and the other members of the Christian faithful must use the greatest veneration and necessary diligence.

Prerequisites For The Reception Of All Seven (7) Sacraments:

Those requesting the reception of a Sacrament must be active, participating and registered members of the Parish or have delegation from the person(s) Pastor.

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism

Can. 849 Baptism, the gateway to the sacraments and necessary for salvation by actual reception or at least by desire, is validly conferred only by a washing of true water with the proper form of words. Through baptism men and women are

freed from sin, are reborn as children of God, and, configured to Christ by an indelible character, are incorporated into the Church.

Prerequisites:

Baptismal classes are available by appointment, and must be completed prior to the Baptism (preferably 4-5 months prior to birth). Please call our Cluster Office to schedule a time to meet with Father.

The most appropriate time for the celebration of Baptism is during week-end liturgies with the worshipping community present.

Confirmation

Can. 879 The sacrament of confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriches by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church.

Prerequisites:

There is a two (2) year preparation time frame. Candidates must be 13 years of age by date of celebration. Participation in service projects, a retreat and an interview with the Pastor are part of the preparation process.

The Most Holy Eucharist

Can. 897 The most august sacrament is the Most Holy Eucharist in which Christ the Lord himself is contained, offered, and received and by which the Church continually lives and grows. The Eucharistic sacrifice, the memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated through the ages is the summit and source of all worship and Christian life, which signifies and effects the unity of the People of God and brings about the building up of the body of Christ. Indeed, the other sacraments and all the ecclesiastical works of the apostolate are closely connected with the Most Holy Eucharist and ordered to it.

Can. 898 The Christian faithful are to hold the Most Holy Eucharist in highest honor, taking an active part in the celebration of the most august sacrifice, receiving this sacrament most devoutly and frequently, and worshipping it with the highest adoration. In explaining the doctrine about this sacrament, pastors of souls are to teach the faithful diligently about this obligation.

Catholics are obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Day of Obligations.

Vatican Council II tells us what constitutes full active and conscious participation during a liturgy: priest, people, Word and Sacrament. If any one (1) part is missing, there is no full active and conscious participation. In other words, if one is unable to be in attendance from the Gathering Song (Opening Song) through the Sending Forth (Closing Song) song, one needs to attend another Liturgy to fulfill their obligation.

Holy Communion is taken to the nursing homes and homebound on Sunday mornings by Eucharistic Ministers. Please contact the Cluster Office for more information.

Prerequisites:

Normally, First Communion is administered in the 2nd grade. Participants must be at least seven (7) years of age. There is a two (2) year preparation time frame. Participation in the spring preparation classes is required. Proof of Baptism, if not baptized in our Cluster, is required.

Rite Of Christian Initiation (RCIA): The RCIA is the official process for adults seeking to join the Catholic Church. Please contact the Business Office for questions and inquiry.

Sacraments of Healing

Reconciliation

Can. 959 In the sacrament of penance the faithful who confess their sins to a legitimate minister, are sorry for them, and intend to reform themselves obtain

from God through the absolution imparted by the same minister forgiveness for the sins they have committed after baptism and, at the same, time are reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by sinning. Reconciliation is scheduled by appointment.

Prerequisites:

Normally, First Reconciliation is administered in the 2nd grade. Participants must be at least seven (7) years of age. There is a two (2) year preparation time frame. Participation in the fall preparation classes is required. Proof of Baptism, if not baptized in our Cluster, is required.

Anointing of the Sick

Can. 998 The Anointing of the Sick, by which the Church commends the faithful who are dangerously ill to the suffering and glorified Lord in order that he relieve and save them, is conferred by anointing them with oil and pronouncing the words prescribed in the liturgical books. ---in our Cluster, parishioners are encouraged to receive the Anointing prior to surgery.

We celebrate an annual communal Anointing during the Easter Season.

Funerals

At the time of death, funeral arrangements involve three (3) groups: family of the deceased, the funeral home and the Office. Having contacted a funeral home, all funeral arrangements are made at this time. After meeting with the family's funeral home of choice, the family then meets at the parish for specific liturgical/Church aspects. When meeting with the Office, the family chooses readings, songs and designated ministers in addition to discussing cemetery plots.

There are four (4) cemeteries in our Cluster. There are a number of State laws that must be followed and Cluster rules governing our cemeteries. Questions? Please ask. We have a designated grave digger.

Sacraments of Vocation

Marriage

Can. 1055 §1. The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.

Prerequisites:

- Diocesan Policy directs that certain criteria be met:
- Both parties must be free to marry;
- If one or both parties are twenty (20) or under, mandatory psychological evaluation;
- Six (6) month minimum preparation time*;
- Participation in a diocesan Pre-Cana Conference;
- Administration of a personal profile instrument

*Please DO NOT set specific date, rent a hall, reserve a band UNTIL the Office has been contacted to confirm a date.

Religious Education

The primary purpose of our Religious Education Program is faith formation. Faith formation is an ongoing development of the whole person into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, Discipleship. To use the image of St. Paul “we put on Christ” so that Christ is the center of our lives. All Catholics are on the journey of faith formation. We begin this life-long journey in the waters of Baptism. The end of this journey is eternal life with Jesus in heaven. Our Religious Education Program is a School of Discipleship.

Our Religious Education Program strives to provide a solid foundation in our faith, age-appropriate to the students in our program.

CCD was an acronym for Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. In Vatican II, the Church reaffirmed that Catholics of all ages are entitled to an ongoing and deeper understanding of their faith. As a result, it is the commitment of every diocese in the country to offer religious education of the highest quality to all Catholics. Every parish, therefore, gives a high priority to formation in the faith for every parishioner - child, youth or adult. Every Catholic family is called to seek out religious education for each of its members.

A new name for a new approach

In each parish, too, we have grown from a small program only for children and youth (CCD) to providing faith-formation for people of all ages. This more comprehensive approach is called Parish Religious Education/Catechesis. *Catechesis* is an ancient and revered word in the Catholic Tradition. It includes both education in the faith and life-long formation in following Jesus.

The Office of Catechesis exists to encourage and support pastors and parish leadership in the Church's mission of evangelization and catechesis. It does this by:

- promoting lifelong formation leading to discipleship in Jesus Christ;
- offering formation opportunities for catechists and catechetical leaders;
- modeling excellent catechesis and leadership in ministry;
- supporting the New Evangelization in the life of the Church.

"The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

- St. John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae* ([Apostolic Exhortation on Catechesis in Our Time](#)), no. 5

It is a given, stemming from promise parents make at Baptism, that children will be raised the Catholic Faith. Unless a student attends a Catholic School, it is also a given that students participate in Parish Religious Education classes K-12.

Personnel & Volunteers

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana is committed to preventing sexual abuse before it occurs and identifying sexual abuse once it has occurred. By raising the

awareness and understanding of sexual abuse, the goal is to minimize the risks to child safety.

The following personnel and volunteers are required to participate in a Sexual Abuse Protocol Training:

- Priests, deacons and members of religious communities;
- All diocesan and parish staff;
- Principals, assistant principals, teachers, guidance counselors, librarians, all volunteers who have regular contact with children and staff at all levels. This includes aides, janitors, food service workers, school nurses and office personnel of all Catholic elementary, middle and high schools;
- Directors, catechists and staff of religious education programs;
- Diocesan personnel providing child care services;
- Youth ministers, directors and coaches of children's activities (e.g., athletics, Scout troops, choirs, Bible schools, camp instructors, club sponsors, youth groups, etc.) and similar diocesan personnel who provide such services; and
- Adults assisting or supporting team, school or parish related-activities and recreational events on and off campus (e.g., drivers, parents hosting major celebrations (e.g., annual team or class party), chaperones, Bible school volunteers etc.).

Educational Curriculum

Sexual Abuse Protocol Training includes, but is not limited to the following subjects:

- Appropriate boundaries and established prohibitions in ministry;
- Nature of the sexual abuse problem;
- Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse in minors;
- Laws, policies and procedures to report sexual abuse allegations;
- Policies and procedures to prevent child sexual abuse by clergy, Church personnel or others who come in contact with children on Church property or at Church- sponsored events and activities;
- Type of disclosure and how to respond to allegations of sexual abuse;
- Policies and procedures to respond to allegations of sexual abuse; and
- Internet communications with minors, policies and safety precautions.

Deadlines for Completing Training

New staff and volunteers shall complete an online Sexual Abuse Protocol Training prior to employment or volunteer participation. Parishes, schools and diocesan

offices will retain the signed and dated Certification and Authorization Form and Background Check Release Form that are completed by attendees at the end of each training.

Availability of Training: Training shall be available online for new staff and volunteers at least every three (3) years.

Background Check Policy

Purpose

As a Church, we value the safety of children in our care, the people whom we serve and our employees and volunteers. We want to take prudent measures to attempt to safeguard people from potential harm. Therefore, the diocese has implemented a policy on background checks for our priests, seminarians, religious and lay employees, and volunteers who have contact with children.

Parts of a Background Check Include:

1. A review of the Indiana State Police criminal history database (county repositories may be checked as well to verify convictions or provide more information about convictions);
2. A review of state and county criminal history databases in other states for employees or volunteers who live out-of-state or who have recently moved to Indiana;
3. A review of the Indiana Sex Offender Registry;
4. A check of driving records through the Indiana Department of Motor Vehicles (only for employees who drive as part of their job responsibilities and is indicated on the job description);
5. A credit check (only for employees who have access to over \$1,000 in funds and whose job description requires access to funds); and/or,
6. Professional assistance in verifying convictions obtained through criminal history reports and researching details of convictions to allow for informed decisions on suitability for employment or volunteer service.

Background checks are conducted by a local firm, Barada, Inc., which specializes in obtaining criminal histories, driving records, and credit reports.

VARIA

- **Cluster Business Office** hours are 8:00 a.m. till noon, 1:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday except for diocesan/deanery meetings. Closed days are posted in the bulletin. All parish business is to be conducted during posted hours

-Bulletin deadline: 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning prior to the Sunday.

-If you wish a name to be added to the Cluster prayer list, contact the Office.

-Mass intentions: the ancient custom of a Mass Stipend involves making an offering that is given to the priest who says the Mass out of the church and support of the clergy. The offering constitutes a personal sacrifice on the part of the donor that is united with the Sacrifice of Christ on the Altar. The offering is **NOT** a payment for services rendered (buying a Mass) but a freewill offering. The recommended offering in our Local Church is \$10.00. A Mass may be offered for any intention: repose of the soul, for a friend in need of prayers, an anniversary, giving thanks to God for a blessing received. Each Pastor **MUST** offer one Mass a week-end pro populo (Latin: "Mass for the people"). Pro Populo is a term used in liturgical texts and rules of the Catholic Church. It refers to the requirement of all ordained pastors to say Mass for the people of their parish (for the people). Know you have noticed the weekly intention For our Cluster!

-There are two (2) standing collections:

-A Lazarus collection is taken on the 3rd Sunday of each month in our Cluster.

-St. Peter has 4th Sunday of the month Improvement Fund collection.