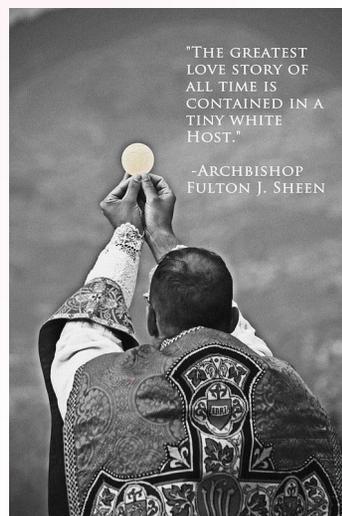
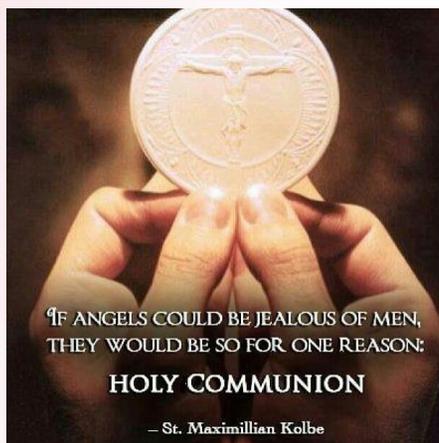


Sacraments: Signs of Grace

The Sacraments are central to the life of each Catholic and for the Church as a whole. Our program prepares baptized children who are ready to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church so they can celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and receive Holy Eucharist. Children need to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) so that they (like we) can approach the other Sacraments in a state of grace.

Confirmation completes the graces of Baptism, pouring out the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon us in a powerful way so that we can build up the Body of Christ. We are confirmed by the Bishop, a successor of the Apostles, as a sign of our commitment to our faith.

Holy Eucharist is our participation in the mystery of Christ's sacrifice—the sign of His Covenant with us. When we receive Holy Eucharist, we are brought into intimate communion with Jesus Christ and with His mystical Body, the Church. We are fed and nourished in our life as His disciples as we journey to heaven.



St. Mary Catholic Church

Marie Bricher, Director of Religious Education
304 S. Adams Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

Phone: 509-928-3210, ext. 111
www.stmarysspokane.org
E-mail: mbricher@dioceseofspokane.org

St. Mary Catholic Church, 2019-20

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation and Holy Eucharist



"Sacraments are powers that come forth from the Body of Christ... They are the actions of the Holy Spirit in His Body, the Church. They are the masterworks of God."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1116



Sacramental Preparation

Our Church's National Directory of Catechesis tells us that preparation to receive the Sacraments should:

Present a comprehensive and systematic formation in the faith...

Be appropriate to the age level, maturity, circumstances, etc. of those being catechized

Involve parents in the formation of their children

Focus primarily on the symbols, rituals and prayers of each Sacrament

Enable the believer to reflect on the meaning of the Sacrament

The Diocese of Spokane follows the restored order of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Preparation for First Penance must precede the preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The Diocese envisions “an extended period of catechesis ... in a parish-centered program which includes participation of parents. ... This catechesis may be extended over one or two years.”

When is my child ready?

Children usually prepare for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in 3rd grade, to allow them time to express their “disposition, commitment and readiness to fully share in the faith of the Christian community.” Families who bring their children forward to be prepared for the Sacraments are expressing their own commitment to living as Catholics—especially to attendance at Mass every Sunday and some form of Religious Education (school, parish or home school).

What does the program include?

The Preparation program includes 11 one-hour meetings to teach the Sacraments of Confirmation (3 sessions) and Holy Eucharist (8 sessions). Children and parents attend joint sessions. We use the textbook “Signs of Grace: First Holy Communion” from Augustine Institute. Material on Formed.org supplements our textbook. Handouts, worksheets and crafts, video, and activities make our preparation lively and engaging. The program includes a family retreat before the celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist.

What if my child needs to be Baptized?

Children over the age of 7 who need to be Baptized are prepared through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. Children under the age of 6 may be Baptized after they and their parents are prepared for the Sacrament. Contact Fr. Jeff or Marie to discuss your family's situation.

Why are parents asked to attend classes?

Parents are the first and foremost religious educators of their children. Their participation is vital to any parish program. This is an excellent opportunity to deepen and mature your faith as an adult, and help you support and guide your child's maturing faith. It also builds community between our families in the parish. While we welcome our “veteran” parents, if you have attended classes with one child, you do not need to attend for subsequent children—we do encourage you to be a Catechist for the children's sessions.

Confirmation & First Eucharist Preparation Schedule

Sunday, September 29 (10:00-11:00am)

Introduction: Sacraments of Initiation

October 20 (10:00-11:00am)

Confirmation: Sealing of Baptismal Grace

November 17 (10:00-11:00am)

Confirmation: Signs of the Sacrament

December 1 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: Preparing the Way for Christ

December 15 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: The Last Supper

January 12 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: The Death & Resurrection of Jesus

January 26 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: The Sacrament of the Eucharist

February 9 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: Receiving Holy Communion

February 23 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: The Liturgy of the Mass

March 8 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: The Liturgy of the Word

March 22 (10:00-11:00am)

Eucharist: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Saturday, April 25 (1:00-4:00pm)

Family Retreat and Practice

Friday, May 15 (6:00pm)

Celebration of Sacraments by Bishop Daly

Reception to follow in Parish Hall.

\$30 suggested donation to cover materials.

Scholarships are available, please ask

To Register:

Find forms at the Parish office, church or on the parish website. Return forms by September 23 please.