



2021-2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

OVERVIEW:

Middle School Youth (Grades 6th-8th) can prepare for the *Sacraments* through the Edge program at Holy Spirit. This includes two groups of youth:

1. Those who are already baptized and desire to receive the Sacraments of **Reconciliation & First Communion**
2. Those who have never been baptized and desire to be **fully initiated** (Baptism, Confirmation, Communion) in the Catholic Church

The Sacrament of Confirmation (apart from those who may receive it during full initiation) is received during the high school years. Youth can begin this preparation as early as the 9th Grade.

REQUIREMENTS:

The following are the basic requirements for those families with youth who are preparing for the Sacraments, as outlined above:

1. The youth must participate in a religious formation program for two years. If the family is transferring from another parish, it is acceptable if one of those years was done at another parish.
2. The Youth must be registered in Edge and attend weekly Edge Sessions (5:00-6:30pm) either in-person or virtually.
3. The Family must attend Sunday Mass regularly.

SACRAMENTAL SESSIONS:

The following is a list of the sessions the youth (and sometimes parents) must attend as part of the Sacramental Preparation. These sessions are *in addition to* the weekly Edge Sessions.

YEAR 1	YEAR 2
<p>Parent/Youth Sacramental Sessions: <i>The Youth, and at least one parent, must attend three (3) Sessions called "ALTARATION" about the Catholic Mass. These sessions are as follows:</i></p> <p>Sunday, February 27th 2:00 – 4:00pm SESSION 1: "Our Father's Plan"</p> <p>Sunday, March 20th 2:00-4:00pm SESSION 2: "The Mystery Revealed"</p> <p>Sunday, April 3rd 2:00 – 4:00pm SESSION 3: "What is Our Response"</p> <p>The "AltARATION" sessions are held from 2:00 – 4:00pm in the Upper Room. If one, or more, of the sessions is missed, it can be made up the following year.</p>	<p>Youth Only Sacramental Sessions: There are four (4) Sacramental Sessions held throughout the year for those youth in their second year of preparation. The Sacramental Sessions take place from 5:00-6:30pm on the dates below.</p> <p>Wednesday, November 3rd <i>The Return Part 1: "The Effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation"</i></p> <p>Wednesday, December 1st <i>The Return Part 2: "How to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation"</i></p> <p>Wednesday, February 2nd <i>Not by Bread Alone Part 1: "Introduction to the Sacrament of Holy Communion"</i></p> <p>Wednesday, April 20th <i>Not by Bread Alone Part 2: "The Effects of the Eucharist"</i></p>

First Reconciliation Service:

Thursday, December 16th 6:00-8:00pm (Church)

Middle School youth (Year 2) will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the parish Advent Reconciliation Service. Parents are invited and encouraged to receive the Sacrament as well during this service. It will be a 30-minute long prayer service followed by individual confessions.

Makeup Date: Lent Reconciliation – Thursday, March 24th 6-8pm

First Communion Mass:

Sunday, April 24th – 5pm Mass (Church)

Details and schedule for this Mass will be given in the Year 2 Sacramental Sessions as well as emailed home. All middle school youth (Year 2) will receive their First Communion at this Mass.

FULL INITIATION SCHEDULE:

For the middle school youth who will be fully initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion, the following is a list of important dates. These should be attended only by those in their second year of preparation. Those to be fully initiated are called 'Catechumens' & 'Elect.'

Sunday, December 5th: Rite of Acceptance (Catechumens – all ages) 9:30 am Mass

- Second Sunday of Advent
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.
- Sponsors and parents should be in attendance.
- Meet with RCIA Coordinator & Fr. Bill prior to Mass for instructions
- Reserved seats within the first three rows for Catechumens, Sponsors / Parents

Sunday, March 6th: Rite of Sending Forth (Catechumens – all ages) 9:30am Mass

- First Sunday of Lent
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.
- Sponsors and parents should be in attendance.
- Catechumen's Sign the Book of the Elect (which will be presented at the Rite of Elect later that afternoon)

Sunday, March 6th: Rite of Election with Bishop Thomas (Catechumens – all ages) (time & location TBD)

- Holy Spirit will have assigned seating for all Catechumens, Sponsors, and parents
- Arrive no later than 20 minutes prior to the Rite

Sunday, March 13th: Presentation of the Lord's Prayer & Creed (Catechumens) 9:30am Mass

- 2nd Sunday of Lent
- Elect will be called forward and presented with a copy of the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed
- Sponsors and Parents should attend.
- Please sit within the first three rows.

Sunday, March 20th: *Lent Scrutinies* 9:30am Mass

- 3rd Sunday of Lent (1st Scrutiny Sunday)
- Elect will be called forward to the closest aisle and asked to 'prostrate' (lay flat) on the floor during the Scrutinies (examination of conscious)
- Sponsors kneel next to the Elect
- Both Sponsors and Parents should attend
- Please sit within the first three rows

Sunday, March 27th: *Lent Scrutinies* 9:30am Mass

- 4th Sunday of Lent (2nd Scrutiny Sunday)
- Elect will be called forward to the closest aisle and asked to 'prostrate' (lay flat) on the floor during the Scrutinies (examination of conscious)
- Sponsors kneel next to the Elect
- Both Sponsors and Parents should attend
- Please sit within the first three rows

Sunday, April 3rd: *Lent Scrutinies* 9:30am Mass

- 5th Sunday of Lent (3rd Scrutiny Sunday)
- Elect will be called forward to the closest aisle and asked to 'prostrate' (lay flat) on the floor during the Scrutinies (examination of conscious)
- Sponsors kneel next to the Elect
- Both Sponsors and Parents should attend
- Please sit within the first three rows

Thursday, April 14th: *Holy Thursday* 7:30pm Mass followed by adoration

- Elect (of ALL Ages) will be dismissed during this Mass
- Sponsors and Parents should attend.
- Please sit within the first three rows.

Friday, April 15th: *Good Friday Service* 7:30pm

- The Elect of all ages will be asked to have part in this service (more details to follow)
- Sponsors and parents should attend.

Saturday, April 16th: *Ephphetha Rite* 10:00am

- The Elect of all ages attend this Rite
- Details about their initiation will be given to both the Elect and the Sponsors and Parents at the conclusion of this Rite.
- Baptismal Garments to be distributed at the conclusion of the Rite

Saturday, April 16th: *Easter Vigil Mass* 7:30-10:00pm

- All Elect, Sponsors and Parents arrive by 7:00pm.
- Elect to gather around Easter Fire in the courtyard.

- Details about Baptism and rehearsal for Confirmation and First Communion will be done at the Ephphetha Rite in the morning.
- All Elect, Sponsors, Parents, and family members must stay for the entire Mass.