

Saint Anthony Parish • Catholic Faith Formation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING RECEPTION OF ALL SACRAMENTS AND PROMOTION TO THE NEXT CLASS LEVELS

For ALL Sacraments and to successfully complete each level:

ATTENDANCE: ABSENCES FOR THE YEAR MUST NOT EXCEED FOUR. With changing circumstances throughout the school year, we understand families are having to endure several things at once. Our CFF team is entrusted with assisting in the faith formation of your children. To help us ensure the religious education of your children and in keeping consistent with our mission, an effort must be made to 1) have your child/ren attend weekly classes; and 2) have your child/ren arrive on time. **More than four (4) absences, and/or consistent tardiness and early release from class sessions, may hold your child back from promotion or reception of a sacrament.**

FAMILIES CELEBRATE WEEKLY MASS: **Mass Times: Saturday 5:00pm; Sunday 8:30 & 10:30am*

The most important way to develop your child's Catholic identity is to celebrate weekly Mass and make Sundays special. Parents are the primary teachers and have the ultimate responsibility for passing on the faith to their children. Our faith is centered around one hour of praise and thanksgiving at Mass each week. Everything we talk about in the classroom setting has a direct reference to each Sunday's Mass. Children who miss Mass are missing out on an essential part of their lesson, and the lesson becomes abstract and obscure. **Therefore, please assure that your children are being prepared for sacraments and promotion by attending Mass each Sunday.**

Based on the above information, the Director of Religious Education, in consultation with the Pastor, will determine if your child is properly prepared to receive a sacrament or promote to the next class level.

Baptism

- Parents of children seven years and younger can arrange baptisms by telephoning the Parish Office at 916-428-5678.
- Children eight years or older can arrange for baptismal preparation by telephoning the Catholic Faith Formation Office at 916-392-6362. Children eight years or older will receive the Sacrament of Baptism during the Easter Vigil Mass through the initiation rites. During this liturgy, the children will also receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist. Preparation for these sacraments takes a minimum of two years. The Director of Religious Education, in consultation with the Pastor, will determine whether the child is prepared to receive the sacraments.

Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist

- Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist are generally celebrated in the third grade. In order to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist, children must be attending their third consecutive year of classes. They must have successfully completed Pre-Sacrament Years 1 & 2, and be currently enrolled and regularly attending the Eucharist/Reconciliation class.

Confirmation (2-year program) - Students may begin this two-year program in 7th Grade if they have been continuously enrolled in a faith formation program. Confirmation preparation is a faith formation-youth ministry combined model.

- Candidates must be in 7th grade or above and must have been continuously attending a faith formation program.
- Students desiring Confirmation **who have not been continuously enrolled in a faith formation program**, must consult the Director of Religious Education to clarify which class to register for. This may include attending a year of Jr. High Youth Ministry, High School Youth Ministry, a Post-Sacrament class, OR the Basic Inquiry class, depending upon the age of the student and the number of lapsed CFF years, prior to entering the two-year Confirmation program.

Out of Sequence

- Children between the levels of third and twelfth grade **who have been baptized** but who have had little, or no education of the Catholic Faith enroll in the **"Basic Catechesis"** class. The family may wish to schedule an appointment with the Director of Religious Education prior to enrollment to discuss the process.

Order of Christian Initiation formerly "RCIA" (Youth-Adapted) - A serious family commitment.

- Children between the ages of 8 and 17 **who have not been baptized** must enroll in the "initiation process"—OCIA. The family may wish to schedule an appointment with the Director of Religious Education prior to enrollment to discuss the initiation process. (Minimum 2-year process)
 - **OCIA Year 1 / Basic Inquiry:** the **first year** of the initiation process.
 - **OCIA Year 2 / Catechumenate:** for students who have celebrated the Rite of Acceptance.