



## **Sacramental Preparation Program**

The sacraments received to become a *fully-initiated* Catholic are: **Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist**. The process by which students prepare and receive these sacraments at St. Paul are as follows-

### **The Bishops have this to say about the requirements for sacramental reception:**

“Parents have the right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Catechesis aims to help parents grow in understanding and appreciation of the sacraments and participate readily in catechizing their children.” (NDC #122) Requirements for reception of the sacraments are quite basic and upheld by the Pastor.

1. Regular class attendance in one consecutive Religious Education academic year directly prior to the reception of the sacrament is required.
2. Active participation in the Church community, including regular attendance at Sunday Liturgy is mandatory.
3. Attendance at Sacrament preparation sessions leading to reception of the Sacrament are mandatory. Parent(s) are obliged to attend parent meetings as well.

***First Reconciliation*** (confession)- Children are formally invited to prepare for this sacrament in Grade 2. *This will be delayed for any student who first enrolled in regular Religious Education classes after Grade 1.* Participation in regular Religious Education class the year prior to this is required. Children attend six (6) additional classes especially designed to prepare for First Reconciliation in addition to their regular Religious Education classes. Parents attend three (3) Parent meetings to help their child prepare for the sacrament. *Attendance in Religious Education classes after reception is **mandatory**.*

First Reconciliation is typically celebrated the first Saturday in December. All those who receive this sacrament must have a valid Baptismal certificate on file in the Religious Education office prior to the date of the celebration of their First Reconciliation.

**First Eucharist** (Communion)- Children are formally invited to prepare for this sacrament in Grade 3. *This will be delayed for any student who first enrolled in regular Religious Education classes after Grade 1.* Children are invited to prepare for First Eucharist only after the preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation the year prior. Children attend eight (8) additional classes especially designed to prepare for First Eucharist. Parents attend two (2) Parent meetings to help their child prepare for the sacrament. Candidates for First Eucharist, along with their families, are required to attend the Mini-Retreat which is held on a Saturday morning. *Attendance in Religious Education class after First Eucharist is **expected**.*

First Holy Communion is typically celebrated on the last Sunday in April at three separate Masses. Two (2) of these Masses are celebrated in English and one (1) in Spanish. Families may choose which Mass they would like to attend. Any candidate for First Eucharist who transfers into the St. Paul Religious Education program that did not celebrate First Reconciliation at St. Paul must have a valid *Baptismal certificate* and *certificate of transfer* from the parish at which the candidate celebrated First Reconciliation on file in the Religious Education office prior to the celebration of their First Eucharist.

**Confirmation** candidates are formally prepared to celebrate this sacrament by attending formal catechetical classes especially designed for this purpose. High School students are invited to prepare for Confirmation through participation in the Life Teen Program. Participation in regular Religious Education class the year prior to this is required. *Participation in the life of the Parish is expected after the celebration of this sacrament.*