

# Saint Theresa Parish School of Religion

Children's Sacramental Preparation:  
First Reconciliation (Confession), Confirmation & First Eucharist

***NOTE: registration for all Children's Sacramental Preparation, RE classes and programs takes place this weekend in the Pope John Paul Room following all weekend Masses.***

**Your child is qualified to prepare for & receive the sacraments at St. Theresa if:**

- Your family is registered and active at St. Theresa.
- Your child is baptized Catholic.
- Your child has been in religious formation for at least one year.

**To register for Sacramental Preparation, you will need:**

- A copy of your child's baptismal certificate. Your child will not be registered without this attached to the appropriate forms.
- If your child is preparing to receive the sacraments, you will be asked to complete an "I Will" Parent Participation Form.

## ***FAQs... ("frequently asked questions...")***

**Question: My child is not baptized. What do I do?**

**Answer:** Your child is eligible for the Christian Initiation program, which is formatted similarly to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program. Children and parents meet weekly with a catechist to learn about Jesus and the Church. Children in Initiation receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil.

**Question: I have a child who was baptized in another Christian denomination. Can he/she still receive the sacraments?**

**Answer:** The Church asks that the child be enrolled at a Catholic school or in RE to learn about the Catholic Church prior to making a profession of faith (formal acceptance of the Roman Catholic Faith). The Church also asks that there be "reasonable assurance that a child be reared as a Catholic." With proof of a valid Christian baptism, the child will be enrolled in sacraments.

**Question: I have an older child who has not received the sacraments of Reconciliation or First Communion. Can he/she still receive those sacraments?**

**Answer:** Yes. We welcome those older children - who have yet to receive sacraments - to register in the Sacramental Program at St. Theresa Parish. Be aware that these children need one year of religious formation prior to receiving any sacrament.

**Question: Does my child need to be in religious education classes before receiving a sacrament?**

**Answer:** Yes. Any child preparing for a sacrament needs to have had at least one year of formation - in a Catholic School or in a religious education program.

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**Question: My child goes to St. Theresa School. Why does he/she need to go to more classes?**

**Answer:** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated any form of sacramental preparation for children is to be done at the parish, involving both child and parent(s). In light of that directive, St. Theresa Parish has taken active steps to promote and maintain its Sacramental Preparation program through the School of Religion.

***\*\*\* Any child enrolled in St. Theresa School or its RE Program needs to be registered for sacramental preparation as a separate class! \*\*\****

Additionally, we understand how critical the parent's role is in faith formation and we are committed to assisting parents in leading their children to know the Body of Christ, form them to live as the Body of Christ and transform them to be a Eucharistic people – and we are here to help you!

**Question: We really love St. Theresa, but we are registered at another parish. Can my child still receive the sacraments here?**

**Answer:** Only with the written permission of the Pastor of your parish of registration can a child receive a Sacrament of Initiation at St. Theresa Parish.

**Question: My child will receive First Eucharist this year in 2011-2012. Will she be confirmed, too?**

**Answer:** Yes. The Diocese of Phoenix has returned to the ancient order of receiving the sacraments of initiation (i.e. baptism, then confirmation and finally first Eucharist). This means that First Communicants will now be confirmed prior to their first communion. Confirmation and First Communion take place at the same mass. A confirmation sponsor must be selected for each child receiving the sacraments of confirmation and First Eucharist. (Children in grades fourth-sixth grade who have not been confirmed will also receive sacramental preparation in Confirmation. For information, call Carmen Smith at 602-840-0850. Junior High and High School students can call Ryan Howe at the same number).

**Question: I have a few more questions about Sacramental Preparation. Who can I call to ask them?**

**Answer:** Call Gina Keating at 602-840-0850.

**Question: My schedule is already filling up. When are these extra sacramental classes for Reconciliation and First Eucharist?**

**Answer:** Parents are required to attend the Parent Information Meeting, child/parent formation classes and the child/parent retreat.

Parents will be further instructed of their role at the parent meeting.

***The schedule for 2011-2012 is:***

### **(Second Grade) Preparation for Reconciliation – First Confession:**

**Sunday December 11:** Parent Information Meeting; 10:15 a.m., Fr. Feeney Hall

**Sunday January 8:** Parent/Child Meeting; 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., Fr. Feeney Hall

**Sunday January 22:** Parent/Child Meeting; 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m., Fr. Feeney Hall

**Saturday February 4:** Retreat at 10 a.m. in the Church (children receive the sacrament today)

### **(Third Grade) Preparation for Confirmation & First Eucharist**

**Sunday February 5:** Parent Information Meeting, 10:15 a.m., Fr. Feeney Hall

**Sunday March 4:** Parent/Child Meeting; 10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m., Fr. Feeney Hall

**Sunday March 18:** Parent/Child Meeting; 10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Fr. Feeney Hall

**Sunday March 25:** Parent/Child Fair & Retreat; 10 a.m.-School gymnasium (invite sponsor)

**Mass Rehearsal:** Friday, April 20, 6 p.m., in the Church. w/ sponsor

**First Eucharist/Confirmation Mass Date: Sat. April 21, 10 a.m. in the church**

