

# Sacramental Preparation

Children, preparing for the sacraments, and their families are expected to be registered, active participating members of St. Ignatius Parish.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** Preparation is a two – year process beginning on the primary level, usually Gr. One. Preparation is available for older children who would like to prepare for First Communion and First Reconciliation.

\*See RCIA adapted for Children below.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):** Children are prepared to celebrate this sacrament before they receive their First Communion. Parents are expected to assist in the sacramental preparation of their children and to attend the parent meetings.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION** is offered on the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade level. Teens are expected to have participated regularly in a school or parish religious education program at least a full year before a sacrament year and/ or be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of Catholic beliefs, traditions and practices. Parents, whose children have not been regularly participating, will meet with the DRE and be given materials to work with their teen, to insure that they have sufficient knowledge and understanding of Catholic beliefs, traditions and practice.

## **CONFIRMATION PROGRAM POLICY (EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2003)**

Families must be registered, actively participating in the parish for at least six months prior to enrolling a child in the St. Ignatius Parish Confirmation Preparation Program.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN** is a process for children ages 7-14, who are not yet baptized, who have been baptized in another Christian tradition but wish to become Catholic, and older baptized Catholic children, ages 9-14, who have not been catechized (instructed) or received their First Communion.

*How long does it take?*

For some, they begin September and will be fully initiated at Easter. But a child may take two, three years or as long as they need.

Unbaptized children, who complete this process will receive the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass. Those children baptized in another Christian church will be received into the Church, confirmed and receive First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil or the parish Confirmation Mass. Older baptized Catholic children will receive First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass and be confirmed with the Confirmation class on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade level. The Church believes very strongly in the unity of these three sacraments of initiation.

Preparation includes a celebration of the Sunday Readings, a breaking open the Word and catechetical session (lesson) flowing out of the Sunday readings.

Periodically there will be sessions designed for the children and their parents. Full parent participation is required. See page 6.