

## **What every parent should know!**

### **Programs to prepare children to receive the sacraments of initiation.**

In preparing children for the sacraments, parents must ensure their children are properly prepared to receive them. St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church supports parents in this important task. It also takes this responsibility seriously and has set up programs to prepare these young parishioners for the Sacraments.

Much preparation and formation are necessary before a child is ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church follows the Diocese's Office of Catechesis (GLE) - Grade Level Expectations for each grade, which guides our parish's efforts in this area. It will help parents understand what is expected of them so their children can receive the sacraments.

A two-year program is necessary for a child to be prepared to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Religious formation and instruction begin in first grade. Each child planning to receive these sacraments must participate in religious education through an accredited CCD program or any other program that includes theology focused on formation.

Since it is a two-year program, children in second grade who did not receive instruction in first grade will receive these sacraments in third grade. First Reconciliation is often celebrated during the Advent or Lenten seasons each year. First Holy Communion is celebrated in May. A three-year program is required for a child to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Religious formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins in sixth grade.

There are three courses of study: 1 – The Church (Grade 6), 2 – Revelations (Grade 7), and 3 – Confirmation (Grade 8). A Parent/Student Confirmation Orientation Meeting is held during the year of Confirmation when the program is introduced. The student can enroll in the Confirmation Program. If they are not ready to make this commitment, they are encouraged to continue their religious education by attending the CCD class. This sacrament is usually celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, or his designee, typically in the fall of each year.

These programs are the standard way to receive the sacraments at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. If a student transfers from another parish, required adjustments to the program will need to be addressed by the parents, the Pastor, and the Director of Religious Education.

Yours in Christ,

*Charles Richard, D.R.E.*