

St. Michael the Archangel Pastorate

Parishes of Sacred Heart, St. Augustine, Sts. Peter and Paul

Pastorate Office: 318 N. McKinley Ave., Rensselaer, IN 47978

Phone: 219.866.5351

E-mail: stmichaelpastorate@parish.dol-in.org

Website: www.stmichaelpastorate.org

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**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THE
RECEPTION OF
THE SACRAMENTS of INITIATION:
BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION,
IN THE PASTORATE OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:**

- 1. Sunday and Holy Day Mass Attendance is required in accordance with the Third Commandment**
 - *“The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice.” (CCC 2181)*
 - *“Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and being faithful to Christ and to his Church.” (CCC 2182)*
- 2. Continuous and Required Faith Formation and Education**
 - For youth, not just attending in just the sacramental years but *“continued faith formation by participation in parish religious education programs.” (Diocese Guidelines)*
 - For adults, fulfilling all requirements necessary for each sacrament
 - *“The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for catechesis of children and parents.” (CCC 2226)*
- 3. Participation in Active Parish Life**
 - If you are asking to receive a sacrament here, you must be registered, active and in good standing here (e.g. going to another parish for Mass weekly/regularly, or engaged in another faith formation program, without permission may prevent your participation in the sacraments here in the pastorate)
 - *“The parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and brotherly love.” (CCC 2179)*
- 4. Regular Confession for all persons after First Reconciliation**
 - *“Individual, integral confession and absolution remain the only ordinary way for the faithful to reconcile themselves with God and the Church.” (CCC 1484)*
 - *“The second precept (“You shall confess your sins at least once a year”) ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.” (CCC 2042)*
- 5. Supporting the work of the Church**
 - *“Giving alms to the poor is a witness to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.” (CCC 2462)*

These are the **bare minimums** required of *all* Catholic's in our pursuit of holiness, and especially for all who are seeking the **Sacraments of Initiation**. Canon Law gives everyone the right to receive the sacraments, when they are "***properly disposed***" to do so and not otherwise prohibited by law. However, the same law demands of me, the "***Pastor of souls***" to have the "***duty to take care that those who seek the sacraments are prepared to receive them by proper evangelization and catechetical instruction, attentive to the norms issued by competent authority.***" (*Code of Canon Law, Canon 843*) Our diocese and National Conference of Bishops have produced clear local guidelines for the reception of the sacraments which these five points reflect.

It is my judgement, as Pastor, that ***one is not properly disposed*** to the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and/or Holy Communion if an individual, as an adult, or the family if considering a minor, ***is not fulfilling the aforementioned minimum requirements for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation***. Thus, in accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana and the previous sacramental formation policies published on our website, that anyone who is unable to meet these requirements will be unable to receive the **Sacraments of Initiation** until they are "properly disposed" to do so, in addition to any particular requirements required for each individual sacrament.

As always, each individual and one's individual situation will continue to be assessed on a case by case basis and our staff and myself are committed to helping any person and/or family to rejoice in the glory of God's Grace being offered to those who "seek, ask and knock." (cf Matthew 7:7) "***For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.***" (Matthew 7:8)

Catechism of the Catholic Church: [vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/ INDEX.HTM](http://vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM)

Diocese Website: dol-in.org/guidelines-for-the-reception-of-the-sacraments

Pastorate Website: stmichaelpastorate.org/sacraments-and-funerals



Fr. Joshua T. Bennett