IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sealy, Texas

Sacramental Handbook

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Grades K – 11

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SACRAMENTS

As Catholics, we believe the sacraments are at the core of our faith. We celebrate some of them at pivotal moments and celebrate others regularly. Parents are to engage in their sacred role that they willingly accepted at their child's baptism; namely, to pass on the faith to their child. Parents should *prepare* for, *celebrate*, and *live* the mysteries of the sacraments in their daily lives.

As Christians, the sacraments of Initiation are the foundation of our lives in God and the Church. We are born anew in the waters of *baptism*, strengthened by an anointing with sacred chrism (oil) in *confirmation* and nourished throughout our lives by the consecrated bread and wine in the *Eucharist*.

The following are requirements by Immaculate Conception, in union with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, to prepare students to have a foundation of Catholic teaching. Students also must be actively participating in the Sunday celebration of Mass and all required CCE classes, whether grade level or preparation for a sacrament.

BAPTISM

Baptism is the first sacrament of Initiation in which original sin is banished from the soul, thus giving us rebirth as sons and daughters of God.

To request a baptism:

Children (under the age of 7)	**Children (7 years of age to 17 years of age)**	**Adults (older than 18)**
• Fill out the online Baptism Registration form to sign up for classes and register for baptism. Then, turn in a birth certificate for your child. • You will receive a call from the pastor to discuss which baptismal class best suits your needs. • Parents attend all required baptism classes. • Attend the group baptism ceremony.	• Register for CCE classes. • Mark that baptism is needed on the child's online registration form. • Children, 7 years old through 5th grade, will attend RCIA-A class (see page 8) in place of their grade level CCE class. Children grades 6th and up will attend RCIA-A, as well as their grade level CCE class. • Parents must attend all required baptism classes. • Students must complete sacramental interviews and participate in a Prayer Assessment. • If all requirements are completed, RCIA-A students will receive all three sacraments of Initiation (baptism, confirmation, and First Eucharist) on Holy Saturday of Easter.	• Notify the Parish Office. • Fill out the online RCIA class registration form and turn in a birth certificate. • Attend all required RCIA (page 9) classes. • RCIA (and RCIA-A) students will receive all three sacraments of Initiation (baptism, confirmation, and First Eucharist) on Holy Saturday of Easter.
Clergy Stipend: There is never a charge for receiving a sacrament. However, priests and deacons depend on stipends for their income. It is an expression of your gratitude to them for the help you have received. It is customary to present this to him after the ceremony. A stipend of any amount is appropriate and will be appreciated.		

Baptismal classes are from the Springs of Faith program
This program consists of three phases—**Discover**, **Encounter**, and **Share**—which provide an array of opportunities for participants to connect with one another as they grow in their own faith and prepare for the journey of raising their children in the Catholic faith. Parents will be contacted by the parish priest to discern which of the following phases they are to enroll to prepare for the baptism of their child. Godparents are encouraged to attend, as well.

In the **Discover** phase, individuals and couples from across the faith spectrum, including seekers and those who may be contemplating a return to their Catholic roots, are invited to explore and discuss their own faith while also being introduced to some of the core values and beliefs of the Catholic Church. The Discover phase is all about meeting people "where they are," and offering them meaningful reasons to consider journeying farther down the path of faith.

In the **Encounter** phase, parents prepare for the baptism of their child as they carefully and prayerfully consider each element in the rite of baptism.

In the **Share** phase, families with recently baptized children come together in a fun, relaxed atmosphere to learn ways in which they can grow the nascent faith of their little ones, create and sustain an environment of faith in the home, and stay engaged in the life of the parish.

For parents and Godparents needing baptism classes for a baptism to be held at another parish:

- Fill out the baptism class only form at https://icc-sealy.org/sacraments
- Once turned in, you will be registered for classes. The class dates can be found on the same website listed above.
- After attending the classes, you will receive a certificate showing you completed baptism preparation.

RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST (COMMUNION)

Reconciliation is a sacrament of the New Law given to us by Christ in which forgiveness of sins committed after baptism is granted through the priest's absolution to those who with true sorrow confess their sin.

The Eucharist is one of the most important sacraments of the Catholic Church. Catholics believe that in this sacrament, the bread and wine during Mass are converted into the actual body and blood of Christ through an event called transubstantiation.

Guidelines for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Communion)

1. The Archdiocese mandates that students must prepare and receive the sacrament of penance (reconciliation) and Eucharist (Communion) ideally within the same year. Our CCE program prepares students to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in the 3rd Grade before they receive their First Holy Communion.

2. "Sunday… is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church. On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass. (CCC2192) **As your child's primary educator in the Catholic faith, you are expected to attend Mass with your children every Sunday and on holy days.**

3. Parents and/or guardians are required to attend ALL parent meetings.

4. Immaculate Conception requires a copy of each child's baptismal certificate to be submitted and kept on file. This is required at CCE Registration.

If your child was baptized in a Christian church, but not the Roman Catholic Church, you must contact the Religious Education Office to arrange a Profession of Faith ceremony for your child.

5. For a student to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion in 3rd grade they must:

   - Have good attendance during their 3rd grade CCE class which means **no more than (3) absences for the year**. The curriculum missed from those 3 classes must be made up before the student can schedule their upcoming interview.
   - Complete their Sacramental Interviews for reconciliation and Communion by answering all pre-given information correctly when asked within the interview. If the student does not complete the interview the first time, they will be given a second chance to do so. No more than two chances will be given. (Please see the current CCE calendar for interview and reinterview dates.)
   - Be taken to reconciliation. This is the parents responsibility to bring their child to reconciliation. Parents are encouraged to receive reconciliation at this time as well. Immaculate Conception's reconciliation times are as follows:
     - Tuesdays, 5:00 pm
     - Wednesdays, 5:00 pm and/or
     - Saturdays, 4:00 pm
   - Receive 1st Holy Communion as a group at the end of 3rd grade. If you wish to receive at another church, please call the CCE Office for instructions.

Students <u>who do not make up their first 3 missed absences</u>, or <u>have more than 3 absences</u> or <u>do not complete either or both their interviews</u> :

- will not receive credit for the year.
- will be enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – Adapted for Children (RCIA-A) class the following year for sacramental preparation. (Please see pg. 8 for details.)

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation, like baptism and Eucharist, is a sacrament of Initiation

Preparation for the sacrament of confirmation begins when the student has reached the 11th grade with the sacrament being celebrated in the Fall of the student's 12th grade year. The student needs to be freely choosing to receive this sacrament. Sacramental grace cannot be forced or coerced by its very nature.

Adequate preparation requires that the student have a foundation of Catholic experience and teaching. In our parish, this is provided through the Life Teen Program, and a simultaneous confirmation preparation class during 11th grade. The candidate is to participate in an ongoing process of conversion with the support of his/her sponsor, parents, catechists, Life Teen core members and the ICC Community.

If a student neglects to meet the requirements listed below, he/she may have to postpone receiving their sacrament. The Religious Education Team and catechists, along with the pastor, will assess each case to determine whether the student is prepared to receive the sacrament and an alternative sacramental plan for the student will be put in place, if needed.

THE PROCESS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

11th Grade

- Attend 11th grade Life Teen classes (missing **no more than 3** and a monthly confirmation Preparation class (missing **no more than 1** class, which may require make-up work).
- Attend weekly Sunday Mass.
- Attend a confirmation retreat & participate in service projects and fundraisers.
- Attend required meetings with parents.
- Before May 31st of the student's 11th grade, they are required to complete 30 total service hours. 10 hours is to be served within their family and/or community with the remaining 20 hours to be served within our parish. All service hours should be recorded in the student's Service Folder.
- Satisfactorily complete an Exit Interview with a confirmation teacher, deacon or pastor.

Service Hours Required

20 hours to **ICC**, examples below	**10** hours Service to **Community**, examples below
Bazaar worker VBS helper Lector Altar Server CDA Dinner CCE Student Aide Life Teen Fundraiser confirmation Service Projects	Nursing Home NHS projects Sealybration Fantasy of Lights Student Council Interact Austin County Fair

After satisfactorily completing all the above, he/she will be eligible to receive the sacrament of confirmation during the Fall of their 12th Grade.

12 Grade

Those who were enrolled in 11th grade but did not satisfactorily complete their requirements	or	Those who are seeking confirmation for the 1st time in 12th grade
Must attend Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes (see page 9).		
Must attend the 11th grade confirmation retreat held in February.		

All student sacramental plans will be reviewed by the confirmation Team, a deacon &/or the pastor.

MATRIMONY

Commonly referred to as Marriage, this sacrament is a covenant by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring.

To request to be married:

- Notify the parish office to give basic information to start the process
  - Complete the basic information form and indicate the name of the priest or deacon you wish to assist with your preparation and marriage ceremony.
- You will receive a call from the pastor to set up a time to meet and discuss the Prepare/Enrich Marriage Inventory.
- Meet with the pastor.
- Schedule the date of the ceremony.
- Complete the following:
  - Choose the marriage preparation program that best fits your needs:
    - *** Engaged Encounter –** a weekend retreat in Houston. For info on dates and openings, go to Archgh.org
    - *** Sponsor Program –** Meet with a sponsor couple in the parish.

    - Attend the Natural Family Planning (NFP) introduction meeting.
    - Provide the parish with a recent (within 6 months of the wedding) copy of your baptismal certificate. In the case of a non-Catholic, a letter from the church of baptism serves the purpose.
    - Couples will choose their readings and vows from the booklet which will be given to them. Couples will also select two individuals for the readings at the ceremony.
- Attend the final meeting to discuss the ceremony with the priest/deacon.
- Obtain a marriage license from any county in the State of Texas. Before going to apply for the license, please notify the parish office, and we will give you a certificate of participation in a certified marriage preparation program. Bring the Marriage License to the rehearsal .
- Take care of any outstanding fees or stipends.

Wedding InformationTimes & Dates
Weddings can be scheduled throughout the year with the exception of the season of Lent (Ash Wed. – Easter Sun.). Wedding times may be scheduled at or before 1:00 PM on Saturdays or at times approved by the pastor. Weddings may be scheduled for other weekdays depending on the parish schedule. Weddings are not scheduled on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day. The rehearsal is generally scheduled for the Friday night before the ceremony.

Church Use:
The Catholic Community of Immaculate Conception is proud of its beautiful church facility. It was originally built in 1954. In 2004, it was remodeled at the cost of $1,000,000.00. The active members also bear the burden of maintenance, insurance, and utilities. The following stipends apply for the use of the church.

Wedding Ceremony: Active Parishioners $250.00
Wedding Ceremony: Others $500.00

Rehearsal Dinner:
Due to the fact that our facilities are in high demand by parish ministries, we don't rent out our small hall during the school year.
For the summer, we rent out our small hall at the following times and prices:

Parish Hall (2 Hours) - Contributing Parishioners - $100.00

VOCATIONS

Vocation is a sacrament that refers to a call. It is God's invitation, His call to each person to love and serve Him and His Church in a certain state or way of life. Each person's vocation stems from the grace of baptism.
If you would like to learn more about vocations in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, visit the Archdiocese's vocations page. (http://www.archgh.org/vocations/vocations-office/)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The anointing of the sick is a sacrament that is administered to bring spiritual and even physical strength during a serious illness or before a major surgery. It conveys several graces and imparts gifts of strengthening in the Holy Spirit against anxiety, discouragement, and temptation. Also, this sacrament conveys peace and fortitude.

If you or someone you know is in need of an anointing, contact the parish office to speak with our pastor to schedule a visit.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN (RCIA-A)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the norm for initiation of all adults; it applies also to children of catechetical age (generally age seven) since under the Code of Canon Law they attain the status of adults at the age of reason regarding sacraments of Initiation. (RCIA 18) Thus, any unbaptized child over the age of reason, who desires to become Catholic participates in the Christian Initiation process which leads them to the celebration of the three sacraments of Initiation: baptism, confirmation and Eucharist (Holy Communion).

The RCIA process is adapted to meet the specific needs of children and youth age 7 to 11th grade.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RCIA - ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN

CATECHUMENS	**CANDIDATES**
Students who have never been baptized and would like to receive the sacraments of Initiation (baptism, confirmation and Eucharist). Students who complete the below during the CCE Year should be eligible to receive baptism, penance, First Communion, and confirmation on Holy Saturday of that year.	Students who have been baptized in another Christian tradition and would like to complete the sacraments of Initiation or Students have been baptized Catholic but did not receive further religious education to complete the sacraments of Initiation. Students who complete the below should be prepared to receive penance, First Communion, and confirmation (depending on age).

7 years up to 5th grade	6th – 10th grade	11th - 12th grade
● Attend the RCIA-A classes with good attendance (no more than 1 absence, in which curriculum may have to be made up). ● Take a required Prayer Assessment and complete both sacrament interviews.	● Attend the RCIA-A classes with good attendance (no more than 1 absence, which curriculum may have to be made up). ● Take a required Prayer Assessment and complete both sacrament interviews. ● Attend their grade level CCE class this year (no more than 3 absences).	● Attend the RCIA (for adults) classes with good attendance (no more than 1 absence, which curriculum may have to be made up). ● Attend confirmation retreat with current 11th graders ● Attend reconciliation prior to receiving their confirmation and First Communion on Holy Saturday.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Or perhaps you are already Catholic and desire to learn more about your faith or to receive sacraments you may have missed. The **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (or RCIA)** process introduces you to the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. It helps you explore what it means to be a Christian. It prepares you to enter fully into our community of faith through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. Becoming Catholic is more than just learning scripture and rituals, it's discovering how to be a disciple of the Lord.

We welcome all those who are:

- Adults who have never been baptized
- Adults baptized in a non-Catholic church but now desire to become Catholic
- Adults who were baptized Catholic but who have not received the sacraments of Holy Communion or confirmation

What to expect:

- RCIA typically begins in September and meets weekly until Easter. Along the way there are several important rituals that those involved in RCIA participate in. These occur during Sunday Mass. Attendance at Mass and the weekly meetings are necessary to complete the RCIA process.
- There is no cost to participate in the RCIA program for adults.
- Each participant will need a sponsor, someone who is in full communion with the Catholic Church and is willing to accompany you on this journey.
- An RCIA registration form is to be completed along with a brief interview.
- A Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Church will be provided

  Call the parish office at 979-883-3868 or email cfloyd@icc-sealy.org for detailed information

The goal of RCIA is not for a person to complete each step quickly and 'win the prize.' Rather, see this as a faith journey and not everyone follows the same mold or time-table. God calls us in different ways and at different times. Some will begin and end the process in an eight month time period, while others might take a year or more. You will learn a lot about the Catholic faith in the RCIA process, but the main focus is to take your journey one day at a time and grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. Becoming Catholic is a life-long commitment of mind and heart. We welcome you to take that step and check it out.