

In response to the new National Directory for Catechesis, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has issued a document entitled "Sacraments for Young People."

These documents clearly state that Religious Educators must evaluate the current models of preparing our children for the celebration of the Sacraments. Because the sacraments are central to our faith, we must review the preparation time as far more than just "learning" about the sacraments.

The document says it best:

Sacramental preparation is not only a time for the candidates to be formed in their faith, it is also a time of conversation for parents and families. Parents and the whole faith community should view sacramental preparation time as an opportunity to reflect on their own experience of Christian life as part of a faith community.

By recognizing the communal dimension all members come to a clearer understanding of the importance of their faith, their unique role as sacrament people and the desire to pass that faith on to children.

This being the case, sacramental preparation goes far beyond the children who are celebrating and is more than an event. It is an on-going renewal of the whole parish. It serves as a reminder that sacraments are **lived** before they are celebrated.
(Sacraments for Young People, pg 19)

In response to both of these documents, it is necessary to make the changes requested. This includes preparing our children for: First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation within the parish setting.

For our three area parishes as a whole, this document truly calls each and every one of us to actively join with those preparing on their spiritual journey. This can happen in many ways throughout the preparation time, but most importantly, it can happen through our prayer for the candidates and their families.

For families of candidates, the documents call for a deeper commitment in the area of lifelong faith formation for our children. Immediate preparation in the parish setting allows children to develop their faith that is not just educational. It allows them to experience community in new ways and it only enhances what they are doing at St. John the Baptist School.

You may access the Sacraments for Young People Document at www.catholiccincinnati.org