

ST LEONARD'S SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION & FORMATION NEWS

Fall 2017

Strengthening Our Faith!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is time to get ready for Sacramental Preparation and Faith Formation for 2017-18! As we did last year, the young people from St Leonard's will be joining me and those from Holy Name for sacramental preparation. I'm always happy to answer any questions or explain what we will be doing so please don't hesitate to contact me! If you have a 2nd grader or older who you wish to prepare for First Reconciliation and Eucharist next fall, a 9th-12th grader wishing to prepare for Confirmation, or, have K-8th graders for whom you would like to provide on-going formation/catechesis, please read the included information carefully and **complete and return a Sacramental Preparation Registration Form by September 11th**. **In addition: if you have a child who would like to become Catholic, please contact me as well.**

You may contact me- Erin O'Leary at erino@churchoftheholyname.org; 612-724-5465, ext. 203.

What is the difference between Faith Formation/Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation?

Faith Formation is an on-going process for children and adults where we learn and grow in our faith through studying scripture, sacraments and social teachings. St. Leonard's will continue to have its own program for K-8th formation on Sundays for this important process! **Participating in Faith Formation is required for participating in Sacramental Preparation.**

Sacramental Preparation is a process of learning about a particular sacrament, its place in our faith, the process by which it happens and the important words and beliefs surrounding the sacrament. The Catholic Church requires that parents fully participate in this process for their children. Children must belong to registered parish families and be participating in on-going regular faith formation to participate in Sacramental Preparation.

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**Please register by
September 11th!**

Faith Formation Sessions & Regular Catechesis

- Takes Place at St. Leonard's
- Held on Sunday mornings
- Schedule set by St. Leonard's Faith Formation coordinator
- Open to all parish children at St. Leonard's in K-8

Sacramental Programs:

Reconciliation and Eucharist

- Class held at Holy Name
- Parent/Guardian must participate in ALL sessions
- Held on SOME Wednesday evenings, 6 p.m. (*full schedule given in the fall*)
- Includes one mini-retreat in spring on a Saturday
- Led by Erin O'Leary
- Celebration of First Eucharist will take place at St. Leonard's for parish children
- Open to registered parish children, Gr. 2 and up, who have participated in catechesis the prior year

Confirmation

- Classes at Holy Name
- Held on most Sundays, 12:00 p.m. (*full schedule given in the fall*)
- Includes one retreat in spring on a Sunday
- Led by Erin O'Leary
- Open to registered parish youth, Gr. 9-12
- Celebration of the Sacrament takes place at the Basilica in the Spring

OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE!

What Happens At Sacramental Preparation?

For First Reconciliation and Eucharist, parents and children meet together at sessions led by Erin O'Leary. We use books, activities, music and videos to learn about each sacrament and what Jesus teaches us about why it is important.

Each session is an hour long and includes time for discussion for parents and children together. Families also do some work at home to read and prepare before each session. We usually meet 4 or 5 times in the fall to prepare for Reconciliation and 6 times in the winter/spring to prepare for Eucharist.

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation and continues the process of full membership in the Church begun at Baptism. It is important that each candidate makes the choice to participate in this process of learning and reflection on living a life of faith and service in the Church. Sessions will include community-building, prayer and learning. Candidates will also take part in service and a retreat. Full details are explained at an orientation meeting with parents in the fall. While parents do not attend each session for Confirmation, parents and sponsors do participate in helping the candidates with their service work and have faith discussions with them along the way.

BAPTISM RECORD INFORMATION

If your candidate for Sacramental Preparation was NOT Baptized at St. Leonard's, you will need to request that the parish of Baptism send us a NEW record of Baptism/Certificate dated within the 2017-18 preparation year per Archdiocesan/Canon Law requirements.

You may also pick the record/certificate up in person if the parish is nearby and bring it to the Holy Name office or turn it in at one of our fall preparation sessions.

What if my child isn't Baptized yet?

The Catholic Church teaches that children over the age of 7 have the ability to reason and understand in a way that allows them to participate more fully in the sacramental life of the Church in a different way than younger children. Because of this, children who are over that age receive their Initiation Sacraments (*Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation*) all at once in a process called RCI- Rite of Christian Initiation. Children and their parents prepare for one to two years depending on whether or not they have been participating in faith formation previously, and the child receives all three sacraments at one time during Eastertime.

Sometimes these candidates also participate in Sacramental Preparation with those preparing for Eucharist or Confirmation but also have separate sessions for catechesis and formation. This process begins with a meeting with the Director of Faith Formation in order to determine the level of catechesis and need.

If your child is over age 7 and you wish for him/her to be Baptized, please contact Erin O'Leary for more information. If your child is younger than age 7, please follow the regular process for Baptism for St. Leonard's parish.

