

THE PASTORATE OF ST. PAUL & THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were begin done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts of the Apostles 2:43-47 New American Bible (Signs of God's Love pg. 1)

We are Church. We are called to form community, to accompany one another on our life's journey and to lead one another deeper into our relationships with the Lord. We are called to worship together and celebrate God's unconditional love for each of every one of us. We are called to create a Domestic Church in our homes so as we raise our children, they, too, grow and feel called to be a part of Church.

To become fully initiated into Church, there are two sacraments we celebrate-Baptism and Eucharist. We bring our children to baptism as infants with godparents who assist us in our vision and encouragement of raising our children in the Catholic faith. During this time, we bring our children to Mass, form them by understanding the differences between right and wrong, good and bad. We form them in the faith about others who model a Catholic Christian life through the communion of saints. We form our children in the faith when learning prayers to recite to communicate with our God who loves us so deeply. We celebrate the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter with our children so they see the cycles our lives take in our Catholic journey to grow closer to Christ. Lastly, we pray to the Holy Spirit to guide us on this journey and to Mary, the Mother of God, to support us in our parenting.

We cannot achieve all of these goals alone. We need others to support us, to pray with us and to keep us on the right path.

The Pastorate of St. Paul and Church of the Resurrection acknowledges and accepts our role as part of your family. We are here to support your desire to form your children to be loving, compassionate, empathetic, and to live with "generous hearts" as the Acts of the Apostles described.

We can achieve these goals when we agree to walk this journey together. As a result, a set of Guidelines, Policies and Regulations has been created to clearly understand what we are undertaking as your parish community and what you are undertaking as the parent of your child. Let's walk this

journey together to further bring the Kingdom of God to light for our children and for the world to see.

Goal of the Sacramental Preparation Ministry

This ministry at the Pastorate of St. Paul Church and Church of the Resurrection is to instruct, inform, and guide children and their families through learning about the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Our ministry assists families in leading a sacramental life which includes regular participation in the Mass, in the sacrament of Reconciliation, and regular reception of the Eucharist.

How do we instill a desire to participate in the fullness of sacramental life? As stated in The Code of Canon Law that state, "It is primarily the duty of the parents and those who take the place of parents, as well as the duty of pastors, to take care that children who have reached the use of reason are prepared properly, and, after they have made sacramental confession, are refreshed with this divine food as soon as possible..." Code of Canon Law (Codex Iuris Canonici CIC) 914

Expectations from the Parish

- For the pastor, the pastoral formation team, lead children to receive a thorough instruction on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Eucharist.
- *Catechesis for First Eucharist will provide age and developmental-level appropriate catechesis on the Mass and the mystery of the Eucharist that helps the child to participate actively and consciously, in an informed and reverent manner, as directed by the framework provided in Directory of Masses for Children, no. 12*
- *Additionally, there should be opportunities for catechesis with the parents of the young children. This will offer parents an invitation to deepen their faith. (Directory for Catechesis, no 232)*

Expectations from the Parents

- **Preparation for First Eucharist**
 - *Preparation for First Eucharist should begin as soon as the child can begin to hear the Good News. Ideally, this preparation would begin in the home...The family is the place*

where faith is first transmitted, where it is witnessed, more than being taught in a systemic manner. Directory for Catechesis, nos. 227-228

- *Pope Francis summarizes the content of this proclamation, known as the kerygma as follows: God loves us, God sent his Son to save us, Christ is alive in his Spirit. Christus vivit [Christ is Alive], Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Francis, 2019, nos. 111-13.3*

- **Participation Expectations:**

- Each family must be **registered parishioners at St. Paul Catholic Church or the Church of the Resurrection.**
- **Non- parishioners** must provide a letter, from their pastor, which grants permission for the child to participate in the Pastorate of St. Paul and Church of the Resurrection's Sacrament Preparation Ministry.
- If the child was baptized at a parish other than St. Paul or the Church of the Resurrection, parents/guardians must provide the Catechetical Ministry Leader (CME) a copy of the Baptismal Certificate.
- Children must attend Faith Formation Gatherings during the sacramental preparation period, either at St. Paul or Church of the Resurrection's Faith Formation ministry or one of the local Catholic formation ministries.
- There will be at-home assignments to be completed following each in-person gathering. Assignments are expected to be completed prior to the next scheduled gathering of the candidates.

Fees

In addition to the regular Faith Formation fee, there is **\$100.00 sacrament fee** to cover the cost of books and materials. Children who attend one of the local Catholic Formation schools pay only the \$100.00 fee.

Cancellations due to Inclement Weather

St. Paul and the Church of the Resurrection follows the Howard County Public Schools cancellations and early dismissals. Please check the parish website for verification of cancellations or delays.