

Sacramental Preparation

for

Saint Bonaventure Catholic School Students



Overview for Parents

There are three options for students enrolled in St. Bonaventure Catholic School to complete Roman Catholic sacramental preparation. Regardless of a student's situation, each sacramental preparation program completed through either the School or through the Parish is a two-year preparation process.

1. **Standard Preparation** (*for students who attend Grades 1 and 2 at St. Bonaventure Catholic School*)

A two-year preparation of parents and students for the reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist begins in Grade 1 and continues during Grade 2. During this two-year preparation process, parents partner with the classroom teacher to prepare their children for reception of the sacraments during the spring of Grade 2.

2. **Alternate Preparation A** (*for students who begin attending at St. Bonaventure Catholic School in Grade 2*).

Students who begin attending Saint Bonaventure Catholic in Grade 2 are permitted to complete the second year of standard preparation provided they have successfully completed the first year of preparation at another Roman Catholic school or as a student in a Religious Education ministry of a Roman Catholic Parish. (**Please note:** a letter of transfer will be required from the previous program.)

3. **Alternate Preparation B** (*for students in need of complete program of two-year sacramental preparation*)

Students in need of a complete two-year sacramental preparation must enroll in the Saint Bonaventure Parish Religious Education program in addition to enrolling in St. Bonaventure Catholic School. Guidelines for preparation in specific situations are listed below.

BAPTIZED STUDENTS

GRADES 2, 3, 4, 5 STUDENTS ALREADY BAPTIZED IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Year one - Student receives religious instruction in their SBS class.

Year two - In addition to receiving continuing religious formation at SBS, student will also enroll in a sacrament preparation class through Saint Bonaventure Religious Education program. Students will receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist upon successful completion of the two-year program.

*GRADES 6, 7, 8 STUDENTS ALREADY
BAPTIZED IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH*

Year one – Once the school year begins, the student and parent must meet with the Director of Religious Education who will outline the appropriate two-year sacrament preparation.

GRADE 2, 3, 4, 5 STUDENTS WHO WERE BAPTIZED IN A NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The two-year preparation is the same as the description mentioned above for grades 2-5 students, however, the student will also make a **Profession of Faith** to the Roman Catholic Church before receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

*GRADES 6, 7, 8 STUDENTS WHO WERE BAPTIZED
IN A NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH*

Year one – Once the school year begins, the student and parent must meet with the Director of Religious Education who will outline the appropriate two-year sacrament preparation.

NON-BAPTIZED STUDENTS

GRADE (1)2-8 STUDENTS WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED
IN A CHRISTIAN CHURCH (CATECHUMEN)*

Year One – Parent and student participate in the Children's Catechumenate Process through Saint Bonaventure Religious Education. This includes student-parent participation in:

- ✓ *INQUIRY PHASE*
- ✓ *RITE OF ACCEPTANCE*
- ✓ *SUNDAY DISMISSALS*

Year Two - In addition to Sunday dismissals, students will also enroll and participate in a sacrament preparation class through Saint Bonaventure Religious Education. The student will:

- ✓ *PARTICIPATE IN RITES OF SENDING AND ELECTION*
- ✓ *RECEIVE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST (THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION) AT THE EASTER VIGIL.*

* According to the Roman Catholic Church, the "age of reason" is approximately age seven. If a Grade 1 student is six years old or younger, the student may be baptized according to the *Infant Rite of Baptism* and does not need to follow the procedures for the two-year Catechumenate. The parents of this child should contact the Parish Center to inquire about the Baptism Preparation Classes. If the Grade 1 student is already 7 years old, he/she must participate in the Catechumenate process. If a Grade 1 student has already been baptized in a non-Catholic Christian church, please see the Director of Religious Education.