

# The Sacraments

## Baptism

### Preparation for a Child's Baptism

Baptism is a special occasion in the life of the child's family, and in the life of the Church family. Through Baptism we die to sin and rise with Christ to a new life as sons and daughters of God. During the celebration parents present their child to the Church, give the child a name, testify to the Faith they will share, and promise to be a good example to the child. The role of godparents is to insure that their godchild is given a Christian upbringing if the parents are no longer able to fulfill that responsibility. Baptism is the first step of a three-step process: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. It is by sharing in the Eucharist that we become full members of Christ's body, the Church.

Arrangements for your child's Baptism can be made by calling St. Bernard's Parish Office at 681-3571. We ask that you call a few weeks in advance to allow for preparation time.

## First Reconciliation

Candidates for First Reconciliation should be at the level of Second Grade or older. The Parish will provide the necessary instructions and materials through Parent sessions, so as to aid the parents in helping to prepare their son/daughter for the sacrament. Parent and Candidate sessions are usually scheduled in September & November, with the actual celebration of the sacrament in December.

### First Reconciliation Parents & Candidates Meeting Dates:

- Sunday October 4, 2009 - Following the 10:30 am Mass
- October 22, 2009 - Candidates only - 7-8:00 pm
- November 19, 2008
- Saturday December 12, 2009 - Celebration at 10:00 am.

## First Eucharist

Candidates for First Eucharist should be at the level of Second Grade or older. The Parish will provide the necessary instructions and materials through Parent sessions, so as to aid the parents in helping to prepare their son/daughter for the sacrament. Parent and Candidate sessions are usually scheduled in February and April, with the actual celebration of the sacrament in May. Candidates and Parents are also to attend the First Eucharist Retreat that is scheduled 2 days before the celebration of the sacrament.

- **Sunday February 14, 2010 following the 10:30 am Mass**
  - First Eucharist Parent and Candidate Meeting #1
- **April 15, 2010**
  - First Eucharist Parent and Candidate Meeting #2
  - Candidates will work on review worksheets.
- **April 29, 2010**
  - First Eucharist Retreat 6:30 - 8:30 pm - Candidates and Parents to attend.
- **May 1, 2010**
  - 5:00 pm Mass with the Celebration of First Eucharist.

## Confirmation

11th Grade Program is "Receiving the Gift of the Spirit" - classes are held in small groups at the Catechist's home or at the church through the months of October - April.

- **Sunday March 21, 2009**
  - Confirmation Retreat beginning at the 10:30 am Mass until 3:00 pm at the Church. This is a required retreat for all Candidates.
- **Saturday May 8, 2010**
  - Confirmation Practice for Candidates and Sponsors only, TBA.
- **Saturday May 8, 2010**
  - 5:00 pm Mass with the celebration of Confirmation.

## Marriage

Those wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the intended date of the celebration.