

Sacraments

Also taught in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 5

GENERAL

The students will:

- know the history of the RCIA process.
- know some Scripture stories which relate to the sacraments; e.g., Acts 2: 1-4 (Receiving the Holy Spirit); I Cor. 12: 12-14, 26-27.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST

Baptism

The students will:

- know that Baptism is necessary for salvation. (CCC # 1257)
- know that Baptism is a call to holiness.
- know that our vocation (call) can be answered in three ways. (cf. "Vocation Chart" handout #1 and "I Can Find My Way" handout #2)
- know that catechumens who die before their Baptism are saved because of their explicit desire to receive it (baptism of desire). (CCC #1259)
- know that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ (baptism of blood).
- know the history of the baptismal symbols and rituals.
- know that Baptism does not remove the tendency toward sin which is called concupiscence. (CCC #1426)
- recognize that baptism in other Christian traditions may be valid.
- understand the meaning of conditional baptism. (Canon 869)
- explore the connection between godparents for Baptism and sponsors for Confirmation.
- know that all of us have a role as baptized people in sharing Christ's work of priest (liturgical worship), prophet (teacher and messenger), and king (leadership in the community).

- know the essentials of the Rite of Baptism: pouring of water or immersion into water with the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Confirmation (note: see Diocesan Policies for Sacramental Preparation for those preparing to receive Confirmation)
The students will:

- know that though Confirmation is sometimes called "the sacrament of Christian maturity," that does not mean its reception must await physical, mental or social maturity. (CCC #1308)
- know that in Eastern Catholic churches Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are received immediately after each other to show the unity of Christian initiation.
- know the Scripture stories that relate to Confirmation; e.g., Ezekiel 36: 25-27.
- know the meaning of the signs and symbols of Confirmation.
- know that the bishop is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation; abbots and priests may confirm by delegation of the bishop.
- know the role of the Confirmation sponsor as a guide and helper on the spiritual journey.
- know that it is appropriate that the Confirmation sponsor be one of the baptismal godparents to emphasize the unity of the two sacraments.
- know the qualifications necessary for a Confirmation sponsor.
- realize that Confirmation is a personal response which renews one's baptismal commitment.
- know the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation: increases and deepens baptismal grace, strengthens us by word and action to be a true witness of Christ, gives an indelible spiritual mark, "character," or seal of the Holy Spirit, clothing us with power to be Christ's witness.
- know the essentials of the Rite of Confirmation: renewal of baptismal promises, anointing with Sacred Chrism, laying on of hands, inquiry by bishop.

Eucharist

The students will:

- know that the Eucharist is both the sacrament of our salvation accomplished by Christ on the cross and also a sacrifice of praise in thanksgiving for the work of creation (sacrament and sacrifice). (CCC #1359)
- understand that the ultimate fruit of the Eucharist is the unity of the Body of Christ.
- know that the Eucharist makes sacramentally present Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- know Scripture stories that relate to the Eucharist.; e.g., The Acts of the Apostles.
- know that in the Eucharist, the substance of the bread and wine is transformed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ; this is called transubstantiation. (CCC #1374-76, 1413)
- know that, in the distribution of Holy Communion, the ordinary ministers of the Eucharist are the priest and the deacon. Some members of the church community may serve as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.
- know that the proper preparation for receiving Holy Communion includes: one hour fasting from food, an attitude of respect; e.g., folding hands, focusing on who it is we are going to receive, making a gesture of reverence, not chewing gum or candy.
- know that when we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, our love for others increases and the Church community is strengthened.

SACRAMENTS OF HEALING, RECONCILIATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Reconciliation

The students will:

- know the effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: forgives sin, reconciles us with God and the community, increases grace and charity, increases self-knowledge and strengthens the will.
- know that for the faithful, "individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church." (CCC #1484, 1497)

The Anointing of the Sick

The students will:

- know the effects of the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick: the first grace of this sacrament is the gift of the Holy Spirit which brings comfort, strength, forgiveness and healing; union with the suffering of Christ which gives suffering a new meaning; those who receive this sacrament contribute to the good of the people of God; this sacrament could be a preparation for the final journey.

SACRAMENTS OF VOCATION (SACRAMENTS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION): HOLY ORDERS AND MATRIMONY

Holy Orders (cf. "Vocation Chart" handout #1 and "I Can Find My Way" handout #2)

The students will:

- define Holy Orders as a call to men to serve the whole church as bishops, priests and deacons.
- know some Scripture stories that relate to the Sacrament of Holy Orders; e.g., Mt. 10: 1-8.
- know the signs and symbols of Holy Orders: oil (Sacred Chrism), stole, laying on of hands.
- know that only a bishop can confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- know the difference between a diocesan priest and an "order" priest such as a Jesuit, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, Redemptorist, etc.
- know that "the Church confers the sacrament of Holy Orders only on baptized men whose suitability for the exercise of the ministry has been duly recognized." (CCC #1577, 1598)
- know the effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders: configures the recipient to Christ by a special grace of the Holy Spirit to serve as Christ's instrument for the Church, confers an indelible spiritual character as in Baptism and Confirmation, and empowers recipients to teach, to lead (build community), and to sanctify.
- know that called by God and the Church, priests are ordained for service as co-workers with the bishop in serving the Catholic community. (CCC #1551, 1562, 1578)
- know the three degrees of Holy Orders: bishop, priest, and deacon.

- distinguish between the permanent and the transitional diaconate.
- know that priests remain celibate for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. (CCC #1579,1599); however, a few Latin-rite priests are married (usually minister-converts from another denomination).
- know the effects of the Rite of Holy Orders: increases friendship with God, confers the special powers of the order received, indelibly marks the person and gives special graces enabling recipients to lead, teach and sanctify people.

Matrimony (cf. “Vocation Chart” handout #1)

The students will:

- know that Matrimony is a covenant by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love.
- know some Scripture stories that relate to the Sacrament of Matrimony; e.g., Gen. 1:27-28.
- understand the meaning of the wedding vows as a bond between the spouses which is perpetual and exclusive.
- know that, in the Roman Church, the bride and groom are themselves the ministers of the sacrament.
- know the official witnesses of Matrimony are normally the priest or deacon, and two others.
- know that Christ is present in the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony to enable the couple to live out their vocation. (CCC #1615, 1641-42, 1648)
- know that Jesus taught that Matrimony is permanent and cannot be dissolved; the Church cannot change that teaching. (CCC #1640)
- know that, by its very nature, Matrimony is established for the good of the couple as well as the creation and education of children. (CCC #1643, 1652-53)
- know that persons who are divorced and remarried without an annulment are not excluded from the Church but cannot receive Holy Communion. (CCC #1665)
- know that the Christian home is the place where children receive

the first education in the faith. For this reason the family home is called the “domestic church,” a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian love.

- know the essentials of the Rite of Matrimony: the marriage covenant of the bride and groom to give themselves permanently to each other in the presence of the priest or deacon and the Church community.
- know the effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony: increases friendship with God, entitles the married couple to special graces, unites husband and wife with each other in Christ indissolubly, makes the couple a sign of God’s love.