

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN AGE 7 AND OLDER**

For children who are seven years of age and over, there is a different preparation for Baptism than for an infant or a younger child.

A child who is seven and older has attained what the Church calls "the age of reason". Unlike a baby or younger child, a child of this age can learn about what the sacraments mean and can be prepared for receiving the sacrament. An infant is baptized through the faith of its parents. An older child can learn and profess faith for themselves.

In the Catholic Church there are three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (Holy Communion). While Baptism does make a child Catholic, they are not fully initiated into the faith until they have received all three sacraments. Once a child who is not baptized reaches the age of reason, they can be prepared for all three sacraments of initiation which will be celebrated at the same Mass.

The process begins in the fall with one-hour weekly classes on Thursday evenings that the child and a parent attend. These weekly sessions wrap up in mid-December. Beginning in January, the child and parent will attend the classes for Confirmation and First Holy Communion with the other children of the parish who are already baptized and preparing for these sacraments. These classes are held following the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays (not every Sunday).

The children will receive all three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil (the Saturday night Mass of the Easter weekend). They will be baptized and then receive Confirmation immediately after followed by Holy Communion with the rest of the congregation.

If you have questions about the process or require more information, please contact our Pastoral Assistant, Val Magnuson, at 306-924-2602.