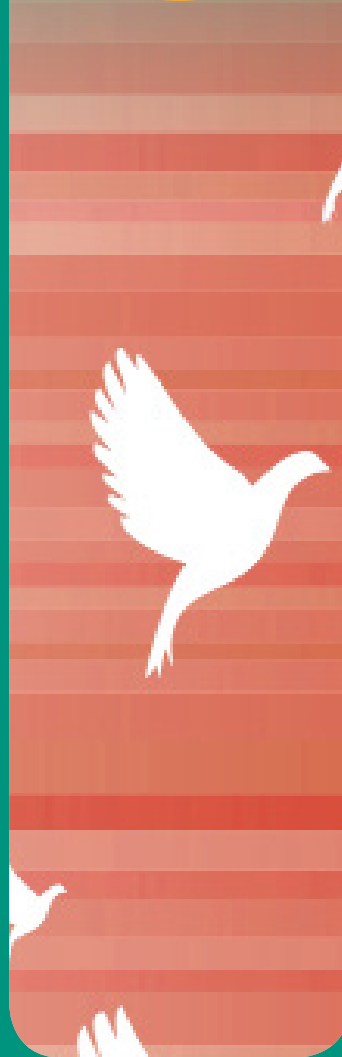
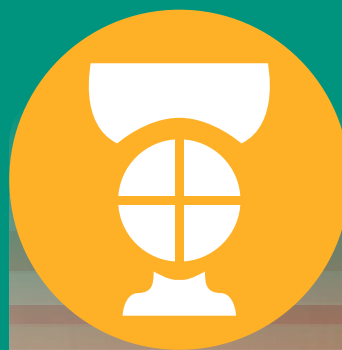
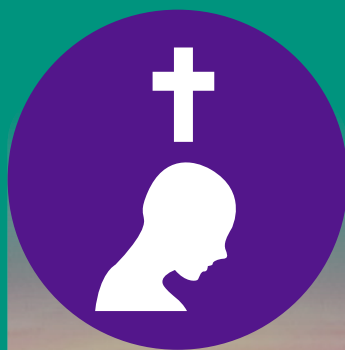


STANDARDS for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

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Updated June 2016



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments (Standards) in the Archdiocese of Edmonton are the result of the Sacramental Education Initiative set forth by the Archdiocese and the Catholic school board chairs and superintendents. The Standards have been developed after four years of wide consultation with priests of the Archdiocese, pastoral assistants, religious consultants, parents, principals and teachers in our Catholic school divisions. I thank everyone for their honest and helpful input.

The Standards provide pastors, pastoral assistants and catechists of the Archdiocese with a framework for preparing children and youth for the sacraments. The Standards are intended to harmonize the preparation practices in parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

Preparing for the sacraments is an occasion for evangelization and for sharing the joy of being in a close personal relationship with Christ. Preparing children for the sacraments is a Christian initiation ministry. Everyone involved must prepare accordingly. Everyone includes all Christ's faithful in the parish, the children, their parents and sponsors, and all staff of the Catholic school. It is an opportunity to help everyone grow in their faith. These Standards are meant to be supportive and not burdensome for anyone involved.

Families, parishes and Catholic schools each have a specific role in preparing children and youth for the sacraments and will emerge from the process as apprentices in authentic missionary discipleship. They will continue the journey together.

In June 2016, the Standards were promulgated (officially proclaimed). Parishes and their associated schools are to adopt these Standards and apply them in their planning. Pastors will assure that the spirit and content of these Standards are embraced and that parish practice will reflect these Standards.

May our collaborative efforts help children and youth enter into a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ and grow in their commitment to his Church. May their discipleship journey be a full, active, conscious participation in the life of the Church through regular reception of the sacraments and through service.

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

Overview



Mission Statement

The Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments in the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton are the result of the Sacramental Education Initiative (SEI) established by the Archbishop and Catholic school board chairs and superintendents. The aim of the Sacramental Education Initiative is threefold:

- to ensure that sacraments are pivotal life-changing events for all Catholic children and their families,
- to awaken them to lifelong and self-directed deepening of their Catholic faith, and
- to start them on the road to being authentic missionary disciples.

Goals

The goals of the Sacramental Education Initiative within lifelong catechesis:

- harmonize sacramental education and preparation across homes, parishes, and Catholic schools in the Archdiocese
- engage the entire parish community in fully initiating its members by:
 - parents actively engaged in sacramental preparation at home and in the parish
 - Catholic schools actively engaged by deliberately connecting sacraments with the curriculum
 - parish and school leaders actively engaged through bi-monthly meetings to collaborate on sacramental preparation
 - parishes actively engaged through involving all of the baptized in becoming authentic missionary disciples

Overview

Objectives

The objectives of the Sacramental Education Initiative:

- carry out a coherent sacramental education and preparation process.
- cultivate effective parish, school, and parent communication strategies.

The Christian faithful have the right to receive assistance from the sacred pastors out of the spiritual goods of the Church, especially the word of God and the sacraments. (Canon 213)

Introduction

The sacraments are pivotal and meaningful events in a person's journey of faith. Preparing and celebrating the sacraments deepen the faith of children and youth, and of the families, those involved in preparing them—including the sponsors—the Catholic school community and all Christ's faithful in a given territory (parish).

These Standards set forth a harmonized sacramental preparation process among the parishes of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. The process will ensure that this important time in faith formation is embraced, and that everyone involved benefits from its richness. Families and school staff may not always worship at the same parish associated with the school, but a harmonized process will enable the schools to provide information to parents, guiding them to their own parish for sacramental preparation. Families move, pastors are assigned to different parishes, catechists change, and teachers take on different roles. A harmonized process will be of assistance in these transitions and ensure that when changes occur, the value, relevance, and content of catechesis remains.

A coordinated sacramental preparation process acknowledges the special roles of:

- parents as the primary teachers of faith for their children
- parishes as the church community where sacraments are celebrated and lived, and
- Catholic schools as a special venue for religious formation and education.

Each sacrament should be seen as an occasion for evangelization, and of sharing the joy of having a close and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Preparing for the sacraments is meant to help everyone grow in their faith:

- children and youth
- parents
- sponsors
- all the baptized in a given territory (parish)
- Catholic school community.

These Standards do not stand alone. They complement the following resources:

- *Canons from the Code of Canon Law (CIC):*
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM
- *General Directory for Catechesis (GDC):*
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_17041998_directory-for-catechesis_en.html
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC):*
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM
- Archdiocesan Policy and Procedures manual:
<http://www.caedm.ca/policy>



Roles and Responsibilities



Roles & Responsibilities

All baptized Catholics have the responsibility to evangelize and to share the joy of being in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and belonging to his Church.

Parents and other Family Members

The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state. (Second Vatican Council, Lumen Gentium, 11)

A child's faith awakening takes place within the family. From the Sacrament of Marriage, parents receive the responsibility—and the grace—to form their child in faith. Sacramental preparation is an opportunity to reignite the spark of faith in families who do not practise regularly, and to sow and nurture seeds of faith within them. Parents want what is best for their children. Nothing surpasses in importance and joy a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the communion of His Church.



Baptism is the beginning and the first of the three sacraments of initiation into full communion with Christ and his Church. During the Baptismal rite, parents promise to raise their children in the Catholic faith. Part of a parent's responsibility includes ensuring that the child is properly disposed (ready in mind and heart) to receive the sacraments.

Parents:

- are called to be authentic living witnesses of faith
- contact the parish to request sacramental preparation
- immerse themselves in the entire preparation process with their child
- help their school-age child or youth prepare adequately
- provide opportunities for themselves and their child to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly

Roles & Responsibilities

Sponsor (Godparent)

Baptism is the sacrament of faith. But faith needs the community of believers. It is only within the faith of the Church that each of the faithful can believe. The faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and mature faith but a beginning that is called to develop. The catechumen or the godparent is asked: "What do you ask of God's Church?" The response is: "Faith!" (CCC, 1253)

Sponsors share a special, spiritual bond with their godchild. They accept the privilege of helping form them in the faith and help their godchild to discover who they are and whose they are. This is a lifelong commitment to a lifelong relationship based on shared Catholic faith. Being a sponsor is a serious responsibility whereby sponsors promise to pray for and witness to their godchild throughout their life. Sponsors are good examples of Catholics who live as authentic witnesses of life in Christ. Sponsors encourage their godchild to live the way of faith, through the reception of the sacraments and through service.



A sponsor must be:

- at least 16 years of age
- baptized Roman Catholic – Latin rite or an Eastern Catholic church (*sui iuris*)
- practising Roman Catholic who has been confirmed and received the Eucharist
- There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each. (Canon 873)

Roles & Responsibilities

Sponsor (Godparent continued)

Sponsors:

- receive instruction on the meaning of the sacrament
- participate in the preparation by helping with the work that is sent home, and attending Mass or other preparatory events with the child or youth

...the parents of an infant to be baptized and those who are to undertake the function of sponsor are to be instructed properly on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attached to it. (Canon 851, §2)

If distance prevents sponsors from attending sacramental preparation sessions, they can become involved by:

- understanding the meaning of the sacrament to be received
- participating in preparation session in their own parish
- having conversations with their godchild about the sacrament and the faith
- supporting the family through prayer

Refer to The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton: Policy and Procedure Manual, Policy No. 605-605A for more detail on Selection of a Sponsor (Godparent).

Roles & Responsibilities

Parish / Priest / Pastoral Team

Pastors of souls and other members of the Christian faithful, according to their respective ecclesiastical function, have the duty to take care that those who seek the sacraments are prepared to receive them by proper evangelization and catechetical instruction, attentive to the norms issued by competent authority.

(Canon 843, §2)



Parish communities are the concrete manifestation of the Body of Christ in their particular locale who are called to follow Jesus and walk in His footsteps. Parish pastors and pastoral staff are in a unique position to learn people's stories, their worries, their hopes; their lived reality. This requires respectful and attentive listening as Jesus did. That first encounter is so important. It sets the scene for helping children, parents, and their family meet Jesus and come to know Him.

A warm, welcoming and accepting parish community goes a long way to establishing relationships with the children and parents preparing for the sacraments. Pastors and pastoral staff witness their own intimate relationship with Christ by their words, and actions.

A parish's responsibility is to encourage and support parents in forming their children in faith and to welcome them into full participation in the sacramental life of the Church. The parish ensures that each child receives catechesis that is sensitive to their age, culture, and stage of faith and responds appropriately.

The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. (GDC, 80)

Catechesis has six fundamental tasks: (GDC, 85-86)

- promoting knowledge of the faith
- liturgical education
- moral formation
- formation in prayer
- education for community life
- missionary initiation.

Roles & Responsibilities

Parish / Priest / Pastoral Team (continued)

As the centre for worship in the community, the parish is the place of preparation for and celebration of the sacraments. This sets the tone for children's continued worship and regular reception of the sacraments. The purpose of the initiation sacraments is to enable the child to fully participate in the sacramental life of the parish, especially the weekly Sunday Eucharist, with the parish family. The parish engages families in the life of the parish and prepares children to receive the sacraments. If a family is not participating regularly in parish life, we hope and pray that—in time—the parish will feel like home, providing parents with the confidence and tools necessary to guide their child in the faith.

The parish is responsible for the planning of the celebration of sacraments:

- the liturgy
- who carries out the liturgical ministries
- a reception after the celebration.

Parishes are encouraged to help the children who are receiving the sacraments feel involved. They may exercise ministry appropriate to their age and abilities or may be included in the general intercessions, bulletin announcements, or be given a special gift that will remind them of the sacrament received.

Liturgical actions are not private actions but celebrations of the Church itself which is the sacrament of unity, that is, a holy people gathered and ordered under the bishops. Liturgical actions therefore belong to the whole body of the Church and manifest and affect it; they touch its individual members in different ways, however, according to the diversity of orders, functions, and actual participation. (Canon 837, §1)

The parish is where we encounter Jesus Christ present in the:

- Blessed Sacrament (Eucharist)
- Word of God
- sacraments
- priest
- assembly.

The parish is the centre of worship where the community gathers together families whose children:

- attend Catholic schools
- are home-schooled
- attend private, public, or alternative schools.

Sacramental preparation and celebration takes place under the direction of the pastor.

Roles & Responsibilities

Pastors:

- guide the pastoral team / catechists in developing a process that:
 - is informed by the Standards
 - is suitable for the needs of the children and youth
- approve the catechetical materials used in the sessions
- have in mind parishioners who could serve as sponsors for people receiving the sacraments of initiation
- attend sacramental preparation sessions to provide a pastoral presence for the children and their families.

The Pastoral Team:

- builds the process for preparing children and youth that is informed by the Standards
- adapts the process as required for the needs of the child and youth
- consults with the pastor about the approach to take when pastoral complexities are encountered
- offers flexibility and alternatives when families are facing challenges.

Roles & Responsibilities

Catholic School / Principal / Teachers

Among the means to foster education, the Christian faithful are to hold schools in esteem; schools are the principal assistance to parents in fulfilling the function of education. (Canon 796, §1)

Parents register their children in Catholic schools with the understanding that they will receive religious formation and education. Some children may not have received the sacraments because the preparation and celebration of the sacraments take place in the parish. Parents, parishes, and Catholic schools need to collaborate fully and communicate regularly to provide the opportunity for and encourage the reception of the sacraments.

A Catholic school's responsibility is to provide quality religious formation and education to its students.

Religious instruction in schools sows the dynamic seed of the Gospel and seeks to keep in touch with the other elements of the student's knowledge and education; thus the Gospel will impregnate the mentality of the students in the field of their learning, and the harmonization of their culture will be achieved in the light of faith. (GDC, 73)

Principals are the leaders of their schools. They have the privilege of, and the responsibility for nurturing an environment that is Catholic. The stronger the Catholic life of the school, the more easily it can bring students, staff, and families into closer relationship with Christ and help them to live their faith.

Principals:

- ensure that students, families and staff are given every opportunity to encounter Christ and his teachings in:
 - ➡ day-to-day routines
 - ➡ all areas of curriculum
- ensure that the religious education curriculum is taught by teachers trained to do so
- provide faith formation for staff and students.



By virtue of the amount of time spent together in the classroom, teachers have a significant impact on their students. In addition to teaching the faith in religious education classes, teachers also witness to the faith through their words and actions.

It is necessary, therefore, that religious instruction in schools appear as a scholastic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigor as other disciplines. It must present the Christian message and the Christian event with the same seriousness. (GDC, 73)

Teachers:

- proclaim the Good News
- relate the Good News to their students' lives in meaningful ways
- teach the religious education curriculum
- introduce students to the concept of lifelong and self-directed deepening of their Catholic faith
- pray with and for their students
- are familiar with and support the catechesis taking place in the parish and home.

Best Practices for Home, Parish and Catholic School



Best Practices for Home, Parish and Catholic School

This section provides strategies that home, parish and schools can use to make our Catholic identity more visible. These strategies are best accomplished with all parties working together to ensure a vibrant Catholic community and culture.

Parents are the primary teachers of the faith for their children. They want what is best for their children. They want to better understand their role in the faith formation of their children. Families can be members of a parish other than the parish associated with their children's school. For some families, the Catholic school may be the doorway to reconnecting them with the parish.

Catholic schools have a responsibility to those parents who have enrolled their children. Catholic schools need to be very clear about what are the fundamental truths of our faith, and about how to live a faith-filled life. No matter the religious background of the child, parents have sent the child to learn in the environment of a Catholic school. This must be respected and taken seriously.

Catholic schools are associated with a parish. This connection is vital and all efforts to keep this connection healthy are important and worthwhile.

Parishes need to be welcoming, agents of reconciliation, and should feel like home. Through being actively engaged and present in Catholic schools, pastors provide faith formation for the entire community. One fruit of this active engagement and presence is to draw non-practising staff and families back to the parish community and to the regular reception of Sunday Eucharist.

Ingredients for success:

- Parents, pastors, principals (the key leaders) need to be actively involved and committed
- Leaders are living witnesses of faith-filled lives. People need to see the Holy Spirit in action to learn, grow, and be confident in living a faith-filled life
- Providing many opportunities for faith formation—beginning with simple conversations—so that faith talk and action becomes second nature for all Catholic school students and staff
- Parishes and Catholic schools must extend to each other invitations to be part of the respective community, with specific details.

Suggested Strategies for Parents and other Family Members related to:

Parish

- ☐ Register with your parish
- ☐ Attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis
- ☐ Bring your child's sacramental preparation booklet in order to make connections between what they are learning and the Mass
- ☐ Become involved in church and parish life
- ☐ Get to know the people in your parish (pastor, pastoral team, parishioners)
- ☐ Read the weekly bulletin and parish newsletters
- ☐ Discuss and take part in events in your parish (pancake breakfast, social justice projects, fund-raising events)
- ☐ Have your children, under seven years of age, attend the Children's Liturgy
- ☐ Invite your child's godparent(s) to Mass or attend his/her parish on occasion

Sacramental Preparation

- ☐ Celebrate their baptism anniversary and their saint's feast day if they were named after a saint.
- ☐ Make a photo album of each sacrament received and retell the story. Include details like: who was there, what it looked like, how you felt, what it meant to you as a parent, how you celebrated, if anything funny or memorable happened
- ☐ Invite other families over to work on sacramental preparation homework
- ☐ Invite families over to watch recommended videos on the sacraments
- ☐ Include sponsors in sacramental preparation
- ☐ Purchase one of the recommended resources in Appendix A as a gift for your child's celebration of the sacrament

School

- ☐ Enrol your children in Catholic schools
- ☐ Interpret your child's day and their school subjects through the eyes of faith, and discuss it with them
- ☐ Ask specifically about what they learned in religion, and help them apply what they learned at home
- ☐ Work on religion homework together
- ☐ Tell the teacher that your child is preparing for a sacrament and also tell when he/she received it
- ☐ Gather with other families to work on sacramental preparation homework before or after school
- ☐ Attend school celebrations, and school Mass
- ☐ Take part in Catholic Education Sunday activities

Home

- ☐ Name your child after a saint
- ☐ Have ongoing faith dialogue with your children by helping them interpret events and solve problems through the lens of faith. Start with minor issues when they are younger; it will be easier to discuss major issues when they are older
- ☐ Pray together as a family each day
- ☐ Have your children teach you prayers learned at school and incorporate them into home prayer time (mealtime, bedtime)
- ☐ Arrange play dates with friends from the Catholic school and parish
- ☐ Celebrate Feast and Saint days
- ☐ Create a centre of prayer area at home. Include fabric that matches the liturgical season, crucifix, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible, holy water from the church, a living plant, prayers from school
- ☐ Read faith stories on a regular basis (Bible stories, stories about saints)
- ☐ Visit Catholic book stores such as Universal Church Supplies and St. John of God, to discover books to read. See if you can get them at your local library.
- ☐ Download Catholic apps (New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Saints, Rosary) to use as a family
- ☐ Join Catholic social media sites, such as Word on Fire, Dynamic Catholic, Life Teen
- ☐ Subscribe to the Western Catholic Reporter (WCR)
<http://wcr.ab.ca/Subscribe.aspx>
- ☐ Subscribe to Quid Novum, an update of events happening in the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. Read the Family and Life section for events, activities and tips on strengthening family faith. www.caedm.ca/quid-novum

Suggested Strategies for Pastors, Pastoral Teams, and Parishioners related to:

Parish

Open the parish to associated Catholic schools, for example:

- ☐ Host a “welcome back” Mass in September
- ☐ Hold a “teaching Mass” for students and parents
- ☐ Hold a monthly Sunday Mass with the homily applicable to children/youth
- ☐ Offer tours of the church
- ☐ Celebrate Mass for each associated Catholic school on a regular basis
- ☐ Host weekly adoration for staff and students where parishioners attend and pray
- ☐ Invite teachers and administrators to the parish for a meal, a tour or catechesis with hospitality
- ☐ Introduce new or existing families to the parishioners after Mass
- ☐ Provide optional sessions for parents who don’t have confidence teaching their children about their faith
- ☐ After the celebration of the sacraments, host a reception in the church hall (possibly hosted by the CWL or K of C)
- ☐ Invite Catholic school representatives to attend a deanery meeting
- ☐ Send parish directory to the associated Catholic schools
- ☐ Create a parish website. Keep information up to date: Mass times, bulletins, ministries, sacramental preparation, parish events and contact information
- ☐ Create a virtual tour of the parish, post it on your parish website and email it to your associated Catholic schools
- ☐ Stock some of the resources in Appendix A for parents/sponsors to purchase in your bookstore or parish resource areas

Parish Pastoral Council

- ☐ Invite school representatives to serve on Parish Pastoral Councils and share pertinent information with school staff

Website

- ☐ List the schools associated with the parish on parish website
- ☐ For each school, list the school information: name, address, phone and fax number, website, the principal's name and email address

Catholic Education Sunday (First Sunday in November)

Make schools visible:

- ☐ Have students dressed in their school T-shirt and ask them to hand out school items (pens/notepads/ magnets) to the parishioners
- ☐ Have students act as greeters, and join the 'coffee' time after Mass
- ☐ Display school banners and have students carry them in the procession
- ☐ Invite a teacher to give a personal witness about why they teach in a Catholic school
- ☐ Invite a student to give a personal witness about what Catholic education means to him or her
- ☐ Show a school video before or after Mass
- ☐ Have students and teachers serve in the liturgical ministries
- ☐ Have the students sing their school song before or after Mass
- ☐ Introduce the teachers by posting their pictures on a bulletin board with some information about them such as "my home parish is..."

Bulletin

- ☐ Share school information in the parish bulletin, including a section dedicated to school activities and special announcements
- ☐ Provide children with age-appropriate bulletins and activities
- ☐ Email the weekly bulletin to the school

Suggested Strategies for Pastors, Pastoral Teams, and Parishioners related to: (continued)

Evangelizing Youth

- ☐ Establish youth ministry and programs in the parish
- ☐ Involve youth in parish and school liturgies
- ☐ Involve youth in sacramental preparation by sharing their personal experiences, helping with the sessions (drama)
- ☐ Host parish retreat days for young people at parish

Sacramental Preparation

- ☐ Colour-code sacramental preparation brochures so parents with more than one child can easily recognize which one applies to each child
- ☐ Distribute a letter to parents indicating when the preparation for the sacraments is offered. It would be included in the year-end report cards and again at beginning of the school year
- ☐ Print sacramental preparation reminder dates on labels that can be stuck into the agenda students use daily in school
- ☐ Print sacramental preparation reminder dates or Mass times on candy canes at Christmas
- ☐ Attend school Open House, Kindergarten, Meet the Teacher, and Demonstration of Learning events. Bring parish and sacramental preparation information to give to parents. Ensure that a member of parish staff is present to answer any parent questions and to familiarize people with the parish
- ☐ Pastors meet with the administrators on a regular basis to let them know who registered for the sacraments and who received
- ☐ Email sacramental preparation dates to teachers, to be written in the agenda students use daily in school
- ☐ Hold sacramental preparation sessions before or after Mass
- ☐ Include a piece of paper and envelope for children/youth to write prayer requests and put in the collection basket during Mass.

Celebration of Sacrament

- ☐ Adapt the liturgy, music and readings for children
- ☐ Include children in the intercessions in prayer or as readers
- ☐ Invite teachers and parents to exercise liturgical ministries
- ☐ Present the children with a special memento from the parish community after Mass
- ☐ Pose for photos with the children after Mass

School

- ☐ At the beginning of the school year, meet with the principals of associated Catholic schools and share parish information
- ☐ Give schools any paper work that would be helpful to parents, for example, sacramental preparation brochures, magnets with Mass times, parish address, etc.
- ☐ Prepare a schedule for the pastor to visit the schools formally and informally: Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent, Easter, end of the year, etc.
- ☐ Get the name and contact information of the school's religious education contact person
- ☐ Offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at school during Advent and Lent
- ☐ Help schools prepare liturgies in collaboration with the teachers, fielding their questions
- ☐ Participate jointly in social justice projects, choosing organizations that are consistent with Catholic teaching
- ☐ Initiate joint social justice projects for needy families in associated Catholic schools; for example, collecting school supplies during the summer, food items for Thanksgiving, a mitten and coat tree for Christmas, or food items for Easter
- ☐ Write a message "From the Pastor's Pen" to be included in school newsletter
- ☐ Celebrate regular (monthly or bi-monthly) Masses for all teachers at an associated school before or after the school day
- ☐ Collaborate in presenting Faith Development sessions for the staff at the associated Catholic schools at least once a year

Suggested Strategies for Pastors, Pastoral Teams, and Parishioners related to: (continued)

Classroom / Staffroom

- ☐ Schedule regular visits with each classroom
 1. Explain to students about reverence and good conduct during Mass and liturgical celebrations
 2. Share personal stories (childhood, adolescence) or your personal interests (soccer, music, hiking, drawing)
 3. Bring children's books about the Mass or sacraments. Practise reading the stories before 'going live.' Use the sacramental preparation books or ask the classroom teacher to provide alternate readings
 4. Find out topics students are currently studying. For example, Grade 3 classes study India, so a pastor from India could tell stories, bring pictures or teach a game to help them learn about his country
 5. Consider using Skype or email when unable to be at the school in person

Teachers

- ☐ Share contact information with teachers (pastors, pastoral assistants)
- ☐ Invite teachers to be part of the parish sacramental preparation sessions
- ☐ Share the sacramental preparation resources used in the parish with teachers
- ☐ Collaborate on bridging the parish sacramental preparation program with the school's religious instruction
- ☐ Make yourself available for leading faith formation or reflections for teachers during a staff meeting
- ☐ Model faith dialogue with students during classroom visits
- ☐ If possible, follow up with children who received their First Eucharist when they are 11-12 years old to register for Confirmation

Suggested Strategies for Principals related to:

Parish

- ☐ Invite the pastor or pastoral assistant to Meet the Teacher night and introduce them
- ☐ Allow the pastor or pastoral assistant to talk about the parish and sacramental preparation
- ☐ Invite the pastor or pastoral assistant to have a booth set up at the school for Demonstration of Learning or Open House (including Kindergarten); these can be events when parents can come and ask about sacramental preparation or other ministries in the parish
- ☐ Create a shared calendar of all associated Catholic school events with the parish so the pastor and staff can see what is coming up; extend a personal invitation to all of the important events
- ☐ Write “Telling our Story” school updates for parish bulletin

K of C, CWL or other Catholic Organizations

- ☐ Encourage members of the K of C, CWL and other Catholic organizations to be present in Catholic schools. For example, K of C could host the Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast, CWL could offer annual scholarships, or give rosaries to the students

Evangelizing Youth

- ☐ Invite young people from the parish to talk to students about the youth programs offered in the parish
- ☐ Invite the pastoral team to provide a retreat for students
- ☐ Focus on the patron saint or namesake of the school as an inspirational example of a person who lived their life as an authentic missionary disciple; have someone dress up as the saint and visit the school on feast day

School Council

- ☐ Invite a parish representative to serve on School Council
- ☐ Ensure minutes of School Council meetings are shared with the parish

Suggested Strategies for Principals related to (continued):

School Staff

- ☐ Get the staff to look at the sacramental data of their students so they are aware of their students' sacramental journey
- ☐ Make staff aware of *The Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments*
- ☐ Regularly invite pastors and pastoral staff to share information at school staff meetings
- ☐ Be mindful of the liturgical seasons when planning school events; for example, try to avoid special lunches or dances during Lent
- ☐ Foster faith formation and faith dialogue among staff members and at school meetings; for example, *Encountering Jesus, the Living Word*
- ☐ Subscribe to the Western Catholic Reporter (WCR) and leave the subscription in the staff room <http://wcr.ab.ca/Subscribe.aspx>
- ☐ Share parish and archdiocesan faith events or faith formation opportunities for adults/parents
- ☐ Work with parish on developing a Theology on Tap for teachers
- ☐ Hold a staff retreat at Newman Theological College
- ☐ Include information on the Sunday gospel in the morning news
- ☐ Incorporate some church music that connects with the Mass in choir and religious education classes
- ☐ Encourage teachers to pray with school teams (sports, clubs) before and after events. For example, a volleyball coach could lead prayer with team before and after games.

Website / Newsletters

- ☐ Keep parish information current: name, address, phone and fax numbers, email address, website, the pastor's name, regular Mass times, sacramental preparation information and parish bulletins on the school website
- ☐ Recognize teachers' involvement in the parish community and volunteer work, explaining how it connects to being an authentic missionary disciple
- ☐ Place a copy of the parish's bulletin in the staff room or other area visible to teachers

Bulletin Board

- ☐ Set up a parish bulletin board in a high-traffic area of the school:
 - Display a picture of the parish and information on parish activities
 - Post pictures of students receiving sacraments
 - Display student work completed at the parish
 - Display the pastor's picture and information about him
 - Post information shared from priest's visits (Q & A)
 - Designate a student, parent volunteer or staff member to update the bulletin board
- ☐ Create an area near the office that holds brochures, bulletins and information specific to the parish
- ☐ Use a television or screen to showcase school and parish events throughout the day

Assembly / Messages

- ☐ Review with everyone the importance of reverence and reasons for modest dress during Mass
- ☐ Before attending Mass, review the parts of the liturgy, both in class and school-wide, so that those who do not attend Church regularly understand what is happening
- ☐ During assemblies and announcements, recognize with gratitude and joy those who have received the sacraments, reminding students about what gifts they received and why it matters in their lives
- ☐ Share parish information on the morning announcements
- ☐ Teach the students about the patron saint of the parish and about the person after whom the school is named, make connections between those people and how to live an authentic life as a missionary disciple
- ☐ End assembly or message with a brief litany of saints including patron saint of school
 - Leader says: St. School name
 - Students and staff respond: Pray for us

Suggested Strategies for Principals related to (continued):

Pastor / Pastoral Team / Seminarian

- ☐ Recognize his baptism or ordination by sharing interesting facts about him during morning announcements
- ☐ Invite the pastor to a staff potluck luncheon or out to lunch
- ☐ Encourage students to make cards for the pastor on the anniversary of his baptism and ordination
- ☐ Include the parish and pastor on the school's email distribution list
- ☐ Invite the pastor and pastoral team to attend division-wide faith days
- ☐ Invite the pastor to lead sports teams in prayer before and after games (also for various school groups or clubs)
- ☐ Adopt a seminarian: pray for him, invite him to the school to share his story <http://caedm.ca/vocations/pray>

Faith Hallway

- ☐ Have each teacher create a poster introducing themselves to the parish community. Include their home parish. The poster relates to their Sacramental Life Plan also called Professional Growth Plan
- ☐ Include the two goals stating how they promote Catholic identity within their classroom
- ☐ Have teachers identify one sacramental life goal and one community/parish goal
- ☐ Post each teacher's poster in a 'faith hallway'

Suggested Strategies for Teachers related to:

Parish Celebration of the Sacrament(s)

- ☐ Distribute district congratulatory cards that the parish will give to the parents of newly baptized children. Congratulate them and indicate that your school district hopes to work together in forming the faith that began with this sacrament. Include your contact information, district logo and possibly list of schools.
- ☐ Present the children with a certificate and special memento from the school district
- ☐ Have at least one school staff member present at the celebration of the sacraments at the church
- ☐ Encourage teachers to attend the celebration
- ☐ Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation yearly during Advent and Lent

Parish

- ☐ Become involved in a liturgical ministry at your parish; for example, those who have received training as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist can distribute communion at school Masses
- ☐ Become involved in the sacramental preparation process at the parish
- ☐ Whenever possible, be present at the church when students in your class receive the sacraments
- ☐ Get the contact information of the sacramental preparation coordinator and communicate regularly
- ☐ Learn what sacramental preparation is taking place at the parish and make connections in class
- ☐ Teach the parts of the Mass, How to Act in Church, give a virtual tour of the parish and then take your students to Mass
- ☐ Come to sacramental preparation sessions; especially the registration nights. Families will be welcomed by a familiar face. Hand out name-tags and be aware of who might be missing

Suggested Strategies for Teachers related to (continued):

Classroom Virtual Classroom / Newsletter / Supply List

- ☐ Include sacramental preparation information in your presentation and handouts to parents during events such as Open Houses and Meet the Teacher
- ☐ Have sacramental preparation information, such as pamphlets or flyers from the parish, available to share with parents during Demonstration of Learning or parent-teacher interview settings
- ☐ Make the parish display/kiosk a centre during the Demonstration of Learning
- ☐ Send regular reminders of upcoming information, registration and sacramental preparation sessions on virtual classroom, newsletter, email correspondence, pamphlets from the parish and in agenda. The more often parents hear the information in different ways, the more likely they are to respond to it
- ☐ Post parish information on your virtual classroom
- ☐ Post Catholic facts, websites and phone apps on your virtual classroom
- ☐ Add the Bible that was given during the Grade 4 celebration to the supply list for the subsequent grades (5-12)

Classroom

- ☐ Have classroom celebrations on a regular basis
- ☐ Make celebration time sacred so the students know it is different from regular class
- ☐ Include a procession with students carrying symbols to place on the prayer table
- ☐ Teach different forms of prayer

Curriculum

- ☐ Make deliberate and intentional connections between what students are learning and what they will see at church. For example, “When you go to Church on Sunday you will see this. Look for this when you are at Mass....”
- ☐ Talk about forgiveness and the sacrament of Reconciliation when conflicts occur between students
- ☐ Use the sacramental preparation resources as part of your guided reading or literacy program
- ☐ Encourage students to share pictures and mementos after the reception of a sacrament
- ☐ Encourage students to write persuasive pieces about their understanding and experience of Confirmation, and share with students who will receive the following year
- ☐ Videotape the testimonies (bullet above)
- ☐ Engage students in religious dramas, reader’s theatre or creating a cartoon that retells a story about a sacrament; for example, Jonah and the Whale for Reconciliation, the Last Supper for Eucharist, and Pentecost for Confirmation
- ☐ Hold a Grade 6 Service Project Fair so that all students can learn about the service projects each Grade 6 student took part in for Confirmation preparation
- ☐ Hold a Career Fair, include various ministries from the parish and link it to vocations
- ☐ Read Bible stories as part of morning routine
- ☐ Have students share their own prayers for morning announcements
- ☐ Use The Western Catholic Reporter <http://wcr.ab.ca.aspx>
- ☐ Create Christmas or Easter cards for parishioners (especially shut-ins)
- ☐ Reserve one class bulletin board for religion

Suggested Strategies for Teachers related to (continued):

Parents

- ☐ *The Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* teacher resource has a feature called “At Home with Family”. Use this tool to communicate to parents what is learned in class.
- ☐ When you notice a particular student is captivated by a lesson, eager to go to church or to receive the sacraments, share this with their parents. Offer to help them sign up or obtain information about the sacraments. Make the most of every opportunity to let the parents know how their child is learning about his/her faith. Provide parents with brochures. This could take place as a follow-up during a reporting period.
- ☐ Send home religion journals on a regular basis for children to share what they learn with their families
- ☐ Send home helpful strategies, websites and phone apps to assist parents with the faith formation of their child

Parishes *without* and *with* Associated Catholic Schools



Parishes without Associated Catholic Schools



In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, some parish communities do not have Catholic schools. The parish and families need to collaborate to ensure children and youth are prepared for the sacraments. The Standards can be applied to parishes and families. Each parish will have to implement the Standards in accordance with their capacity and resources.

Parents and parishes need to work *together* to prepare and celebrate the sacraments. Communication needs to be open and ongoing.

1. The **family's responsibility** is to foster their child's faith and raise them in a way of life that reflects Catholic teaching and practices. Children benefit most by witnessing their family's faith in action. The essential means by which family can be a witness is by frequently receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.
2. The **parish's responsibility** is to provide an excellent, well-founded sacramental preparation process and celebration. The process and experience offered should aim to strengthen the family's desire to continue in communion with the parish community. The process used in the parish should create situations and experiences that enable the child or youth to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to identify with and feel welcome within the parish community.

Parishes without Catholic schools collaborate with parents to offer catechesis based on the religious education curriculum taught in Catholic schools. This religious education strengthens the child's understanding of and reverence for the sacraments.

How Parishes without Associated Catholic Schools use the Standards

The process for parishes without associated schools

1. Pastor and sacramental preparation team meet regularly
 - hour-long bi-monthly meetings to set goals and carry them through
 - use agendas in Appendix B
 - meet every second month, four to five times a year
2. Pastor and sacramental preparation team set goals
 - each team focuses on one or two aspects of sacramental preparation
 - each team works on an initiative applicable to their own situation
3. Follows the Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments
 - pastor and sacramental preparation team work within parameters of the Standards
 - each year, pastor and sacramental preparation team review the Standards to come to a common understanding of the sacramental preparation process

Pastor and Pastoral Assistant Bi-Monthly Meetings

The pastor and the pastoral assistant make up the core of the collaboration team. Other team members could include catechists and parents. Every collaboration team will be slightly different and will start at a different place depending on the relationship that exists at the beginning of the collaboration.

This team will use the agendas in Appendix B.

Parishes with Associated Catholic Schools



Every Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Edmonton is associated with a parish. The makeup of these groups varies. For example, a parish may have four elementary schools associated with it. A different parish may have one elementary school and one high school with it. Another parish may have ten different schools associated with it.

The parish and Catholic schools need to collaborate to ensure children and youth are prepared for the sacraments. Since the makeup of parish and Catholic school configurations are not the same, regular bi-monthly meetings of the decision-makers are needed to ensure that no child misses the opportunity to receive the sacraments.

The Standards are to be applied to all parish and Catholic school configurations, and each parish will have to implement the Standards in accordance with their capacity and resources.

Parents, parishes, and Catholic schools need to work *together* to prepare and celebrate the sacraments. Communication needs to be open and ongoing.

1. The **family's responsibility** is to foster their child's faith and raise them in a way of life that reflects Catholic teaching and practices. Children benefit most by witnessing their family's faith in action. The essential means by which family can be a witness is by frequently receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.
2. The **parish's responsibility** is to provide an excellent, well-founded sacramental preparation process and celebration. The process and experience offered should aim to strengthen the family's desire to continue in communion with the parish community. The process used in the parish should create situations and experiences that enable the child or youth to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to identify with and feel welcome within the parish community.
3. The **Catholic school's responsibility** is to partner with both the parents and the parish to enhance the sacramental preparation by providing excellent and meaningful religious education that strengthens the child's understanding of and reverence for the sacraments.

How Parishes and their Associated Catholic Schools work together

The process for parishes with associated schools

1. Pastor and administrators meet regularly
 - hour-long bi-monthly meetings of the decision makers at the parish and school to set goals and carry them through
 - use agendas in Appendix B
 - meet every second month, four to five times a year
2. Priests visit Catholic schools often
 - for both formal (celebrations and special events) and informal visits
 - helps priests feel comfortable within school environment
 - helps staff and students feel comfortable with the priests
3. Pastor and administrators set goals
 - each group focuses on one or two aspects of sacramental preparation
 - each group works on an initiative applicable to their own situation
4. Follows the Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments
 - pastor and administrators work within parameters of the Standards
 - each year, pastor and administrators review the Standards to come to a common understanding of the sacramental preparation process

Pastor-Principal Bi-Monthly Meetings

The pastor and the principals of their associated Catholic schools make up the core of the collaboration team. Other team members could include district religion consultant, chaplain, religion coordinator for the Catholic school, pastoral assistant, and sacramental catechist. Every collaboration team will be slightly different and will start at a different place depending on the relationship that exists at the beginning of the collaboration.

This team will use the agendas in Appendix B.

Bi - Monthly Meetings



Bi-Monthly Meetings

Parishes without and with associated Catholic schools hold bi-monthly meetings. Every collaboration team will be slightly different and start at a different place depending on the relationship that exists at the beginning.

Before anything else:

- Know the reality of the children eligible for the sacraments this year. This data is obtained from:
 - ➔ Parish sacramental data
 - ➔ Catholic school registration records
- Ensure that your language always focuses on the sacrament as another stage in a lifelong relationship with Jesus and his Church.
- Link each sacrament to the life and unity of the Eucharistic table; to the mission Jesus gave us to serve others in His name and to witness to God's reign.

First steps first:

- Based on your current reality, discuss and decide which aspect(s) of preparing children for sacraments you will focus on for the upcoming year.
- Using the Standards, build a consensus about the roles of
 - ➔ parents
 - ➔ pastor
 - ➔ parish staff and catechists
 - ➔ school principal
 - ➔ school teachers.
- The parish outlines to the school the preparation process that has been used until now. Together the collaboration team discusses whether any changes need to be made considering the age, culture and lived reality of the children and families.
- The Catholic school outlines to the parish what is covered in the religious education curriculum for each sacrament. The religion curriculum is based on the developmental age of the child, the liturgical year, and Scripture. The truths of the faith are revisited each school year in ever-deepening ways.

Bi-Monthly Meetings (continued)

- Share with each other the resources used and discuss how and where they interconnect. See:
 - Recommended Resource for Parishes Preparing Children and Youth for (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation) in each section
 - Appendix A for resources recommended by the Archdiocese.
 - Appendix D for an outline of linkages in the curriculum to the sacraments.
- Discuss what type of information and level of language is needed to provide both age-appropriate and culturally appropriate catechesis.
- Share insights about the background of the children (economic and cultural) that will help prepare them appropriately.
- Determine how to help the adults (parents, parish and Catholic school staff) in this community be authentic witnesses of a lived faith.
- Decide what formation is in place for the parents and sponsors.
- Discuss whether certain families need help finding a sponsor and who in the parish may be willing to step in.

Next steps:

- Discuss how personal invitations and information is sent to families and how children who want to receive the sacraments are not missed.
- Decide what approach to take with children who are not yet baptized. Discuss various methods for students in elementary, junior high, and senior high grades.
- Determine how to reach out to families that we don't see regularly in our parish community. Discuss ways to welcome them back into parish life and regular reception of the Eucharist.
- Discuss which services already offered by the parish might be helpful to these families. Brainstorm how to tell families about those services.
- Continually work to improve and strengthen the relationship between parish and school. Help the parish staff feel welcome at the school, and the Catholic school staff feel welcome at the parish.

Involve God's people!

- Tell the people of the parish and school communities what is taking place.
- Invite all the baptized of the community (known as lay people or parishioners) to be involved in this effort. Invite them to pray, to help with the preparation of children, to be welcoming to new faces on Sundays, to be available as sponsors, and to become involved in parish community life.

Agenda for Bi-Monthly Meetings



Background

Use the following as a guide when the pastor and principals meet.

Ingredients for Success

1. Ensure pastor and principals meet in person at all the meetings.
2. Hold meetings at least every second month, four or five times a year.
3. Keep dialogue respectful and directed toward working together to achieve solutions.
4. Assess how collaboration is going.
5. Review.

Target Areas for Dialogue

Discuss:

- how to ensure that no child or youth misses an opportunity to prepare for and receive sacraments
- which children are able to receive the sacraments and how to appropriately reach out to them. This data comes from:
 - ➡ Parish sacramental data
 - ➡ the Catholic school registration records
- how the process of preparing children for sacraments in the parish and the religious instruction in schools is in line with *the Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments*
- sacramental focus (a specific area chosen by the pastor and principals to work on together)
- pastor visits:
 - ➡ update on previous visits
 - ➡ schedule new visits

Sample Prayer for Bi-Monthly Meetings



The Catechist's Prayer

Lord, you have called us to serve your people through catechesis teaching and sharing our faith.

Help us to give this work completely to you.

Please empty us of all that would get in the way of what you want to teach your people.

Speak through us as we talk to people about you.

Help us to be open to what you would have us do.

We pray for each person that he or she will hear what you want him or her to hear.

Help each one to grow in faith, knowledge, and understanding.

Help all of us to give you glory in all we say and do.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Office of Catechesis

The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

Bi-Monthly Meeting - Sample Agenda

August - September

Time

Location

Agenda

Time	Topic
5 Min	Opening Prayer
10 Min	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each person introduces themselves and gives background information about his/her place of work• Pastor: demographics of parish and background of pastoral staff• Principal: demographics of school, information about staff
15 Min	<i>Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the Standards binder: review the Overview, Roles and Responsibilities, and Best Practices for Home, Parish, and Catholic Schools.• Discuss how these connect with what you are currently doing and ideas for moving forward.• Discuss how you will share this information from the sections with your parents, catechists, parishioners, and teaching staff

continued

Bi-Monthly Meeting continued

Time	Topic
15 Min	<p>Sacramental focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parishes bring sacramental data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor: Which children were baptized seven years ago and are of age to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist? Which children received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist four years ago and are of age to receive Confirmation? Schools bring registration data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principals: Do you know which students are baptized? Which students have baptized parents but are not themselves baptized? Do you see any trends? <p>Based on the needs found in the data shared and using the examples in the Best Practices section of the Standards, what area(s) of sacramental preparation will you focus on this year?</p> <p>Schools send out the letter: Preparing children for the sacraments on school and parish letterhead, to all students at the beginning of each school year.</p>
10 Min	<p>Pastor visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule times Discuss format School Open Houses and Catholic Education Sunday
Next Meeting	Schedule a Time
5 Min	<p>Preparation for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Appendix A: Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments and Appendix D: Linking the sacraments with the curriculum. Parishes bring registration data of those children/youth registered for sacramental preparation <p>Closing Prayer</p>

See Appendix B for sample agendas through the year

Pastor Visits to Catholic Schools



Pastor Visits to Catholic Schools



Children, especially those preparing for the sacraments, very much appreciate a visit by the pastor and the pastoral staff to their classroom. A classroom visit by them is a wonderful way to share the joy of being in an intimate relationship with Christ. For some children, having a pastor visit their classroom will be their first encounter with clergy and someone representing the Church. The intention of having members of the pastoral team in Catholic schools is to strengthen the collaborative relationship between the Catholic school and the parish. It is important that the pastor and the pastoral team feel at home in Catholic schools.

Arranging Visits

Pastors and principals are busy people. Planning is recommended so that the visits can be prepared for and time can be well spent and meaningful. Principals will coordinate these visits at the bi-monthly meetings. Topics will be selected in collaboration between the pastor, principal and teachers. Pastors will contact the school the day before to confirm their visit. Teachers will prepare the children accordingly.

Ingredients for success for pastors:

- Be yourself
- Use language that is simple and easy for the children to understand
 - Make the visit a positive experience
 - When preparing, ask the teacher what language they use for that topic; for example, describing sin as making bad choices that go against the teaching of Jesus

Three ways in which the visits may unfold:

1. Pastor might want to give
 - catechesis on a topic that the pastor chooses
 - catechesis on the sacraments that may not be covered in the curriculum; for example, the Grade 6 curriculum does not include discussion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
2. Teacher might want the pastor to talk about other areas of the curriculum; for example:
 - One of the units in Grade 3 Social Studies is India. If the pastor is from India, invite him to talk about his home country.
 - If the pastor is a soccer player or musician or artist, invite him to share his talents with the students in those areas of study.
3. Students might want to ask questions
 - The pastor will answer questions students may have related to faith, Church and sacraments.
 - Preparation of the students prior to the session will include reflection on the questions so that they are relevant and meaningful.
 - Have the students come up with questions as a class or journal about them.
 - Questions and answers should be posted in an area visible for the school community to see.

Drop-in Visits

If a pastor stops into the classroom for a visit unexpectedly, teachers will:

1. Transition what they are doing and welcome the pastor into the classroom
2. Introduce him to the students
3. Allow him to address the class and join in the present discussion or follow his lead in the discussion
4. Upon his departure, thank him for stopping by and welcome him to stop by again

Arranged Visits

When a pastor comes into the classroom for an arranged visit, teachers will:

1. Communicate the reason for the invitation
2. Outline the topic and time allotment
3. Prepare the students in advance
 - a. Prepare questions
 - b. Instruct the students to individually thank him for coming as they depart
 - c. Have a student prepare a formal thank you
4. Follow up -- send a note of thanks on behalf of the class

Addressing Members of the Clergy



Clergy	Written	Spoken
Transitional Deacon (on way to becoming a priest)	Rev. Mr. (First / Last name)	Deacon (Last name)
Permanent Deacon	Deacon (First / Last name)	Deacon (Last name)
Priest	Rev. (First / Last name)	Father (Last name)
Monsignor	Msgr. (First / Last name) or Right Rev. (First / Last name)	Monsignor (Last name)
Bishop	Most Rev. (First / Last name)	Bishop (Last name) or Your Excellency
Ukrainian Bishop	Most Rev. (First / Last name)	Bishop (First name) or Your Excellency
Archbishop	Most Rev. (First / Last name)	Archbishop (Last name) or Your Grace
Cardinal	Cardinal (First / Last name)	Cardinal (Last name) or Your Eminence
Pope	Pope (First name)	Holy Father or Your Holiness

General Standards



General Standards

The Order the Sacraments are Celebrated in the Archdiocese of Edmonton



Baptism

Reborn as [children] of God, (the baptized) must profess before [all] the faith they have received from God through the Church and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the people of God. (CCC, 1270)

Baptism is the first step to full initiation in the Church. During Baptism, the child receives: God's new life of grace, the Holy Spirit, enters God's family and is freed from the power of sin and evil. Although the inclination to choose our will over God's will remains, we now have the sacramental grace to help us choose God's will.

Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his or her belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark....Given once for all, Baptism cannot be repeated. (CCC, 1272)

The Rite of Baptism for Children is used exclusively for children (infants) under the age of discernment (7 years). The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, adapted for children, is used for children of catechetical age (7 years and older). At fourteen years of age, a youth on their own, may request Baptism or wish to make a Profession of Faith. It would be important to have the support of their parents.

Parents need to contact the parish to request sacramental preparation.

When a child is baptized, the parents promise to raise their child in the Catholic faith. To prepare for the baptism of their child, parents and sponsors are required to complete the process of preparation provided by the parish.

Preparing parents and sponsors for the baptism of each of their children in the parish provides them with support from the faith community and helps them face the challenges of raising their children in the faith.

Sponsors journey with their godchild because of their special spiritual relationship and should be prepared for the responsibility. They accept the lifelong privilege of helping form the faith of their godchild. The sponsor promises before God to undertake this

serious responsibility. Sponsors can show their godchild how to live the faith, through all subsequent sacraments and life events.

These expectations and requirements of parents and sponsors are intended to honour the sanctity of Baptism, and to support them in the fulfillment of their role.

The Baptism certificate is the formal document that attests that the sacrament was received. Parents are encouraged to keep this in a safe place so as to have it readily accessible when needed for future sacraments (Confirmation, First Eucharist, and First Reconciliation). A new copy of their Baptism certificate with notations is required for the sacraments of service (Marriage or Ordination).

Recommended Resources for Parishes Preparing Parents for the Baptism of their child



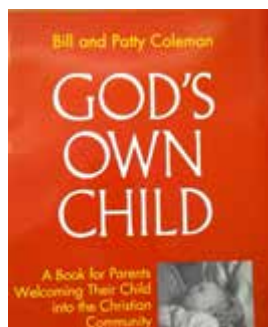
Baptism is a Beginning

Edited by: Rebekah Rojcewicz

Publisher: Liturgy Training Publications

*Bilingual resource in English and Spanish

www.ltp.org/p-1877.aspx



God's own Child

Author(s): Bill and Patty Coleman

Publisher: Twenty Third Publications

<http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/goownchpabo.html>

Online Resources to Supplement the Recommended Resource:

Busted Halo:

Sacraments 101: Baptism (Why we Baptize) which can be found at:

<http://bustedhalo.com/video/baptism>

The Standards:

Refer to Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments (Appendix A).

Refer to Archdiocesan Forms document for a copy of the Baptism of a Child Form and the RCIA adapted for children Form (Appendix C).

First Reconciliation



To receive the salvific remedy of the sacrament of penance, a member of the Christian faithful must be disposed in such a way that, rejecting sins committed and having a purpose of amendment, the person is turned back to God. (Canon 987)

Reconciliation involves the examination of conscience, being sorry for them, true intention to change, the confession of sins, forgiveness of sins, and satisfaction (penance). This sacrament precedes First Eucharist. Both Eucharist and Reconciliation are repeatable sacraments.

When a baptized child has reached the age of discernment (7 years of age), he/she is usually ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

With the completion of the seventh year, however, a minor is presumed to have the use of reason. (Canon 97, §2)

After having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully his or her grave sins at least once a year. (Canon 989)

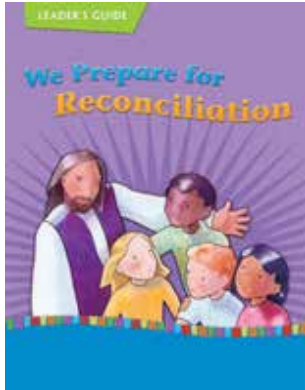
Parents need to contact the parish to request sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation.

To prepare for this sacrament, parents, sponsors, and the child or youth must participate in the process of preparation offered by the parish.

No official record of the celebration of this sacrament is kept. However, the parish may give a certificate that recognizes the completion of the preparation process. This can be signed by those who prepared the children, rather than the priest.

Reconciliation may be postponed if the pastor, in consultation with the parents, feels that the child is not ready.

Recommended Resource for Parishes Preparing Children and Youth for First Reconciliation



We Prepare for Reconciliation & Nous allons vivre la réconciliation

Author(s): Francoise Darcy-Berube & Jean-Paul Berube

Publisher: Novalis (Twenty-Third Publications)

*Available in French

www.novalis.ca/Product.aspx?ids=1252338

Online Resources to Supplement the Recommended Resource:

Busted Halo:

Sacraments 101: Penance (Why we confess) which can be found at:

<http://bustedhalo.com/video/penance-why-we-confess>

Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton website:

Need Help Making a Good Confession? Guidelines for young people from Grade 2 to teens and young adults which can be found at:

<http://caedm.ca/ExamineYourConscience>

The Standards:

Refer to Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments (Appendix A).

First Eucharist



The Christian faithful are to hold the Most Holy Eucharist in highest honor, taking an active part in the celebration... receiving this sacrament most devoutly and frequently, and worshiping it with the highest adoration. In explaining the doctrine about this sacrament, pastors of souls are to teach the faithful diligently... (Canon 898)

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. It is the memorial of Christ's Paschal Sacrifice, in which his one sacrifice, the perfect act of redeeming love is made present for us. It enables us to be in intimate communion with God. Christ's Paschal Sacrifice, his passion and death, was a total gift of self to free humanity from the slavery of sin and gives us the freedom of the children of God. The Eucharist is a repeatable sacrament.

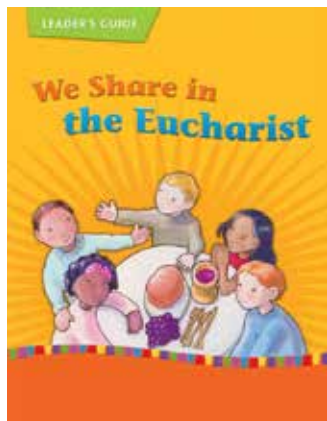
To receive the sacrament, the child should have the desire to receive Jesus and to be able to distinguish between ordinary bread and wine and the Eucharist as the Body and Blood of Jesus. Children who have been baptized and have completed the process of preparation for First Reconciliation are able to receive their First Eucharist. This usually takes place when a child has reached the age of discernment (7 years of age).

Parents need to contact the parish to request sacramental preparation.

To prepare for this sacrament, parents, sponsors, and the child or youth must participate in the process of preparation provided by their parish.

First Eucharist may be postponed if the pastor, in consultation with the parents, feels that the child is not ready.

Recommended Resource for Parishes Preparing Children and Youth for First Eucharist



We Share in the Eucharist & Nous allons vivre pleinement l'eucharistie

Author(s): Francoise Darcy-Berube & Jean-Paul Berube

Publisher: Novalis (Twenty-Third Publications)

*Available in French

www.novalis.ca/Product.aspx?ids=7543921

Online Resources to Supplement the Recommended Resource:

Busted Halo:

Sacraments 101: Eucharist (How we receive) which can be found at:

<http://bustedhalo.com/video/eucharist>

The Standards:

Refer to Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments (Appendix A).

Confirmation



... [Confirmation] renders our bond with the Church more perfect and it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly and never to be ashamed of the cross. (CCC, 1303)

Confirmation completes and perfects the grace received in Baptism, enabling people to be authentic missionary disciples. Candidates receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, council, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord [wonder and awe in God's presence]) to strengthen them and help them to answer the universal call to holiness. This is a lifelong journey.

God is constantly working in every person's life calling them to follow Him. Confirmation provides the grace necessary to help the individual choose God's way. After confirmation, candidates can use this Scripture quote as their motto: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

The young person requires both knowledge and the desire to be confirmed. Confirmation normally takes place when a young person has reached the age of 11-12 years. Some parishes may have too few youth to prepare in a year. They may need to celebrate confirmation every two years instead and combine their youth preparing for confirmation.

Parents need to contact the parish to request sacramental preparation.

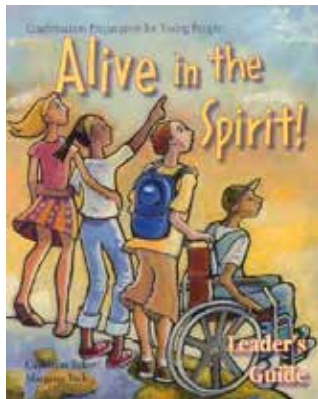
Parents, sponsors, and the youth must participate in the process of preparation provided by the parish. A discipleship model is encouraged as a component of the faith formation. This starts by getting the candidates to share what kinds of things they already do to help others and follow Jesus. Parishes are encouraged to offer new experiences in which candidates can encounter, first-hand, what it means to be authentic missionary disciples, such as learning about the patron saint or namesake of the parish as a person who lived their life as an authentic missionary disciple.

It is recommended that the sponsor chosen at baptism be chosen for the same role in confirmation. (Canon 893, §2)

In the Eastern Catholic Churches, the sacrament of Confirmation is called Chrismation and infants are chrismated immediately after Baptism. They may also receive the Holy Eucharist in that celebration. It needs to be determined which parish these young people attend as it may be necessary to direct them to their Eastern Catholic parish for sacramental preparation. If families worship at a Latin Catholic parish, these young people who are of Eastern rite can still be included in preparation sessions. They can also be included in the celebration itself by being asked to proclaim the Word or bring up the gifts. They would not be confirmed again.

Confirmation may be postponed if the pastor, in consultation with the parents, feels that the young person is not ready.

Recommended Resources for Parishes Preparing Youth for Confirmation



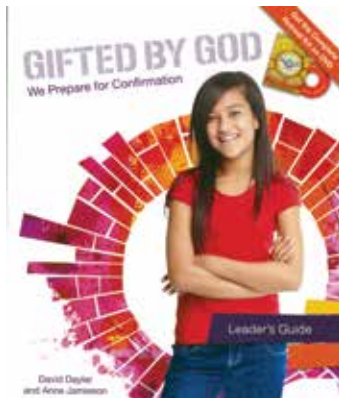
Alive in the Spirit

Author(s): Margaret Bick & Catherine Ecker

Publisher: Novalis (Liturgy Training Publications)

*Not available in French

www.novalis.ca/Product.aspx?ids=946878



Gifted By God

Author(s): David Dayler & Anne Jamieson

Publisher: Novalis (Liturgy Training Publications)

*Not available in French

<http://www.novalis.ca/Product.aspx?ids=7623201>

Online Resources to Supplement the Recommended Resource:

Busted Halo:

Sacraments 101: Confirmation (Why we're confirmed) which can be found at:

<http://bustedhalo.com/video/confirmation-why-were-confirmed>

The Standards:

Refer to Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments (Appendix A).

Refer to Archdiocesan Forms for a copy of the Confirmation Form and Confirmation Liturgy Planning Form (Appendix C).

To Summarize the General Standards to this Point

Baptism incorporates us into Christ and forms us into God's people. By signing us with the gift of the Spirit, Confirmation makes us more completely the image of the Lord and fills us with the Holy Spirit, so that we may bear witness to him before all the world and work to bring the Body of Christ to its fullness as soon as possible. Finally, coming to the table of the Eucharist, we eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man, so that we may have eternal life and show forth the unity of God's people. Thus the three sacraments of Christian initiation closely combine to bring us, the faithful of Christ, to [our] full stature and to enable us to carry out the mission of the entire people of God in the Church and in the world. (Christian Initiation, General Introduction, 2)

Two sacraments of initiation may not be repeated:

- Baptism and Confirmation

Two sacraments are repeatable:

- Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Attending weekly Sunday Mass gives us the food needed to live a Catholic life by nourishing us with:
 - ➡ the Word of the Lord
 - ➡ and the Eucharist (the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ)

Fully initiated Catholics have received the sacraments of:

- Baptism
- Confirmation, and
- Eucharist.

As such, they are called to:

- live as part of the Body of Christ for the life of the world, which sometimes requires great sacrifice
- use their lives in service to one another, fundamentally through our vocations in particular service to one another
- maintain the integrity of the powers of life and love placed in them by God
- show God's love to the world through faith, hope, and love
- share with others the joy of being in a relationship with Christ in word and deed.

Fully initiated Catholics are called to do these things so that they witness to God's kingdom on earth, one day at a time.

... This integrity ensures the unity of the person; it is opposed to any behavior that would impair it. It tolerates neither a double life nor duplicity in speech... (CCC, 2338)

Special Circumstances

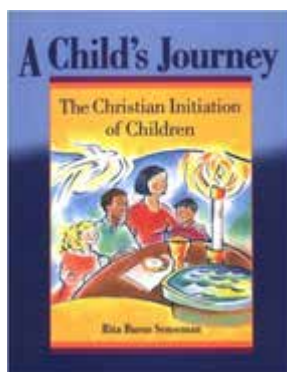
Unbaptized Children or Youth of Catholic Parents

Children who have not been baptized before the age of seven, or who have been baptized in a non-Catholic Christian faith, are to complete sacramental preparation through *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* adapted for children. These children, who have reached catechetical age, will experience and share in a personal, age-appropriate conversion process. Parents, or children, with the support of their parents, may request to begin this process.

Children who prepare for their sacraments in this manner are to receive all three initiation sacraments in one ceremony, normally held at the Easter Vigil.

Refer to Archdiocesan Forms document for a copy of the RCIA adapted for children Form (Appendix C).

Recommended Resource for Parishes Preparing Children through *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* adapted for children



A Child's Journey: The Christian Initiation of Children

Author: Rita Burns Senseman

Publisher: St. Anthony Messenger Press

Ukrainian and Other Eastern Catholic Children or Youth

At one time, a Church *sui iuris* was referred to as a ‘rite’. With the promulgation of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, it is necessary to distinguish between these two terms: a Church ‘*sui iuris*’ and a ‘rite’.

A **church** *sui iuris*, sometimes referred to as an autonomous ritual church, is a distinct community of the faithful which has its own hierarchy, and is competent to legislate for its own members. Even though these churches may differ from one another in rite -- their liturgy, their ecclesiastical discipline, their spiritual tradition, etc.-- they are nonetheless all in communion with the Bishop of Rome (the Pope).

The **Roman Catholic Church** is comprised of 23 distinct churches *sui iuris*. In addition to the **Latin Church**, there are twenty-two **Eastern Catholic Churches** *sui iuris*:

- the Coptic Church and the Ethiopian Church that observe the **Alexandrian rite**
- the Syro-Malankara, Maronite, and Syrian Churches that observe the **Antiochene rite**
- the Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Greek, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Krinevci (Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro), Macedonian, Melkite, Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak, and Ukrainian Churches that follow the **Byzantine (Constantinopolitan) rite**
- the Chaldean and Syro-Malabar Churches that follow the **Chaldean rite**
- the Armenian Church that follows the **Armenian rite**.

Youth baptized in an Eastern Catholic Church *sui iuris* most often have been chrismated as infants and do not need to be confirmed in the Latin rite. It needs to be determined which parish these young people attend as it may be necessary to direct them to their Eastern Catholic parish for sacramental preparation. If families worship at a Latin Catholic parish, these young people who are of Eastern rite can still join their peers in catechetical instruction and be involved in the celebration of Confirmation, for example, by bringing up the Offertory gifts.

Children or Youth of Eastern Christian Churches and other Ecclesial Communions

Children baptized in an Eastern non-Catholic Church (Orthodox) are ascribed to the corresponding Eastern Church *sui iuris* of the Catholic Church after making a Profession of Faith. They will normally already be confirmed, having been chrismated at Baptism.

Children who are validly baptized in a non-Catholic Christian Church or ecclesial community are received into the Catholic Church by making a Profession of Faith. They are to be confirmed and receive the Eucharist immediately following their Profession of Faith. Appropriate preparation is needed prior to reception into the Catholic Church.

Infants or those under seven years of age who are validly baptized enter the Catholic Church ‘by virtue of their parents’ Profession of Faith’.

Children of catechetical age (seven years and over) are prepared in RCIA adapted for children to make a Profession of Faith.

At 14 years of age, a youth on their own may request Baptism or wish to make a Profession of Faith. It would be important to have the support of their parents.

Children with Special Needs

Every Christian community considers those who suffer handicaps, physical or mental, as well as other forms of disability—especially children—as persons particularly beloved of the Lord. A growth in social and ecclesial consciousness, together with undeniable progress in specialized pedagogy, makes it possible for the family and other formative centres to provide adequate catechesis.
(GDC, 189)

Like all children, those with special needs are to receive catechesis adapted to their individual ability. Parents, parish and Catholic schools need to collaborate and present sacramental preparation in an appropriate, individualized manner, enabling the child to grow into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lifelong Growth in Faith

Faith is a gift. It is never forced. Once a person has this gift it can stay as a seed or it can fully flower. Each person is responsible for what he/she does with his/her faith. Children need the guidance of their parents especially at the beginning of this faith journey.

Believing is an act of the intellect [saying yes] to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace. (CCC, 155)

Faith formation is an ongoing, lifelong process. It begins at home—within the family—which is known as the domestic church. Faith is nurtured by the parish (pastors, pastoral team, and parishioners) and the Catholic school (principals, teachers, and fellow students). The whole of our lives is blessed by God. God is with us on the first day of school, when a new sister or brother is born, when grandparents celebrate a milestone anniversary... Life is full of blessings. Important moments in this faith journey include receiving the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and the sacrament of forgiveness (Reconciliation). Every sacrament is an encounter with Christ. Every sacrament is a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to help us on our faith journey.



Preparing children or youth for sacraments reminds families, parishes, and Catholic schools that they are not passive recipients. Rather, they must be active participants in their faith. Sacraments are the life-changing events along the journey, but they are not the stopping places!

Lifelong growth in faith (called formation) around preparing for and receiving sacraments happens two ways: formally, and ongoing in daily life.

Ongoing Formation in Daily Life

- encompasses all the life events that help the person to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

For example:

- Participating regularly in Sunday Mass
- Praying together as a family (at mealtimes, before bedtime)
- Living a Catholic lifestyle appropriate to one's age, culture and stage of faith
- Seeing other family members prepare for and receive the sacraments

- Seeing parents/sponsors involved in liturgical ministries (being a lector, being a Eucharistic Minister)
- Witnessing various celebrations of the sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) in the Church community
- Participating in penitential services during Advent and Lent (Reconciliation)
- Service of the poor and needy
- Attending a Catholic school where religious formation and education takes place
- Participating in parish-based catechesis for those children who are home-schooled or who attend private, public, or alternative schools

Children are hungry for God. Ongoing preparation enables the child to witness others living a life of faith. When children see others fully engaged in their faith, they learn to respect and appreciate the sacraments. It is an ever-evolving process of formation in the faith. Children learn reverence when they witness others speak of and practise their faith through traditions, gestures, prayers, and example. Ongoing preparation is the responsibility—and privilege—of the parents. When parents choose to participate fully in their parish and Catholic school communities, the task of handing on the faith is simplified. When they are part of faith-minded parishes and schools, parents' roles are supported and enhanced.



Formal Formation also known as Sacramental Preparation

- is the process of preparing for the specific sacrament in the parish, strengthened and supported by the Catholic school and lived at home.

It consists of the following:

- Handing on the specific catechesis about the particular sacrament
- Reinforcing the call to a lifelong relationship with Christ
- Encouraging participants through prayer, worship and the regular reception of the Eucharist to live a Catholic lifestyle.

Some examples of supporting and strengthening the preparation include:

- Worshipping at Mass on a regular basis
- Praying together as a family
- Living a Catholic lifestyle appropriate to one's age, culture, and stage of faith
- Participating in sacramental preparation specific to the sacrament being received by:
 - attending a Catholic school where religious formation and education takes place
 - participating in parish-based catechesis for those who are home-schooled or attend private, public, or alternative schools

The formal sacramental preparation in the parish is supported by the religious education curriculum taught in Canadian Catholic schools. For example, the Eucharist is the focus of the Grade 2 curriculum, but it is revisited and strengthened in subsequent years.

Refer to Appendix D: Linking the Sacraments with the Curriculum for more detail on how the Canadian curriculum intersects with sacramental preparation

Formal formation occurs at a specific time in a child's life. Hopefully the preparation will ignite a desire for a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Families, parishes and schools are responsible for nourishing that relationship.

Preparing for Sacraments in the Parish



Ongoing formation for the sacraments happens in families, parishes and Catholic schools. Formal formation, also known as sacramental preparation, for each particular sacrament occurs in the parish.

Given the communal nature of faith and sacramental celebration, preparing children in groups is preferred. An individual child may be prepared in an exceptional circumstance, such as when there are no other children of the same age in the parish. Parents and the pastor make this decision based on the circumstances.

To strengthen sacramental preparation, parishes and their associated Catholic schools need to collaborate. This enables the parents, the parish and the Catholic schools to share gifts and talents as catechists/teachers, teaching strategies, and to use common terminology.

Everyone involved needs to be creative and resourceful while maintaining the integrity of the theology and the liturgical standards.

Preparing in a Group

Journeying alongside peers can be a powerful experience for children and youth. Again, journeying together emphasizes the communal nature of the sacraments. It also puts young people in touch with their peers who are on a similar journey of faith.

Preparing children in a group:

- provides a cohesive and unified catechesis
- facilitates group discussion where questions and concerns can be raised, and wisdom can be shared
- allows for pairs of children to share insights with each other
- enables larger parishes with many candidates to have enough time to complete the preparation.

As catechists, remember to:

- Be creative when delivering sacramental preparation in groups.
- Use time efficiently, as it can be lost in large group settings.
- Take children's unique learning styles and maturity into account.

Each child's readiness to receive the sacrament is based on their own journey of faith, rather than simply by being part of the group. Preparing children for the sacraments puts the child in closer communion with Christ and his faith community.

Preparing Individually

Individual preparation allows a child to continue his or her faith journey at their own pace and according to their maturity or special need. Individual preparation may be suitable for smaller parishes with fewer children preparing to receive a sacrament. It begins at home with the family and includes the sponsor, with instruction overseen by the parish. The parish determines the content of the preparation.

Individual instruction:

- strengthens the bonds between the child and those who help prepare her/him
- accommodates the individual learning style, personal experiences, maturity and special needs of the child

Discerning the individual child's readiness is essential to ensure that the child truly takes responsibility for the reception of the sacrament.

Catechist, parent and sponsor remember to:

- Stress the communal nature of the sacrament.
- Connect with another young child preparing for the same sacrament, where possible, so each child can share his/her journey.

Celebrating the Sacrament



Celebration of the sacraments can be done either as a group or individually.

Celebrating as a group means a group of children receive the sacrament at the same liturgy. It allows children to receive the sacraments with their friends and it highlights the communal aspect of the sacrament.

When only one child in the parish is celebrating a sacrament, the parish and family collaborate to arrange the date and time. The celebration takes place within the parish community and provides an opportunity to invite members of the extended family. It provides an opportunity perhaps to incorporate family customs or traditions (before or after Mass).

Celebrating "Privately"

Sometimes families ask for private celebrations of particular sacraments. All sacramental celebrations, by their very nature, are public and communal. They involve the entire People of God. Private celebrations may be allowed in extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the pastor.

Sensitivity to Family Reality

If a family does not have a strong faith life, children may feel embarrassed since they do not have the necessary support and faith reinforcement in their family life to prepare for the sacraments. Children do not like to feel “singled out.” Catechists need to be sensitive to this reality, and they need to be gentle and inclusive in working with that child. This includes the avoidance of blanket remarks about family situations; for example, telling the group that both parents must attend classes when, in fact, some children have only a single parent.

Sacramental Preparation Process

Information and Registration Session

Sacramental preparation takes place in the parish where the family worships. When children attend a Catholic school whose associated parish is different than **the family's place of worship, the family's parish is responsible to prepare the child.**

Conduct an information session before families register their child in the preparation process.

The information session has six aims:

1. Empower and encourage parents to be the primary educators in faith of their child.
2. Illustrate for parents different ways they can be authentic faith witnesses.
3. Describe the basics of the sacrament to parents and sponsors.
4. Explain the process of preparing children for the sacraments.
5. Outline what is expected from the family and sponsor.
6. Explain the roles and responsibilities of all those involved, including the parish and Catholic school.

Hold more than one information session to ensure that all parents understand the six aims of the process. Base the number of sessions on the number of parents, and the need to accommodate the parents' work schedules.

Information sessions may be held at the:

- parish
- Catholic school or
- other appropriate venue where parents can be reached.

Information sessions may be held wherever parents gather. If held at a Catholic school, another session needs to be provided for those families who home-school or whose children attend public, private or alternative schools. It will need to be determined what is the best venue to gather them together.

Post notices about the information and registration session in:

- the parish website
- parish bulletin
- school website
- school newsletter
- local or community newspaper

Baptism Certificate Required

To register their child for subsequent sacraments, parents must supply a copy of their child's Baptism certificate. If parents are unable to locate the copy they were given at the time of baptism, they should contact the parish where the baptism took place. If they do not know in which parish the baptism took place, parents should contact the appropriate diocesan office to locate the parish.

Contact information for:

- parishes in the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton: <http://www.caedm.ca>
- diocesan offices in Canada can be found at <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/dioceses>
- non-Canadian countries, start the search with the conference of bishops for that country. For example, USCCB for the United States.

Welcoming Mass

Hold a welcoming Mass to begin the formal sacramental preparation process.

The welcoming Mass is an opportunity for:

- children to be presented to the church community
- children to receive a blessing from the priest
- parish community to offer support and prayers for the children and their families

For Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, hold the welcoming Mass on a Sunday. Make use of the time after this Mass to hold the first faith formation session for the sacrament. If parents are working on Sundays, hold the same session again on a night they can attend, or offer an equally acceptable alternative.

Faith Formation

Faith formation includes the religious education at the school specific to the sacrament being received, and the catechetical and faith formation taking place at the parish. The pastor decides the form and length for the latter. For example, the process may include:

- catechetical sessions at the parish
- resources to be used at home
- resource materials to be used in the sessions
- retreats
- a teaching Mass.

Use resources for sacramental preparation approved by the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton to ensure that their suitability, age appropriateness, and theology are sound.

Refer to the Recommended Resources for Parishes Preparing Children and Youth for the specific sacrament you are preparing and Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments. (Appendix A)

When you ask parents to complete work at home, set them up for success. Give specific instruction about how to complete the work before it is sent home. Follow up and answer questions about the homework at the next session. If you ask children to complete work at home, validate it by reviewing it at the next session.

How to Pass on the Faith

The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. (GDC, 80)

Catechists are responsible for sowing the seeds of faith in their students. Catechists try to meet children exactly where they are on their faith journey. They accompany children as children further their understanding and experience of the faith, and especially their relationship with God. The most powerful way catechists sow the seeds of faith is by being authentic living witnesses of their own faith.



Catechesis has many dimensions. To guide catechists in imparting thorough, life-giving catechesis, the *General Directory for Catechesis* lists six tasks. All six aspects of these catechesis tasks must be part of preparing children to receive the sacraments.

Promoting knowledge of the faith

- introducing and deepening knowledge of Scripture and Tradition to help people grasp the whole truth concerning God's saving plan in Jesus Christ

Liturgical education

- bringing about the *“full, conscious and active participation” of the baptized in the Church's liturgical celebration of our life in Christ (GDC, 19)*

Moral formation

- demonstrating how to walk in the footsteps of Christ through a life of conversion in accordance with the teaching of the Beatitudes

Formation in prayer

- experiencing contemplation and prayer, imbued with Christ's own sentiments of adoration, praise, thanksgiving, confidence, supplication, and awe, and flowing from communion with our Lord

Education for community life

- engaging with society through modelling simplicity, humility, a preferential option for the poor, fraternal correction, common prayer, mutual forgiveness, communal love, and ecumenical openness

Missionary initiation

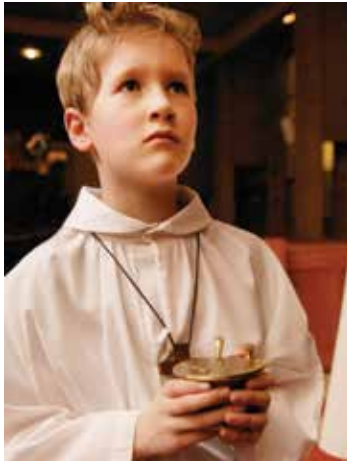
- forming Christian witnesses to bring the Gospel to their professional, cultural and social lives, encouraging vocations, “seeking out the lost sheep,” and dialoguing with people of other faiths

How to Pass on the Faith (continued)

These six tasks are universal. How they are implemented must be adapted to suit the culture, demographics, and circumstances of the children being catechised. Catechesis must be age-appropriate, welcoming, and motivating.

Catechists need to pray regularly and, especially, before each session with children. Catechists must always remember that Jesus Christ is the Teacher; catechists are His disciples leading children to a deeper relationship and intimacy with Him. The Holy Spirit has always gone before us. The catechist's task is to bring to the children's awareness how God has already been active in their lives, and then help lead them to deepen that relationship.

Discerning a Child's Readiness



Everyone involved in preparing the child for the reception of the sacraments—parents, pastors, pastoral team, and teachers—is called to discern the readiness of the child. Discerning the individual child's readiness is essential to make sure that the child truly takes seriously this step in their faith journey.

Preparing children for sacraments is part of a process or a journey; it is not a program. The journey of faith for each person begins at baptism and continues throughout their life.

Children (and adults!) receive sacraments when they are ready, not when they reach a certain age or grade. Most children raised in practising families are ready around seven years of age.

During the preparation for the initiation sacraments, the language used by the pastoral team, the principals, and teachers needs to convey consistently this “readiness” message. The child must have a desire to receive, and willingness to take responsibility for, the sacrament. The pastor or catechist and the child must be in dialogue throughout the sacramental preparation process to appropriately discern a child's readiness.

Discernment is assessed in the following ways:

- an informal dialogue at the beginning of the sacramental preparation process
- child's answers through active participation in the sacramental preparation process
- any work that the child has completed (workbook, community service)
- an informal dialogue at the end of the sacramental preparation process, before the reception of the sacrament.

Initial Dialogue

The catechist needs to speak with the individual child at the beginning of the sacramental preparation process. The catechist must consider where each child is on their faith journey. With this information, the catechist can adapt the information appropriately for the children. One or both parents should be present as observers, so that they support and perhaps learn from the catechist in the faith dialogue with their child(ren). They will also become aware of what knowledge, behaviour, attitudes, and outlooks determine readiness. After the catechist-child discussion, parents will become more aware of issues they may need to talk about with their child. Parents will be partners with the catechist and pastor in determining the child's readiness.

This informal dialogue may take five to 10 minutes and will depend on local realities and pastoral needs. Hold the conversation in a comfortable area, within sight of another adult, and avoid an 'interview format' which might stress the child. Easy conversation should flow during this dialogue.

Possible format for the initial dialogue:

- Listen to the child's story.
- What brings you here today?
- Tell me what you know about God.
- Determine their sacramental/catechetical state
- What do you know about <name the sacrament>?
- How is <name the sacrament> important to you?
- Determine their expectations
- What would you like to learn?
- What do you think you need to do or learn before you are ready for <name the sacrament>?

You must take special care to remember:

- Your task is to be the face of Jesus and to sow seeds of faith; God is responsible for the harvest.
- Be welcoming.
- Understand where the child is on their faith journey.
- Accept the child where they are (not judging based on Mass attendance or family practice).

Discernment throughout the Preparation of Children for the Sacraments

After assessing where the child is on their faith journey, you will discern a child's readiness throughout the preparation process. Usually, you will assess in two ways:

1. By observing the child's participation in the sessions:
 - Are they actively engaging in what is going on?
 - What does their response to questions show?
 - Does their body language and facial expression show interest and comprehension?
2. Looking through any work that the child has engaged in:
 - answers in a workbook
 - undertaking a work of mercy or community service

Remember that each person encounters the world differently. Some are visual, some are kinesthetic (action-oriented), some artistic; some auditory, and so on. Try to engage children in a variety of ways, to allow them to express their deepening relationship with God in a way comfortable for them. Acknowledge work or projects completed at home as well.

Dialogue before the Reception of the Sacrament

A child shows readiness to celebrate the sacrament when they give evidence of the desire to receive, and willingness to take responsibility for, the sacrament.

Children show readiness to celebrate a sacrament when they:

- show a reverence for God
- show signs of a relationship with God and of calling on God in prayer
 - referring actions to Christ
 - praying on their own
 - doing selfless acts
 - expressing doubts
 - showing joy when learning about God
 - desiring to learn more
- have been sufficiently prepared for the sacrament through learning and experiences
- recognize that a sacramental life includes participating in weekly Sunday Mass
- understand how the sacrament will help make sense of their lives

The journey of faith for each person begins at baptism and continues throughout life. God teaches us through the events of our lives. If we learn we can count on God, then we will turn to God again and again, and thus grow deeper in faith.

Possible questions to ask children to assess their readiness:

About changing in heart/mind:

- Tell me about a time you asked God for help?
- Tell me about how you feel about your family.
- Tell me about how you listen to others?
- Can you name a change in how you feel about people who are different from you?

About changing in actions:

- Tell me about a time you forgave someone in your family or school?
- How do you think you are more loving and giving now?

Sufficient understanding of Christian teaching:

- What would you tell a new person about <name the sacrament>?
- If someone made fun of your Catholic beliefs, what would you say to them?
- How do you choose the books, TV shows, and websites you visit?

Parents of young children should observe these conversations, while letting the children speak for themselves. If a child is not yet ready, catechists need to emphasize to parents that their child will be ready one day. Worthiness is not the issue; readiness is. Parents need to be encouraged to continue to talk with their children, and to help assess when the desire, and the willingness to accept responsibility for the sacrament, is truly present.

Delaying Reception of the Sacraments

Sacraments are not normally denied, but they may be delayed, based on the discernment of a child's readiness. Pastors, in consultation with parents, can delay the celebration of a sacrament if they feel the child is not ready, even though they are of age.

Possible dialogue for discussing a delay in the reception of the sacrament

"You parents have been partners in this process. You can also see that <name of child> is not quite ready to receive <name the sacrament>. You and your child want to fully enjoy this experience, understand it, and continue your life journey within the Catholic family. Let's work out a plan/approach to achieve this."

Questions for parents to ask:

Does my child:

- want to know more about Jesus?
- want to receive <name the sacrament>?
- know when they have done something wrong?
- ask for forgiveness?
- understand the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?
- engage in the preparation for their sacrament?
- want to learn more about our faith?

As a parent:

- Do I want my child to know and grow in the Catholic faith?
- Do I want to go to Sunday Mass regularly?
- Do I want my child to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Do I want my child to look at life through a Catholic lens?
- How do I model for my child what is right and wrong?
- What am I doing in our family life to grow my child's faith?
- Do I pray with my child?
- Do we pray together as a family?
- Do I show by my actions that I think preparing my child for <name the sacrament> is important... more important than other activities?

Celebration of the Sacrament

The parish is responsible for all of the planning involved in the celebration of the sacraments:

- the liturgy itself
- who carries out the liturgical ministries
- a gathering after the celebration

The focus of the celebration should be on the sacrament itself. However, parishes are encouraged to help those children receiving the sacraments feel involved and loved. Include them in the general intercessions, bulletin announcements, or give them a special memento.

Minister of the Sacrament

The ordinary minister of baptism is a bishop, presbyter (priest) or a deacon. (Canon 861, §1)

The ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop; a presbyter (priest) provided with this faculty in virtue of universal law or the special grant of the competent authority also confers this sacrament validly. (Canon 882)

The ordinary minister of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation is a bishop or priest. The ordinary minister of the sacrament of Confirmation is the Archbishop or Bishop.

Reverence in Church



To preserve the sanctity of the celebration, the pastor, pastoral assistant, or teachers must instruct young people and parents beforehand, so that expectations are clear. Communicate issues related to decorum forthrightly and sensitively to everyone concerned. For example, you may need to explain that they may not chew gum or bring coffee or other drinks into the church. They should not wear casual headwear, and they should make sure their phones are turned off upon arrival at the church. It may also be helpful to remind them of the Eucharistic fast to be observed prior to Mass.

Fasting One Hour Before Holy Communion

We do not eat food or drink liquids (except water) for one hour before Communion to prepare ourselves for our participation in the Mass and for receiving Communion. As we hunger for food, we also hunger for Christ in the Eucharist.

Chewing Gum

It is considered disrespectful to chew gum in church at any time. If a person were to be chewing gum when receiving Holy Communion pieces of the sacrament would become mixed with the gum and thrown away later. If gum is consumed in the church, it may end up on the pews, carpet or be distracting for those who are praying.

Blessing with Holy Water when Entering and Leaving the Church

At the entrance to every Catholic Church is a holy water font. By dipping our fingers in and making the sign of the cross, we remind ourselves of our baptism; our being part of God's own people. Those who are not baptized may also bless themselves with holy water.

Genuflection Towards the Blessed Sacrament

When we come into a Catholic Church, we recognize the Real Presence of Christ in the Body of Christ, or Blessed Sacrament, which is reserved in the tabernacle. Like a servant before the king, we touch the right knee to the ground, which expresses our humility before God and our submission to God's will. It is an act of reverence towards God. People who have difficulty genuflecting, such as the elderly, may choose to stop and bow deeply instead.

Receiving Holy Communion or a Blessing

When it is time in the celebration of the Eucharist for Holy Communion, only those who have been baptized in the Catholic Church and who are well disposed (not conscious of any serious sins) may receive it. Those who may not be ready can come forward for a blessing, by placing their arm across their heart, or they may remain seated.

Dress

We are daughters and sons of Jesus and should reflect this dignity in our behaviour and dress. Any sacramental celebration is a time of solemnity. Neatness, modesty and simplicity are the goals. Elaborate attire and attention directed solely to clothes detracts from the sacredness of the celebration. All concerned should ensure the child's comfort with the attire chosen as well as respecting varying cultural practices.

NOTE: The stole is a symbol reserved for ordained ministry (deacon, priest, or bishop). It is not appropriate for children or youth to wear a stole in any celebration.

Hats

It is considered disrespectful for people to wear headwear in church except for religious and medical reasons. The bishop wears a mitre for certain celebrations.

Photographs

There is an appropriate time and place to take pictures during Mass. The pastor, pastoral assistant and teachers should clearly communicate those guidelines to all during the preparation. Parents are responsible to make sure that their family members and guests follow the parish's guidelines.

Cell Phones

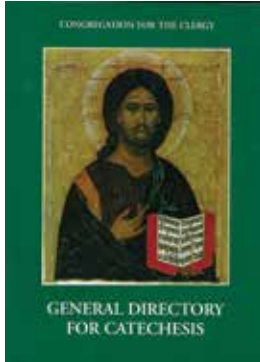
People should be encouraged to turn their cell phones off so they can spend the time talking with God. They are encouraged to set their phones to vibrate if they are on call, or if they are waiting for an important call.

Appendix A:

Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments



Required Resources for Catechists



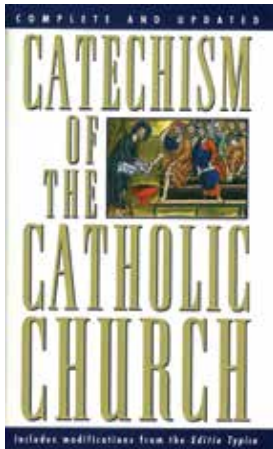
General Directory for Catechesis

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Concacan Inc.

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curial/congregations/ccclergy/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_17041998_directory-for-catechesis_en.html

ISBN: 978-0-88997-401-2

The first *General Directory for Catechesis* was published in 1971. This 1997 edition of the *General Directory for Catechesis* reflects the growth in understanding of catechesis and takes into account the culture and needs. Episcopal Conferences, several experts and catechetical institutes and centres were involved in the preparation of this revised foundational document.



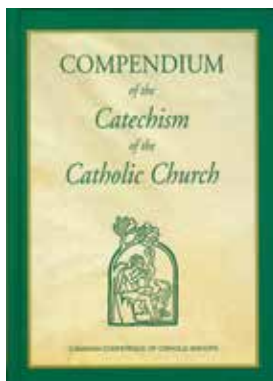
Catechism of the Catholic Church

Image Doubleday

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm>

Product Code: 978-0-38547-967-7

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) is the first catechism in more than 400 years. It offers a complete summary of what Catholics believe. This book serves as the standard for all instruction within the Church. Four centuries in the making, it is a monumental undertaking and a magnificent achievement. The CCC is the first definitive Catholic catechism since the Council of Trent in 1566. It details the doctrine, dogma, and basic tenets of the Church.



Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops—

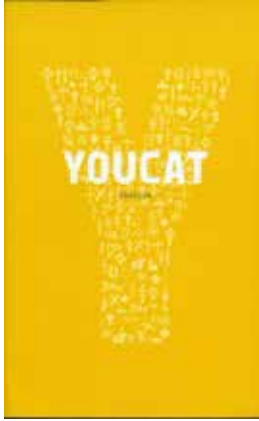
Publications Service

http://www.vatican.va/archive/compendium_ccc/documents/archive_2005_compendium-ccc_en.html

ISBN : 978-0-88997-543-9

The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is an abbreviated version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It presents the entirety of Catholic moral teaching and the doctrine of the faith in a question and answer format.

Required Resources for Catechists continued



YOUCAT: Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church

Ignatius Press

ISBN: 1586175165

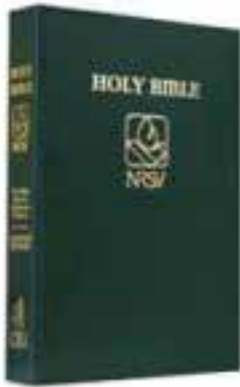
ISBN-13: 9781586175160

“YOUCAT” is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, which is the official catechism for World Youth Days. It is written for teens/young adults. The format includes questions-and-answers, easily readable commentary, pictures and illustrations, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and quotes from the saints and other great teachers. The YOUCAT references the CCC so the reader knows where to find a more detailed understanding of the Catholic faith.

The YOUCAT explains:

- What Catholics believe (doctrine)
- How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments)
- How Catholics are to live (moral life)
- How Catholics should pray (prayer and spirituality)

Required Scripture Resources for Home, Parish and Catholic Schools



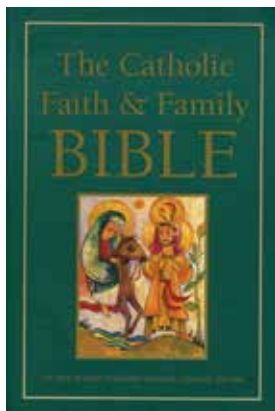
Holy Bible

New Revised Standard Version:

Catholic Edition Catholic Bible Press

ISBN: 978-0-88834-958-3

The Catholic Edition of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible has received ecclesiastical approval of the Catholic Bishops of Canada (and is also an approved translation for use in the United States). It has the imprimatur (official declaration by a Church authority) of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is used in Roman Catholic liturgies in Canada and is recommended for personal reading and study.



The Catholic Faith & Family Bible

HarperCollins Publishers

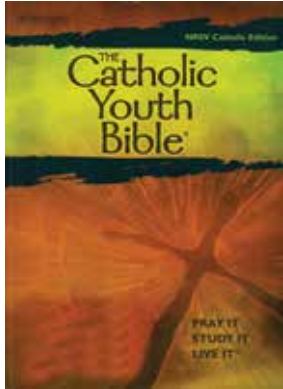
<https://www.harpercollins.com/9780061496264>

ISBN-10: 006149626

ISBN-13: 978-0-06-149626-4

The Catholic Faith and Family Bible is designed specifically for Catholic families; to help parents and children grow in faith together. It was developed in partnership with the Center for Ministry Development and Our Sunday Visitor, recognized leaders in Catholic youth and family ministry. The Catholic Faith and Family Bible is designed to make the Bible easier to read and understand for the everyday Catholic family. Some of its unique features include:

- Act On It!
- Make the Connection
- Meet the People
- Pray the Word
- Take It to Heart



The Catholic Youth Bible

St. Mary's Press

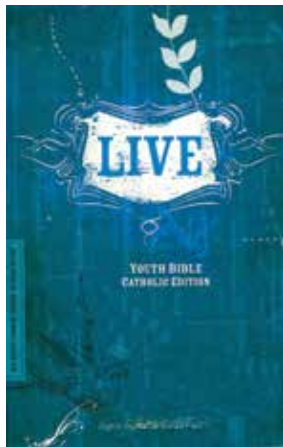
<http://www.smp.org/category/bibles/>

ISBN-13: 978-0-88489-787-3

The Catholic Youth Bible (CYB) was written for young people in a way that will help young people understand Scripture. This Bible is for everyone—regardless of where each person is in their relationship with God. There are many special features such as:

- Live it! Pray it!
- Catholic Connections, Cultural Connections,
- Did you know?
- In-depth, At a Glance and Quick Facts.

These features help the reader not only to read the Bible, but also to discover more about the Catholic faith.



Live New Revised Standard Version

HarperOne

<http://www.nrsv.net/harper/live-youth-bible-catholic-edition/>

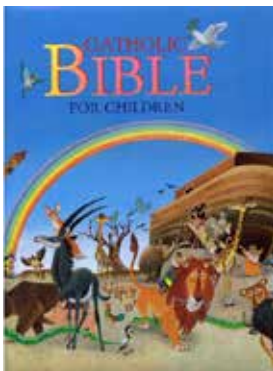
ISBN: 0061777242

ISBN-13: 9780061777240

LIVE—Youth Bible Catholic Edition was written for young Catholics. It invites them to not only read scripture, but to live and respond to it. This New Revised Standard Version includes:

- information that was created by teens
- space to reflect, doodle, and interact
- opportunity to join an online community of other teens on similar faith journeys.

Resources to Supplement NRSV Age Appropriate Bibles for Home, Parish and Catholic Schools



Catholic Bible for Children

Catholic Book Publishing Company

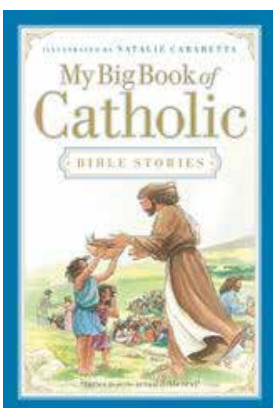
[http://www.catholicbookpublishing.com/list/keyword/](http://www.catholicbookpublishing.com/list/keyword/Catholic+Bible+for+Children)

Catholic+Bible+for+Children

ISBN-10: 0899429971

ISBN-13: 978-0899429977

From the creation of the world to the infancy of the Church, the important stories from both the Old and New Testament are vividly retold and illustrated for young people. Also included are chapters on the prophets and the psalms. In the back is a glossary of important people, places and objects, providing added information



My Big Book of Catholic Bible Stories

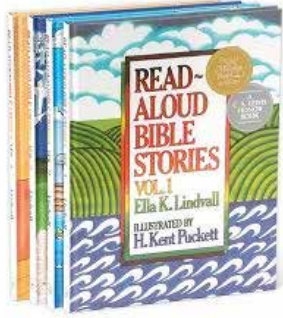
Thomas Nelson

<http://www.thomasnelson.com/my-big-book-of-catholic-bible-stories-1>

ISBN: 0718011953

ISBN-13: 978-0718011956

My Big Book of Catholic Bible Stories contains close to 200 stories taken from the NRSV biblical text, Catholic edition. Parents, teachers, and catechists will find this a welcome addition to their children's library. More than a story book, this book cross-references the Catechism of the Catholic Church and encourages kids to grow deeper in their faith through prayer, artwork, and the study of saints.



Read-Aloud Bible Stories

Moody Publishers

http://www.moodypublishers.com/pub_productDetail.aspx?id=41826&pid=53242

ISBN: 978-0-8024-7163-5 **Ages: 3-6**

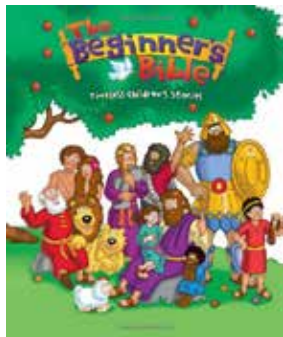
ISBN: 978-0-8024-7164-2

ISBN: 978-0-8024-7165-4

ISBN: 978-0-8024-7166-6

ISBN: 978-0-8024-7164-5

Sure to be at the top of their “read it again!” list. Bright illustrations and easily understandable text make this award-winning series a hit with your kids. Action-packed accounts of beloved biblical characters show your young ones that God cares about them and will help them no matter what challenges they face. Approx. 160 pages each, four hardcovers from Moody.



The Beginner's Bible

Zondervan

<http://www.zondervan.com/the-beginner-s-bible-the-beginner-s-bible-for-toddlers>

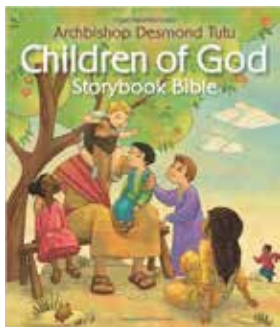
ISBN-10: 0310709628

ISBN-13: 978-0310709626 **Ages: 3-5**

The Beginner's Bible retells Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments. Introduce children to the stories and characters of the Bible with this best-loved Bible storybook. Now updated with vibrant new art, text, and stories, more than 90 favorite Bible stories come to life, making The Beginner's Bible® the perfect starting point for children. They will enjoy the fun illustrations of Noah helping the elephant onto the ark, Jonah praying inside the fish, and more, as they discover The Beginner's Bible® just like millions of children before.

Resources to Supplement NRSV

Age Appropriate Bibles for Home, Parish and Catholic Schools



Children of God, Storybook Bible

Zondervan

<http://www.zondervan.com/children-of-god-storybook-bible>

ISBN-10: 0310719127

ISBN-13: 978-0310719120 **Ages: 4 +**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu retells more than fifty of his most beloved stories, artfully highlighting God's desire for all people to love one another and to find peace and forgiveness in their hearts.



The Action Bible

David C. Cook Publishing

<http://www.christianbook.com/the-action-bible/9780781444996/pd/444996?event=ESRCG>

ISBN-10: 0781444993

ISBN-13: 978-0781444996 **Ages: 9 +**

Here's the most complete picture Bible ever! And it features a captivating, up-to-date artwork style—making it the perfect Bible for today's visually focused culture. The Action Bible presents 215 fast-paced narratives in chronological order, making it easier to follow the Bible's historical flow—and reinforcing the build-up to its thrilling climax.

Appendix B:

Agenda for Bi-Monthly Meetings



Bi-Monthly Meeting

August - September

Time

Location

Agenda

Time	Topic
5 Min	Opening Prayer
10 Min	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each person introduces themselves and gives background information about his/her place of work• Pastor: demographics of parish and background of pastoral staff• Principal: demographics of school, information about staff
15 Min	<i>Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the Standards binder: review the Overview, Roles and Responsibilities, and Best Practices for Home, Parish, and Catholic Schools.• Discuss how these connect with what you are currently doing and ideas for moving forward.• Discuss how you will share this information from the sections with your parents, catechists, parishioners, and teaching staff

Time	Topic
15 Min	<p>Sacramental focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parishes bring sacramental data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor: Which children were baptized seven years ago and are of age to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist? Which children received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist four years ago and are of age to receive Confirmation? • Schools bring registration data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals: Do you know which students are baptized? Which students have baptized parents but are not baptized? Do you see any trends? <p>Based on the needs found in the data shared and using the examples in the Best Practices section of the Standards, what area(s) of sacramental preparation will you focus on this year?</p> <p>Schools send out the letter: Preparing children for the sacraments on school and parish letterhead, to all students at the beginning of each school year.</p>
10 Min	<p>Pastor visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule times • Discuss format • School Open Houses and Catholic Education Sunday
Next Meeting	Schedule a Time
5 Min	<p>Preparation for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Appendix A: Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments and Appendix D: Linking the sacraments with the curriculum. • Parishes bring registration data of those children/ youth registered for sacramental preparation <p>Closing Prayer</p>

* Please bring your Standards binder to the meeting

Bi-Monthly Meeting

October - November

Time

Location

Agenda

Time	Topic
5 Min	Opening Prayer
10Min	<i>Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Standards binder: review Appendix A: Resources for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments and Appendix D: Linking the sacraments with the curriculum. Discuss how to make connections between what children/youth are learning in sacramental preparation with what they learn in school. Discuss how you will share this information from sections with your parents, catechists, parishioners and teaching staff.
10 Min	Follow up on action items from last meeting
10 Min	Sacramental Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are we ensuring that all children have an opportunity to receive the sacraments and that no children are missed? Pastor: Which children have registered for sacramental preparation? Principals: Do you know which children are baptized? Which children have baptized parents but are not baptized? Do you see any trends?
10 Min	Sacramental Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and plan towards achieving your goal
10 Min	Pastor Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule Times Share stories of what is taking place - feedback
Next Meeting	Schedule a Time
5 Min	Preparation for next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the General Standards, Special Circumstances and Reverence in Church in the Standards manual Closing Prayer

* Please bring your Standards binder to the meeting

Bi-Monthly Meeting

December - January

Time

Location

Agenda

Time	Topic
5 Min	Opening Prayer
10Min	<i>Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Standards binder: review the General Standards, Special Circumstances and Reverence in Church in the Standards manual Discuss how these connect with what you are currently doing Discuss how you will share this information from sections with your parents, catechists, parishioners and teaching staff.
10 Min	Follow up on action items from last meeting
10 Min	Sacramental Preparation Resources: show and share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor: sacramental preparation resources used Principal: religion curriculum in Standards manual Make deliberate connections to be used between the two resources
10 Min	Sacramental Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and plan towards achieving your goal
10 Min	Pastor Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule Times Share stories of what is taking place - feedback
Next Meeting	Schedule a Time
5 Min	Preparation for next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Lifelong Growth in Faith, Parish-Based Formal Formation: Sacramental Preparation, and The Sacramental Preparation Process in the Standards manual Schools and Parishes bring registration data Closing Prayer

* Please bring your Standards binder to the meeting

Bi-Monthly Meeting

February - March

Time

Location

Agenda

Time	Topic
5 Min	Opening Prayer
10Min	<i>Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Standards binder: review Lifelong Growth in Faith, Parish-Based Formal Formation: Sacramental Preparation, and The Sacramental Preparation Process in the Standards manual Discuss how these connect with what you are currently doing Discuss how you will share this information from sections with your parents, catechists, parishioners and teaching staff.
10 Min	Follow up on action items from last meeting
10 Min	Sacramental Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss who completed the process of Reconciliation and if any follow up is required for certain families Discuss registration and preparation for Eucharist and Confirmation
10 Min	Sacramental Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and plan towards achieving your goal
10 Min	Pastor Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule Times Share stories of what is taking place - feedback
Next Meeting	Schedule a Time
5 Min	Preparation for next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Special Circumstances section in the Standards manual Schools and Parishes bring registration data Closing Prayer

* Please bring your Standards binder to the meeting

Bi-Monthly Meeting

April - May - June

Time

Location

Agenda

Time	Topic
5 Min	Opening Prayer
10Min	<i>Standards for Preparing Children and Youth for the Sacraments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Standards binder: review Special Circumstances section in the Standards manual • Discuss how these connect with what you are currently doing • Discuss how you will share this information from sections with your parents, catechists, parishioners and teaching staff.
10 Min	Follow up on action items from last meeting
10 Min	Sacramental Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we involve the parents and engage them in the life of the parish? (ministries, faith formation)
10 Min	Sacramental Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the year • Did you accomplish your goal(s)? • Going forward, what will you keep the same? Change?
10 Min	Pastor Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the year-did the schedule work? • Schedule times for the next year • Share stories of what is taking place-feedback
Next Meeting	Schedule a time meet the following year
5 Min	Closing Prayer

* Please bring your Standards binder to the meeting

Appendix C:

Archdiocesan Forms



Archdiocesan Forms

Background

The following forms are required to be completed by the parents and returned to the parish who forwards the information to the Chancery Office.

- Baptism of a Child Form — Appendix 603A
- Confirmation Form — Appendix 611A
- RCIA adapted for children Form – Appendix 612B

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, adapted for children)

These forms can be found in the Policy and Procedure Manual under Sacraments of Initiation

<http://www.caedm.ca/policy>

The following form is required to be completed by the member of the parish pastoral team who is in charge of confirmation and returned to the Office of Divine Worship no later than two weeks before the confirmation.

- Confirmation Liturgy Planning Form

http://www.caedm.ca/Portals/0/documents/archdiocesan_offices/Liturgy/2014-01-15-Confirmation-Liturgy-Planning-Form.pdf

Appendix D:

Linking the Sacraments with the Curriculum



The Sacraments in Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ

Linking the sacraments with the curriculum Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ

The Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories have collaborated with Pearson Publishing Canada Inc to create a brand new catechetical program for Catholic schools. Grade one was released in August 2015. Pearson released two more grades each subsequent year. For example, Grade 2 and 3 were released in August 2016 and so on up to and including Grade 8.

The *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) identifies the goals of catechesis and serves to identify areas of knowledge that need to be addressed in religious education. The religious education curriculum is developed around the six tasks of catechesis which are described in the GDC. These six tasks have been turned into strands in the religious education curriculum titled: Believing (BL), Celebrating (CL), Living a Moral Life (ML), Living in Communion (LC), Living in Solidarity (LS), and Praying (PR). This document is intended to give parents, parishes and Catholic schools a clear picture of where the sacraments are taught in each grade and how they are connected as a whole curriculum:

Parents and other Family Members can use this to:

- continue faith talks specific to what was learned that week, for example reading the bible story and talk about it

Pastor/Pastoral Team can use this to:

- help them prepare for their school visits
- learn the age appropriate language and stories that students are learning
- make deliberate connections with what is being taught in the curriculum

Catholic Schools

Principals can use this to:

- understand the global picture of what their students are learning so they can ensure students achieve all of the Learner Competencies Formed through Catholic Education

Teachers can use this to

- make deliberate connections with what is being taught in the sacramental preparation sessions in the parish
- discover opportunities to invite students who have missed the sacraments to register at the parish
- get kids excited about registering for sacramental preparation (the year before it is normally scheduled to take place)
- make connections with student experiences the years after they have received sacraments

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ

Grade 1 - We Belong To God

Baptism / Confirmation



UNIT 3 - My Life in Jesus

CL1: Focus: Baptism: Understands that the Church celebrates our life in Christ and the Church through sacraments

CL1.1: Recognizes through the baptismal narratives of the Gospels the active presence of the Holy Spirit in the words and symbols of the Sacrament of Baptism and the gifts we receive

CL1.2: Demonstrates understanding of how God speaks to us through the ritual actions and symbols of the sacraments and link each of the ritual actions and symbols of Baptism to their spiritual/theological meaning

- Welcome to God's Family
- How We Celebrate

Big Book 2: Pentecost

Poster 15: Welcome to God's Family

Poster 23: Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Eucharist



UNIT 1 - I am a Child of God

CL2: Understands that through the celebration of Mass (Sacrament of the Eucharist) we offer thanksgiving and praise to God the Father as a community of disciples who believe in and follow Jesus

CL2.1: Retells Gospel narratives that provide examples of Jesus inviting others to become part of a community and describe how they expressed their thanksgiving to God for the experience of His love.

CL2.2: Identifies the various ways we express our thanksgiving to God through our participation in the liturgy of the Mass.

CL2.3: Listens to the words and the prayers of the Mass to identify why we as a community express our thanksgiving to God through Christ.

- How we Celebrate

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ

Grade 1 - We Belong To God

Eucharist



PR1.1: Identifies times when Christians pray individually and in communal gatherings weekly

UNIT 2 - The Road to Bethlehem

CL2: CL2.1

- Preparing for Jesus

UNIT 3 - My Life in Jesus

CL2: CL2.1

- Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
- How We Live

UNIT 4 - The Story of Lent

CL2: CL2.1

- How We Live
- In the Parish

UNIT 5 - Jesus is Always with Us

- In the Parish

Big Book 1: Jesus is Baptized

Poster 2: The Sign of the Cross

Poster 4: The Lord's Prayer

Poster 5: We Live God's Laws

Poster 8: Inside a Catholic Church: Advent

Poster 13: Inside a Catholic Church: Christmas

Poster 14: Glory Be

Poster 8: Inside a Catholic Church: Advent

Poster 18: Inside a Catholic Church: Ordinary Time

Poster 19: Prayer for Lent

Poster 20: Inside a Catholic Church: Lent

Poster 21: Inside a Catholic Church: Easter

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ

Grade 1 - We Belong To God (continued)

Reconciliation



UNIT 1 - I am a Child of God

LC2.3: Compares the experience of being part of a loving family with the concept of the Communion of Saints and demonstrates how we help each other through our prayers

- Our Friends the Saints: St. Dominic Savio, St. Bernadette Soubirous

UNIT 4 - The Story of Lent

ML2: Demonstrates an understanding that we are able to think (use our reason) about our actions and to know that they affect our relationship with God, other people, and ourselves.

ML2.3: Identifies the different actions that we are capable of doing as human beings and those actions that we are able to think about before we act and that have consequences of being good or harmful

- A Question for Lent
- What We Believe
- Prayer for Lent (At Home)
- Signs of Lent
- Faith in Action
- From the Cross to New Life

UNIT 5- Jesus is Always with Us

ML2: Demonstrates an understanding that we are able to think (use our reason) about our actions and to know that they affect our relationship with God, other people, and ourselves.

ML2.2: Identifies situations that call us to choose between actions which are good or those which are harmful.

- We Are like Jesus
- Jesus Calls Levi
- How We Live

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ

Grade 1 - We Belong To God (continued)

Reconciliation Continued



Big Book 1: God's Promise to Noah

Big Book 1: Moses and the Israelites

Big Book 1: The Good Shepherd

Big Book 2: Jesus and the Leper

Big Book 2: The Prodigal Son

Big Book 2: The Washing of the Feet

Poster 1: Morning Prayer

Poster 3: The Great Commandments

Poster 5: We live God's Laws

Poster 10: Doing the Work of Jesus

Poster 16: A Prayer for My Family

Poster 17: The Good Samaritan

Poster 22: I Live Like Jesus

NORE Program

Linking the sacraments with the curriculum

Born of the Spirit

Grades 1-9

The catechetical program used before *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* was the Born of the Spirit Series. It was published by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Office of Religious Education (NORE). This curriculum gives the children doctrinal background for the celebration of the sacraments.

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- make connections with student experiences the years after they have received sacraments

The Sacraments in Born of the Spirit

Grade 4 - Come and See



Baptism / Confirmation

UNIT 7

Theme 19

- in Lent we journey with those preparing for Baptism at Easter, and we remember our own Baptism
- story of Nicodemus...reference to baptism, being born anew

Theme 20

- women at the well...living water... when we were baptized we were immersed in this living water

UNIT 10

Theme 28

- to recognize the role of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in our initiation into the life of Jesus Christ

Theme 29

- empowered by the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation, we profess our faith in the Creed, make the Creed our own, become witnesses of the Lord, from the Christian community of the Church



Eucharist

UNIT 2

Theme 5

- reference to the Sunday Liturgy as an encounter with Jesus

UNIT 8

Theme 23

- the Last Supper
- the institution of the Eucharist
- the Eucharist is an invitation to live of life of love and service
- explore the symbols of bread and wine

UNIT 9

Theme 25

- make the connection between the Eucharist and the death and rising of Jesus
- Eucharist as sacrament of the resurrection
- Jesus is remembered as one for whom meals and the companionship at the table are symbols of life itself



Reconciliation

UNIT 8

Theme 24

- through reflective activity respond to the forgiving love expressed by Jesus

The Sacraments in Born of the Spirit

Grade 5 - May We Be One



Baptism / Confirmation

UNIT 2 - Baptism and Confirmation

Theme 4

- faith is sealed in Baptism



Theme 5

- look at Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as the sacraments which initiate us into the mystery of Christ

Theme 6

- in Baptism and Confirmation we put on Jesus...
- explore ways in which God continues to act among us through the sacraments
- meaning of sacrament
- sacraments are sacred moments – rites where God touches us and meets us in Jesus

UNIT 8 - Meaning of anointing, role of anointing in the Church

Theme 23

- anointing with the Holy Spirit at Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders

UNIT 9 - The sacraments as celebrations of the Paschal Mystery

Theme 23

- we are Easter people. This theme is the first time we deal with all the sacraments together. We focus on the central actions in each of the sacraments



Eucharist

UNIT 3 - Eucharist

- Eucharist as word and sacrament of Christ's presence today.
- overview of the Eucharistic celebration (good chart on the Eucharist)
- how Eucharist nourishes us and leads us into God's kingdom



Reconciliation

UNIT 5 - Reconciliation

- to understand disorder in the world as a breach of the covenant
- to probe the mystery of evil
- to understand that our unfaithfulness cannot undo God's faithfulness
- to see that God reconciles the world through Jesus in the Holy Spirit
- Baptism, Eucharist as reconciliation
- Rite of Reconciliation

The Sacraments in Born of the Spirit

Grade 6 - You Shall Be My Witnesses



Baptism/Confirmation

UNIT 1 - Christian morality rooted in the Paschal Mystery

- initiation symbol of light – lantern, lighted from the Paschal candle



UNIT 9 - The meaning of the sacraments of initiation

Theme 27

- the relationship of Baptism and Confirmation to Easter

UNIT 10

Theme 29

- in Baptism we are called to be witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus



Eucharist

UNIT 8

Theme 22

- Eucharist as the symbol of the new covenant

UNIT 9

Theme 25

- through Emmaus story, recognize our meeting the risen Christ in the Eucharist

UNIT 10

Theme 25

- connect Eucharist with my mission in life
- the resource ends with a Eucharistic celebration in which they are sent forth, empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness Christ in the world



Reconciliation

The Grade 6 resource is a catechesis on Christian morality...the foundation for our understanding and experience of reconciliation.

UNIT 1

- the lantern, light as a symbol of our moral life

UNIT 2

- moral experience, human conscience, human responsibility

The Sacraments in Born of the Spirit

Grade 6 - You Shall Be My Witnesses continued

UNIT 3

Theme 1

- moral life rooted in the covenant

Theme 2 & 3

- Sinai covenant, the Ten Commandments

UNIT 4 - Sin as breaches of the covenant

- Salvation is possible
- acknowledge one's sins
- hear God's words of forgiveness

UNIT 6 - The moral life of the kingdom of God

- Beatitudes

UNIT 7 - Lent - journey to Easter

- prayer, fasting, penance

UNIT 8

Theme 23

- remembering Jesus' forgiveness
- discovering what it means to forgive and to seek forgiveness
- exploring forgiveness in our own lives

UNIT 9

Theme 26

- Easter is a feast of forgiveness
- we are agents of reconciliation
- celebration of forgiveness

The Sacraments in Born of the Spirit

Grade 7 - Believe In Me



Baptism/Confirmation

UNIT 5



Theme 1 - Titles of Jesus

There is reference made to Jesus the “anointed one.” In the student book, it refers to the way we use oil in the sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation, anointing of the sick and ordination. This is a good opportunity to review this with the students.

- in explaining the titles of Jesus, three of the titles we give to Jesus are: priest, prophet and king. These are explained...A good time to connect with Baptism. At Baptism, we are anointed as priest, prophet and king



Eucharist

UNIT 8

Theme 2 - Death of Jesus

Reference is made to Christ’s sacrifice...his death on the cross

- Christ’s sacrifice at the Eucharist



Reconciliation

UNIT 9

Theme 1 - Resurrection

- after the resurrection, Jesus is recognized by the disciples in the breaking of the bread
- make a link with the Eucharist

The Sacraments in Born of the Spirit

Grade 8 - Stand by Me



Baptism/Confirmation

UNIT 1



- we believe in the Holy Spirit. Use this unit as an opportunity to review the meaning of Baptism and Confirmation

UNIT 8

Theme 1

- the Creed, our profession of faith, reminds us of who we are and who we are called to become



Eucharist

UNIT 2

Theme 1

- the sacraments reveal God's loving action and enable us to participate in that action

Theme 2 & 3

- an excellent teaching on the Mass, and the meaning of Eucharist in our lives

Theme 2

- focuses on the sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, which connect us to God and the Christian community



Reconciliation

UNIT 2

Theme 3

- the sacraments of Reconciliation and anointing bring God's healing touch through the Christian community

UNIT 5 - We believe in the forgiveness of sins

- A full treatment of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Marriage

UNIT 3

Theme 2

- Christians are called to be apostolic servants of Christ. Marriage and Holy Orders model faithful service

The Sacraments in Born of the Spirit

Grade 9 - Be With Me



Baptism / Confirmation

UNIT 1

The whole of Grade 9 is about living the Creed in our everyday lives.



- the beatitudes and commandments are foundations in our Christian life, helping us to grow spiritually, morally, emotionally
- in Baptism and Confirmation, we commit ourselves to ongoing growth in our relationship with God

UNIT 2

Theme 3

- there are morally acceptable and morally unacceptable ways to express any emotion



Eucharist

UNIT 3

Theme 1

- our moral life has its source in faith in God

Theme 2

- commandment, keep holy the Lord's day – link with our celebration of Eucharist



Reconciliation

UNIT 9 - Be forgiving

- what it means to forgive
- the conditions of reconciliation

Marriage

UNIT 4 - Be loving

- a good foundation for the Sacrament of Marriage

The Sacraments in Religious Education (Roman Catholic)

Linking the sacraments with the curriculum in high school

(Grades 10, 11, 12) Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 15, 25, 35

Religious Education (Roman Catholic) is a locally developed course that belongs to the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association. Religious Education (Roman Catholic) is designed to promote a Catholic identity that will assist (students) in the task of becoming life-long disciples within a multi-religious and sometimes anti-religious society. Below are listed specific references to the sacraments in each of the grade levels.

Grade 10 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 15 (3 credits)

Christ and Culture



Baptism / Confirmation

General Learning Outcome: Understand how the signs, symbols and rituals of various world religions, including Canada's First Nations, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) communities, influence culture



- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will discuss and investigate religion as integral to culture as a source of identity, belonging and meaning in life
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will critique the values, beliefs, symbols, rules and meanings of their culture in light of Church teachings and consider the role of believers in the Church as important for the betterment of society

General Learning Outcome: Students will examine the impact that faith in Christ, and the God who Jesus reveals, should have upon culture

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Explore how Christ is made present and active in Canadian culture, through the Christian actions of persons



Reconciliation

General Learning Outcome: Students will explore what creation stories from a variety of world religions and Church teachings reveal about what it means to be human

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand the need to have a profound respect for the dignity and mystery of persons as social beings created in the image and likeness of God
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand that human beings through their connectedness with God and by their nature and vocation are directed toward the good despite the capacity for disorder and sin

General Learning Outcome: Students will explore ideas about and challenges that arise when examining relationships with self, others, and God as presented both in culture and from a Catholic perspective

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand their potential in living as a child of God
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand that the other is an image of the face of God.

Marriage

General Learning Outcome: Students will explore ideas about and challenges that arise when examining relationships with self, others, and God as presented both in culture and from a Catholic perspective

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will examine their own understanding and experience of friendship, intimacy, and the Sacrament of Marriage

Grade 10 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 15 (5 credits)

Christ and Culture

Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 15 with 5 credits involves the learning outcomes in Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 15 with 3 credits and also includes:



Baptism / Confirmation

General Learning Outcome: Students will recognize that Christians are called to relate to the world as disciples and witnesses



- **Specific Learner Outcome** (Relating to the Other): Students will explore the dynamics of relationships within society's institutions
- **Specific Learner Outcome** (Relating to Civil Society): Students will compare the Christian understanding of time and its purpose with that of the prevalent culture (that is, what is time for?)
- **Specific Learner Outcome** (Relating to Church):
 - Students will study how the tasks of the Church include bearing witness to Christ and serving those in most need
 - Students will analyze and discuss the contributions the Church has made to society (for example, education, health, art, distribution of goods, political policy/law)
 - Students will examine what it means to belong to the Body of Christ in all its human frailty

Grade 10 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 15

(5 credits)

Christ and Culture - Continued

- **Specific Learner Outcome** (Relating to the World: Disciples and Witnesses):
 - Students will reflect and respond to the idea that the choices we make have both a personal and global impact
 - Students will identify the important witness given by contemporary and historical Christian persons to bear on social issues through social action
 - Students will discuss their own ability to contribute as a witness of Christ within their community
 - Students will understand that all Catholics have as their mission to work for the common good of a society by bringing their Gospel values to works of charity and justice



Eucharist

General Learning Outcome: Students will recognize that Christians are called to relate to the world as disciples and witnesses

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** (Relating to Civil Society)
Students will investigate how Sunday Eucharist and the liturgical calendar (Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas) celebrate the mystery of Christ throughout the year

General Learning Outcome: Students will understand and experience humility and open-mindedness through active participation in the prayer life of the Eucharistic community.



Reconciliation

General Learning Outcome: Students will recognize that Christians are called to relate to the world as disciples and witnesses

- **Specific Learner Outcome: (Relating to Civil Society)**
Students will analyse and discuss the Christian understanding of peace as something that exists between people or between people and God, and is linked to justice, truth, grace, faithfulness and love

Grade 11 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 25

(3 credits)

Jesus Christ: God's Gift of Salvation



Baptism / Confirmation

General Learning Outcome: Students will identify Scripture and Tradition as the primary sources of Christian belief

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will reflect on and respond to praying with Scripture in order to understand the deeper meaning of contemporary realities



General Learning Outcome: Students will explore the history of Judaism as a foundation of Christianity while demonstrating respect, empathy and compassion for the history of the Jewish people

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will explain the meaning of covenant and the importance of having a relationship with Jesus

General Learning Outcome: Students will explain, working with multiple perspectives, ways contemporary Christians cooperate in bringing about the Reign of God

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand that discipleship is following Jesus in one's thoughts, words, and actions
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will identify persons who model the Christian way of life and follow the way of the cross with faith and hope
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand that commitment to Christian service is an expression of a response to the call of discipleship
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will identify how discipleship demands that all creation be treated with respect and dignity



Eucharist

General Learning Outcome: Students will know the Christian response to Jesus' question, "Who do people say I am?"

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand that belief in the resurrected Jesus is central to Christian Catholic beliefs

General Learning Outcome: Students will explore salvation doctrine of other world religions

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will research what other world religions teach about Jesus and the Catholic salvation doctrine

Grade 11 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 25

(3 credits)

Jesus Christ: God's Gift of Salvation continued

General Learning Outcome: Students will understand the ministry and core teachings of Jesus and their implications for Christian life through a study of the gospels

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will understand how Jesus redeems humanity through His death and resurrection



Reconciliation

General Learning Outcome: Students will understand the ministry and core teachings of Jesus and their implications for Christian life through a study of the gospels

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will reflect on and respond to their understanding of the values expressed in the vision and mission of Jesus
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will explain why Jesus desires us to take seriously his commandments to love God and others

Grade 11 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 25

(5 credits)

Jesus Christ: God's Gift of Salvation

Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 25 with 5 credits involves the learning outcomes in Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 25 with 3 credits and also includes:



Baptism / Confirmation

General Learning Outcome: Students will learn about Saint Paul's life, missionary journeys and his letters



General Learning Outcome: Students will examine how the Church developed and expanded following the Apostolic Era

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will review the tenets of the Nicene Creed



Reconciliation

General Learning Outcome: Students will explore the many ways Catholics pray using Scripture

- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will demonstrate awareness of the Catholic understanding that a life of prayer empowers believers to love as Christ loved

Grade 12 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 35

(3 credits)

In Search of the Good



Baptism / Confirmation

General Learning Outcome: Students will recognize revelation and the Tradition of the Catholic Church as a guide to moral living



- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will explore the stories of contemporary community leaders who are witnesses to God's love
- **Specific Learner Outcome:** Students will articulate a Catholic understanding of Grace
- **Specific Learning Outcome:** Students will appreciate the Church as a source of moral formation



Reconciliation

General Learning Outcome: Students will understand themselves through critical thinking and personal discovery as moral persons invited to live the way of Christ through an examination of ethical theories

General Learning Outcome: Students will understand the self-revelation of God through the interpretation of Exodus and the prophetic call narratives

General Learning Outcome: Students will recognize revelation and the Tradition of the Catholic Church as a guide to moral living

- **Specific Learning Outcome:** Students will explain the ethical and moral implications of the Kingdom of God
- **Specific Learning Outcome:** Students will appreciate the Church as a source of moral formation

General Learning Outcome: Students will explore and respect how other world religions understand their sacred texts as guides to moral living

General Learning Outcome: Students will examine how other world religions approach current moral issues

Marriage

General Learning Outcome: Students will understand the spiritual dimension of relationships, marriage and family life



Grade 12 - Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 35

(5 credits)

In Search of the Good - continued

Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 35 with 5 credits involves the learning outcomes in Religious Education (Roman Catholic) 35 with 3 credits and also includes:



Baptism / Confirmation

General Learning Outcome: Students will recognize revelation and the Tradition of the Catholic Church as a guide to moral living



- **Specific Learning Outcome:** Students will explain the ethical and moral implications of the Kingdom of God



Reconciliation

General Learning Outcome: Students will identify through prayerful reflection what contributes to happiness and the good life

General Learning Outcome: Students will recognize the nature of human freedom, both as individuals and as members of their community

To Summarize the Religious Education Curriculum:

In the cultural universe, which is assimilated by students and which is defined by knowledge and values offered by other scholastic disciplines, religious instruction in schools sows the dynamic seed of the Gospel and seeks to “keep in touch with the other elements of the student’s knowledge and education; thus the Gospel will impregnate the mentality of the students in the field of their learning, and the harmonization of their culture will be achieved in the light of faith. (General Directory for Catechesis, 73)

In Elementary School (Grades 1-6), students are:

- developing a relationship with Jesus
- learning about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit through stories found in Scripture
- learning how to make connections with their life and Scripture
- learning different forms of prayer and given opportunities to pray

In Junior High School (Grades 7-9), students are:

- continuing to develop a relationship with Jesus
- learning about the Creed, the foundations of the Catholic Church
- learning different forms of prayer and given opportunities to pray

In High School (Grades 10-12), students are:

- continuing to develop a mature relationship with Jesus
- being formed into a disciple of Christ who is an authentic witness of the Gospel
- given opportunities to make connections with their learning through prayerful reflection

The entire High School curriculum focuses on living the Great Commission to “Go and Make Disciples”, which is our response to our call in Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of confirmation, and made full in the Eucharist.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Edmonton use these benchmarks to understand the complete picture of Catholic education and plan accordingly. These benchmarks are:

- The Five Marks of Catholic School Identity
- Developing Alberta’s Cross-Curricular Competencies from A Catholic Worldview
- Learner Competencies formed through Catholic Education

