**Saint Mark's Religious Education Program**

**Welcome to Our Sacramental Preparation Program**

At Saint Mark’s, we are committed to providing a strong foundation in faith for all children. Our sacramental preparation program is a two-year journey that ensures children are fully prepared to receive their sacraments.

**Enrollment Policies:**

* Parents must be active registered parishioners at St. Mark’s.
* Only a parent may register their child.
* Both parents must sign the application in person at the parent meeting.
* A $50 registration fee is required for each new registrant.
* Parents must enroll their children in the program during the open enrollment period. Dates are announced in the bulletin and usually run for a month.
* Parents must ensure they have a **recently** printed baptismal certificate for candidates entering the Confirmation program.
* For First Communion candidates, the original baptismal certificate is sufficient.
* Sacramental programs have limited seats and may not always be offered.

**Sacramental Preparation Programs:**

**First Communion - 2-Year Program**

*For children aged 7-9:*

* **1st Year (Reconciliation):** Child must be in 1st or 2nd grade.
* **2nd Year (Eucharist):** Child must be in 2nd or 3rd grade.

*For older candidates:*

* **Grades 3-4:** Enrolled in OCIC Elementary Program.
* **Grades 5-7:** Enrolled in OCIC Middle Program.
* **Grades 8-9:** Enrolled in OCIC High School Program.

Candidates must meet all requirements to receive the sacrament at the end of the second year.

**Confirmation - 2-Year Program**

* Candidates must have received First Communion before registration.
* **8th Grade Entry:** Confirmed in 9th grade (13/14 years old).

**HS OCIC PROGRAM: 2-year program**

* Candidates entering 9th to 11th grade
	+ Who needs either both First Communion and Confirmation, or just Confirmation

*This is a special program and is only available if there are more than two candidates and if there is a catechist available to teach.*

**Program Commitments:**

* Parents must ensure their child attends all scheduled religious education classes and activities.
* Children in a Sacramental class must attend Sunday Mass at St. Mark’s.
* Mass attendance will be reviewed every three months and verified through offertory envelope usage.
* All absences must be excused; TWO consecutive, unexcused absences result in the immediate removal from the program.
* Parents must remain in the designated Remind class group for all program communications.
* Parents must report any phone number or address changes.
* Doors will be locked five minutes after the start of class for safety and remain locked until class ends.
* Excessive tardiness will also lead to dismissal from the program.
* Only authorized adults may sign children in and out.
* Parents must ensure children learn all required prayers and actively participate in Mass.
* Parents must attend all mandatory meetings.

Failure to meet these commitments may result in a child being ineligible to receive sacraments and the family being removed from the program.

For more information, please contact the Religious Education Office at Saint Mark’s Parish.

*We look forward to supporting your child on their faith journey!*