



Our Lady of Joy Sacrament Prep for Students 6-12th grade; 2024-25

What is Baptism?

The Sacrament of Baptism takes the believer from the simple repentance, belief, and profession of faith into a more mysterious identification with Christ, in which he is the vine, and we are the branches, in which we die with him so that we might rise to new life. Baptism is not simply the addition of a meaningful symbol to the act of faith: It is an action which takes the believer's whole body, soul, and spirit into a new relationship with God.

-Fr. Dwight Longnecker

What is Reconciliation?

The Sacrament of Confession removes the stain of sin committed since our baptisms. This is unique to Catholics, as many Protestant denominations don't require this sacrament. The Bible tells us to confess our sins to one another (James 5:16), and especially to priests who can administer sacraments that absolve our sin (James 5:14-15). We know that priests have this ability because their authority comes from the apostles, who had the authority to "bind and loose" what is in heaven (Matt. 16:18-19) and to forgive or retain sins (John 20:23).

What is Holy Communion?

The Catholic Encyclopedia states, "The Eucharist is the Real Presence of God, Jesus Christ, body and blood, under the appearances of bread and wine." When we go to Communion as Catholics, we receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Understanding what the Church teaches about the Eucharist is important because the teachings come from Jesus.

Participating in Communion is an act of love for Christ. You are receiving Christ into your heart and soul.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "By this sacrament we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in his body and blood to form a single body" (1331).

What is Confirmation?

The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, fulfilling Jesus' promise is referred to as the birthday of the Church. On that day, the Apostles were empowered to fulfill the mission that Christ had entrusted to

them. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation makes present the same grace that was showered upon the Apostles fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ. The reception of this sacrament is an indispensable moment in the life of all Catholics, and its celebration is of vital importance for the Church.

-Bishop Emeritus Thomas Olmsted, Diocese of Phoenix

Requirements for Sacraments

The following are requirements for children receiving sacrament(s) at Our Lady of Joy. These are in addition to regular attendance at LifeTeen or Edge.

-Weekly Mass attendance

-One retreat (done at LifeTeen or Edge, or proof of outside retreat)

-Students are allowed to miss 4 classes and still receive sacraments. Any more than 4 classes, we invite them to keep attending classes, but they will not receive their sacraments that next year.

Edge specific requirements:

-Completion of Decision Point workbook

Life Teen specific requirements:

-Attendance at Our Lady of Joy's OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). OCIA will be held on Sundays, beginning on September 8th, 2024 after the 11 am Mass.

Cost for Sacrament Prep

LifeTeen and Edge at Our Lady of Joy have a suggested donation for registering your child in youth ministry for \$75 a year. This suggested donation helps cover the cost of materials and the cost of content provided to your child throughout the year.

Register at www.oloj.org/youth-ministry.

We know that during this time many have experienced financial hardships. Please remember this is a suggested donation. If you have financial difficulties and cannot pay the full amount, please pay what you can afford. We are grateful for whatever your family can do to continue to support our parish during this challenging time.

Contact Madysen Mooradian at mmooradian@oloj.org with questions.