



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC

*"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry;
he who believes in me will never thirst." - John 6:35*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WELCOME to Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church and our Parish Sacramental Preparation Program. This is an especially exciting year for your Catholic family. Families have an essential role in the preparation of their children for the reception of the sacrament. A vital part of our Catholic Christian experience is the sharing in the Sacraments. Saints Peter and Paul Parish works in partnership with families as they journey with their child toward the reception of Himself, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, so we may eat and live forever in Heaven.

The First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Program for students in grades 2 through 5 runs concurrently with our Religious Education classes in both the Sunday School and Catholic School. Mandated by our Diocesan Policies and Guidelines, it is a separate and distinct preparation and brings together all parish children regardless of school, into our one faith community.

"Since the family is intimately involved with the formation of a child's moral conscience and ordinarily integrates the child into the wider ecclesial communities, parents should be involved in the preparation of their children for this sacrament so that they can affirm and reinforce frequent participation in the sacraments." (National Directory of Catechesis, 135)

INSTRUCTION for the Sacraments of First Penance and Holy Eucharist requires each child in Grade 2 through Grade 5 to have completed one year of religious education instruction in either the Parish Sunday School Program or a Catholic School immediately *prior* to and including the current school year. The process is carried out not only by classroom teaching and discussion, but also through participation in family prayer, service to one another, Sunday worship, and living a moral life. (Again, specific sacramental preparation is in addition to the foundational learning that takes place within the weekly Religious Education classes in a Catholic School or the Parish Sunday School.) *We will be accepting registration beginning October 5th, 2020 online or by calling us at 410-822-6581.*

The prerequisites for registration are:

- * Your family must be registered/active parishioners at Saints Peter and Paul Church. Sacraments are Parish celebrations and therefore, are celebrated in the Parish Faith Community.
- * Parents are obligated to provide religious education for their children and thereby are an essential part of the preparation process. By enrolling your child in the Saints Peter and Paul Sacramental Formation Class, you are agreeing to attend all parent sessions, to gain the knowledge necessary to work with your child to complete home

assignments, attend Parent/Child Retreats and Rehearsal, and to educate and train your children in the Catholic faith, worship and morality from the earliest years.

* Your child must have received two, consecutive years of religious education in either a Catholic School or a Parish Religious Education Program, this year being the second of the two years.

* A copy of your child's baptism certificate must be on file at the Office of Christian Faith Formation. If you are unable to locate the certificate, you can request a copy from the Parish Office of the church of baptism. The SS. Peter & Paul Parish Office phone number is 410-822-2344 or parishoffice@sspeaston.org.

Required Sacramental Parent Orientation/Formation Meetings:

Parents, as the primary educators in all matters of faith, are supported by Saints Peter and Paul Church with Orientation Meetings and Parent Faith Formation Classes. The parent prep materials for *Forgiven* and *Presence* will provide you with the formation necessary to authentically and fully guide you, and thus your children, on the journey. You may *always* request more in the way of formation for yourself and/or your child and we will be happy to assist you.

Preparation Materials:

Supported by both the Catholic School and Sunday School of Religion, lessons for Sacramental Formation will be overseen by parents and **catechists**/teachers. The Signs of Grace Series, "You are Forgiven" and "You are Loved", has been created by trusted theologians and the award-winning film studio at Augustine Institute. It is a comprehensive sacramental preparation program with a family faith formation component.



The For Sake of God's Children, Child Protection Policy:

The Diocese of Wilmington and Saints Peter and Paul Church take your child's safety seriously. Each catechist, teacher, and volunteer working within the Religious Education Program is screened prior to beginning their ministry. Annually, a review of this policy is presented to our catechists and volunteers. If you would like a copy of the policy, visit <https://www.cdow.org/giving/fsgc/>

Together, this year of sacramental formation will be an extraordinary experience of our rich Catholic heritage and we are blessed to be your partners. For more information, you can visit our website at www.sspeaston.org or call/email the Office of Christian Faith Formation.

Joyfully in Christ,

Linda Steinmiller
Christian Faith Formation Director