



Dear Catholic Parents and Guardians of Children Preparing for First Holy Communion,

The decision to raise your children in the Catholic Church began for many of you before your child was baptized and then was strengthened through Baptism. Thus began your parental role as first and truest catechist.

It is a great honor for our parish and the entire Faith Formation Team to be entrusted with assisting in the preparation of your child(ren). Though each student will have a lead catechist/teacher, please understand that your part in the formation is vital. You will attend parent meetings and formation, and parent-child retreats. As parents and guardians, you will assist your child at home with their classwork, pray, and fully commit to regular Mass attendance.

The Office of Christian Faith Formation exists to serve you. It is entirely our desire to do God's will in assisting you, the parents and guardians, in keeping the children's hearts open to the influence and experience of Christ. Let us, together, not only guide them to the Sacraments, but teach them how to become living sacraments.

Please read the attached information sheet. It will help guide in the process of registration. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at lsteinmiller@ssppeaston.org or religioused@ssppeaston.org.

We hold you and your child in our hearts and in our prayers.

Joyfully in Christ,

Linda Steinmiller
Director of Religious Education
Saints Peter and Paul Church
1214 S. Washington Street
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-6581

Children Receiving the Sacraments First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

- + Catholic children at Saints Peter and Paul Church are eligible for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion beginning in Second Grade at the age of 7 or 8. This is considered the “age of reason” in the Catholic Church.
- + Parents/Guardians must be registered/active parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Church (active parishioners: current registration and contact information, faithfully attends Mass, gives of time, talents, and treasure, and participates in the life of the Church through events, community service, etc.)
- + Children must be baptized in the Catholic Church or in a valid baptism. If a child seeking the sacraments in a Catholic Church but was baptized in a church other than Catholic, please contact the Director.
- + Children and parents/guardians must participate in Holy Mass each week. If you are not willing to participate, the Sacraments will be deferred until a time when you can fulfill your obligation. If there are reasons of a medical nature, for not attending Mass, please contact Mrs. Steinmiller.
- + Children must have received two consecutive years of Religious Education in either a Catholic School or Catholic Sunday School/Religious Education Program.
- + Parents and children will participate by attending Mass, classes, completing homework and projects, service, and attending rehearsals and retreats.
- + Church teaching related to the *true presence* of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist will be taught in both parent meetings and children’s formation through the series “*Presence*” or “*Signs of Grace*”.

***** If you are attending SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School, but are a family registered and attending a Catholic Church other than SS. Peter and Paul, it is understood you will be receiving the Sacraments at the Church where you are registered and worship. Any special requests or discussion regarding receiving the Sacrament at Saints Peter and Paul Church begins with you and the pastor of your church.**