

**ST. MATTHEW'S
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

310 Seventh Street SE • Sidney, MT 59270 • (406) 433-2510 • Fax: (406) 433-2509

Dear Parents,

St. Matthew's parish is under the Diocese of Great Falls –Billing. Here at St. Matthew's we teach the Sacraments in *Restored order*. The Sacraments Preparation classes are taught to students in grade 3 or older. They are taught **separate** from the regular religious Ed. classes.

The following are the steps needed prior to enrolling your child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Confirmation with First Eucharist.

- Your child will need to have been baptized in the Catholic Church. (Please, provide a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate.)
- Your family attend Mass regularly on a weekly basis.
- Your child be enrolled in and regularly attend Religious Education classes at the parish. It is recommended that students attend regular ed. classes for **at least one year prior** to taking the sacrament formation classes.

Please, be sure to let me or your child's teacher know, if he/she is in the third grade and will be needing the sacraments prep classes. I will be sending out information about classes. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Note: If your child is not yet baptized, you can contact Fr. Jim O'Neil at the rectory with any questions or to make preparations.

St, Matthew's Rectory - 406-433-1068 for Fr. Jim O'Neil.
--

Peace Be with You,

Mary Quiroz/DRE
St. Matthew's Religious Education
406-433-2510,

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 pm



Preparing your child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist

A guide to assist parents in their role as the first catechist of their children.

You have the primary duty to educate your child(ren) in the Faith. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: “Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children” (§2223). and “Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children” (§2225). While parishes and dioceses provide opportunities for religious education, parents play the most important role in handing on the Faith to the next generation.

The following is meant to assist you in preparing your child(ren) for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. What follows is not an exhaustive list of resources, but rather a starting point. Many of the resources below are from FORMED.org. Every household in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings has been provided a subscription to the platform, and thus are encouraged to explore these, and the hundreds of other resources found there. If you do not know how to access your free subscription to FORMED.org, contact your local parish for assistance.

The videos below are meant to further your education as a Catholic and are not necessarily meant to be watched with your child(ren). Some of the content may use language or concepts which your child(ren) may find difficult to understand. It would be better for you to view the videos as references for yourself as you prepare to explain and discuss topics with your child(ren).

To better understand your important role in preparing your child(ren) for the celebration of the Sacraments, you are encouraged to first watch these two videos:

<https://watch.formed.org/forgiven/season:1/videos/for-parents-preparing-your-child-for-first-confession>

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/for-parents-preparing-your-child-for-first-holy-communion>

First Key Question

What is important to you? Before preparing your child(ren) to celebrate the Sacraments, it is important that you ask yourself this question. More importantly, it is vital that you answer it honestly. If celebrating the Sacraments is important to you, then celebrating the Sacraments will be important to your child(ren). If celebrating the Sacraments is not important to you, you cannot expect celebrating the Sacraments to be important to your child(ren).

What is important to you? Once you answer this question, it is important that you have a conversation with your child(ren) and share with them why celebrating the Sacraments is important to you, personally. Sharing your memories of when you first celebrated your Sacraments will assist in bringing the Sacraments to life. Finally, be sure to share with your child(ren) why it is important to you that *they* celebrate the Sacraments for which they are preparing.



Your child is watching

Children learn best by seeing and doing (participating). It is important that you model the Catholic Faith in all aspects of your life. The ways in which this is done include, but are not limited to:

- † Daily prayer (personal and family)
- † Attending and actively participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- † Having a belief in, and devotion to, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
- † Supporting the Church both spiritually and materially
- † Consistently striving to live in accord with the teachings of the Church, and abiding by the Precepts of the Church
- † Regularly celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- † Actively participating in the life of your parish/mission

Handing on the Faith

You do not have the ability to give your child(ren) faith, that is a gift freely given by God to every person. What you do have the ability to do though, is to nurture that deposit of faith. It is vital that you spend time formally instructing your child(ren) in aspects of faith and prayer. In doing this, be sure to:

- † **Work with your child(ren) in memorizing:**
 - † The prayers, gestures and responses of the Mass
<https://watch.formed.org/videos/walk-through-the-mass>
<https://watch.formed.org/the-elements-of-the-catholic-mass> (series)
 - † Common Catholic Prayers

The Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

The Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.



Handing on the Faith (cont.)

† Work with your child(ren) in developing a general knowledge of:

† The Holy Spirit's activity in the Church/life of a believer

Sanctifying Grace

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-holy-spirit-and-the-life-of-grace>

† The two liturgies of the Mass

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/walk-through-the-mass>

<https://watch.formed.org/the-elements-of-the-catholic-mass> (series)

† The Liturgical Seasons of the Church and when they occur

<https://watch.formed.org/the-year-and-our-children-by-mary-newland-reed> (e-book)

Advent (Four weeks prior to Christmas)

Christmas (Three weeks including and following Christmas Day)

Lent (Forty-four Days prior to Good Friday)

Triduum (Holy Thursday Evening through Easter Sunday)

Easter (Seven weeks including and following Easter Sunday)

Ordinary Time (All other time outside of the above mentioned)

† The seven Sacraments and their importance in the life of the Church/believer

<https://watch.formed.org/the-search-continues/season:1/videos/what-are-the-sacraments>

Baptism

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/what-is-baptism>

Confirmation

<https://watch.formed.org/sent-by-the-spirit-the-sacrament-of-confirmation> (series)

Eucharist

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-eucharist>

Reconciliation

<https://watch.formed.org/forgiven> (series)

Anointing of the Sick

<https://watch.formed.org/echo-with-bishop-donald-hying/season:2/videos/anointing-the-sick-and-the-dying>

Matrimony

<https://watch.formed.org/the-search-continues/season:1/videos/what-is-marriage>

Holy Orders

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/called-to-holy-orders-with-fr-paul-hoesing>



Handing on the Faith (cont. 2)

† Work with your child(ren) in developing a general knowledge of:

† The Bible

<https://watch.formed.org/the-search-continues/season:1/videos/theseearchcontinues-25-giszcza-originofbible>

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-20; Deuteronomy 5:1-21

<https://watch.formed.org/echo-with-bishop-donald-hying/season:3> (series)

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34

<https://watch.formed.org/echo-with-bishop-donald-hying/season:3/videos/the-first-commandment-believe-in-the-true-god>

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

<https://watch.formed.org/march-25-the-annunciation-of-the-lord/videos/a-bible-study-on-the-annunciation>

The Nativity

Matthew 1:1-25; Luke 2:1-38

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-story-of-the-nativity-the-truth-of-christmas>

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-31; Luke 22:1-34

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/triduum>

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/formed-live-holy-thursday-jesus-last-supper-and-arrest>

The Passion and Death of Jesus

Matthew 26:36-27:66; Mark 14:32-15:47; Luke 22:39-23:56; John 18:1-19:42

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/triduum>

<https://watch.formed.org/echo-with-bishop-donald-hying/season:1/videos/the-saving-death-and-resurrection-of-christ>

The Resurrection of Jesus

Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-18; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-21:25

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/triduum>

<https://watch.formed.org/did-jesus-really-rise-from-the-dead-1/videos/did-jesus-really-rise-from-the-dead>

The Ascension of Jesus

Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:6-11

<https://watch.formed.org/opening-the-word-1/season:1/videos/the-ascension-of-the-lord-may-28-2017>

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-42

<https://watch.formed.org/opening-the-word-1/season:1/videos/pentecost-may-31-2020>

Baptismal Information Form

Request a copy of a Baptismal Certificate - Please Print

Child's Full Name: _____
First Middle Last

Date of Birth: _____, _____
Month / Day Year) City / State

Father's Name: _____
First Last

Mother's Name: _____
First Maiden Last

**Date of Baptism:* _____, _____
Month / Day Year

Church baptized in: _____
Name of Church

(City / State)

**Please attach a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate for sacrament prep.*

Family Contact Information

Name: _____

Home Phone No.: _____ *Cell Phone No.:* _____

Email: _____