

CONTACT INFO

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Student Expectations:

- † Attend Catholic school or Religious Education
- † Attend all mandatory sacramental preparation events, Masses, and classes
- † Complete all assigned work
- † Cooperate with your parents regarding attendance at Catholic school or Religious Education
- † Cooperate with your parents on attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- † Cooperate with your parents on completing all assigned work
- † Set a Christ-like example to those you encounter both at Epiphany and beyond.

Parent Expectations:

- † Mass attendance on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- † Regular prayer in the home (grace before meals, morning or nighttime prayer, family rosary, etc.)
- † A positive household environment where members strive, together, to live by the wisdom and guidance of our Holy Mother Church
- † Relying on the graces of the sacraments, especially Reconciliation, when you are struggling
- † Make sure your child attends all necessary classes and events
- † Assist your child with completing all assigned work (level of assistance based on student's age and ability)
- † Contact the Director of Faith Formation as soon as any concerns arise

Sacramental Preparation - Sacraments are privileges, not rights, though they are freely offered to all. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Pastor in conjunction with the Director of Faith Formation and parents to determine a person's readiness for a given sacrament. In the case of First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation, the Director of Faith Formation will communicate regularly with the catechists and Stritch teachers regarding the readiness of students. If the catechist or teacher voices a concern (lack of comprehension, immaturity as it relates to receiving the sacrament, lack of dedication to the Catholic faith, etc.) to the director, the director will notify the pastor so that he may open up a dialogue with both the parents and student. Please note that while the Church can never deny your child a sacrament, the pastor can request a delay if he feels the child needs further preparation before receiving the sacramental graces. Since the pastor is accountable before God for these decisions, they cannot and will not be taken lightly. The best way to ensure sacramental readiness of your child is by following the parent expectations as outlined in this handbook and asking the director for help if concerns arise.

First Reconciliation and First Communion - Students prepare for these sacraments primarily in 2nd grade although 1st grade RE classes or Catholic schooling are essential to properly catechize. First Reconciliation typically takes place during Lent and First Communion during the Easter season.

In addition to regular classes, the Diocese of Toledo requires that we offer:

- † A pre-First Communion parish-based retreat experience.
- † Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- † Parent/child formation sessions to be held outside of RE class/Catholic schooling. Topics for these include:
 - ❖ History of the Sacrament of Eucharist
 - ❖ Importance of Eucharist greater understanding of the Mass
 - ❖ Explanation of sacraments and grace
 - ❖ The Sacraments of Initiation

Confirmation - Students prepare for Confirmation during 7th and 8th grade, with the bulk of preparation as well as reception of the sacrament taking place in 8th grade. Epiphany traditionally has Confirmation in the spring at a Mass, in conjunction with other parishes, at the Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral.

In addition to regular classes, the Diocese of Toledo requires that we offer:

- † A pre-Confirmation parish-based retreat experience.
- † Opportunities for works of mercy.
- † Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- † A conference (interview) with the pastor or his delegate.
- † Parent/student/sponsor sessions to be held outside of RE classes/Catholic schooling.
 - ❖ The Sacraments of Initiation
 - ❖ Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ Discipleship
 - ❖ The Rite of Confirmation and Role of the Bishop

