

**THE TORRINGTON CLUSTER OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES**  
**THE OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**  
**POPE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTER**  
**160 Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790**

**Sacramental Programs for Children/Youth**  
**Sacramental Preparation Policy**

The following policy will be followed in order for your child to receive his/her First Reconciliation (First Confession), First Eucharist (First Holy Communion) or Confirmation at St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Peter Church, Sacred Heart Church or St. Mary Church:

**Sacraments of Initiation for baptized children**  
**First Reconciliation and First Eucharist**  
**2-Year Program**

1. A student must attend a faith formation program approved by the pastor for two full years prior to reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Excellent attendance is expected. If your child attended classes in a faith formation program in another parish or at a catholic school, please provide a letter from your former parish or school principal stating that your child attended classes.
2. The preparation process for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist begins in grade one during the month of September and concludes in grade two at the end of April. Each student is allowed three (3) absences in grade one and one (1) absence in grade two. All work must be made up for missed classes. If the student misses more than three (3) classes in grade one and/or more than one (1) class in grade two the family must meet with the Coordinator for Faith Formation K-6. Second graders receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation during the season of Lent and the sacrament of First Eucharist during the month of May.
3. A student entering the program as a second grader and having received no previous formal faith formation will be placed in grade one for the first year. After successfully completing grades one and two as stated above in policy 2 the student will be placed in his/her age appropriate grade the following September.
4. An older student may begin the two year preparation process in any grade. The student must begin the process in September of both years. Each student is allowed three (3) absences. All work must be made up for missed classes. If the student misses more than three (3) classes in one year (Sept – May) the student, along with their parents/guardians must meet with the Coordinator of Faith Formation K-6. Following the completion of the second year of faith formation the child will be required to attend 6 additional sessions (*specific to the Sacrament*). Upon completion of the six sessions the child will receive the sacraments during the month of June.
5. A copy of a child's Baptismal Certificate must be provided to the Office of Faith Formation no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. The Coordinator for Faith Formation will hold a session with parents/guardians to share important information in order to support parents/guardians in their role as their child's primary teacher of the faith.
7. Students who have not been baptized must meet with a priest along with their parents/guardians before entering in the faith formation program.

**Confirmation**  
**2-Year Program**

1. Student must have satisfactorily completed at least 5 years of faith formation before entering Confirmation Program. If the student does not meet the minimum required years the Confirmation Coordinator will evaluate the student's preparedness for entering the first year of the Confirmation Program. An evaluation test may be given to determine the extent of student's knowledge.
2. Student must present proof of Baptism and First Holy Communion before proceeding in the Confirmation Program. Students who have not received First Holy Communion must complete a six session course as stated in policy 3 in the "**Sacramental Programs for Children/Youth Sacramental Preparation Policy**". Students who have not been baptized must meet with a priest along with their guardians before entering in the faith formation program.
3. Student must attend bi-weekly classes in the first year and monthly classes in the second year. Each student is allowed three (3 ) absences in the first year and one (1) absence in the second year. All work must be made up for missed classes. If the student misses more than three classes in the first year and one class in the second year they must meet with the Confirmation Coordinator.
4. Student must pass the final exam at the end of the first year before advancing to the second year. Students failing to pass or complete the exam will have an opportunity to review the material and take the exam a second time. If the student fails to pass the second attempt they must meet with the Coordinator to review their preparedness for advancing.
5. Students must complete seven (7) faith commitments in the first year and seven (7) faith commitments in the second year.
6. Students must choose a saint name in the second year of the program. This saint name will be their Confirmation name. Student must complete a half page essay which includes a short biography of the saint they picked for their namesake and the reason they chose this particular saint.
7. Student must compose a letter addressed to the pastor requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation
8. Student must choose a qualified sponsor\* in their second year.

\* Sponsorship qualifications will be provided to each student.