

Everything you wanted to know and need to know about the Sacraments and Funerals at Holy Rosary

What follows are guidelines and procedures that are already or will be in place at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary for reception of the following Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Penance/Confession, and Marriages/Weddings. Though not a Sacrament, there is also a section on Funerals. Please feel free to print out any and all of this information. In particular, I invite those who plan weddings to do just that. The detailed guideline information forms and the “fill-in” forms CAN be sent to the bride and groom, but the bride and groom may also print out the detailed guideline information form(s) which pertain(s) to them – which must be signed – and, in particular, the “fill-in” forms which must be completed and signed. Information and forms are in separate, logically identified, downloadable files. The bride and groom will retain signed copies of all documents and the church will have a copy of all signed documents as well.

It is of primary importance to remember that Christ must always be at the center of everything. In any liturgical or sacramental celebration, Christ is always the focus and no other individual or individuals. Of course, the individual(s) play(s) a special role and should be supported in the celebration and buoyed by the prayers of relatives, friends and neighbors. But the foremost reason for any liturgical or sacramental gathering is the worship of God and the defining of the relationship of the individual(s) to Him.

By Baptism, one becomes a child of God. By Confirmation, one is strengthened in the Faith by the special power of the Holy Spirit. In Holy Communion, one receives the Body and Blood of Christ into his very being. If one has sinned against God in any way, by means of the Sacrament of Penance, one reestablishes his relationship to and becomes reconciled with God. In Matrimony, two people freely consent to lifelong fidelity, mirroring Christ’s love for His Church and cooperating with God in the wondrous act of procreation. In the Funeral liturgy, one is borne into the Church where Mass is celebrated and sacred rites are carried out to speed and assist the deceased’s soul on its way to mystical union with the Blessed Trinity in heaven’s eternity, waiting only for the final resurrection of the body at the end of time. In any and all, it is God, not the individual, Who is paramount.

Baptism: The following deals primarily with infant Baptism. Baptism for adults normally takes place after the completion of the RCIA course and, in addition to the reception of Confirmation and First Communion, takes place at the Easter Vigil. On rare occasions, Baptism for adults and children who have reached the age of reason, can happen apart from the Easter Vigil, but also presupposes instruction in the Catholic faith, either under tutelage of the pastor/administrator or the Coordinator of Religious Education and whomever he/she appoints.

Those who are blessed for the first time with parenthood are to prepare themselves for the Baptism of their child. Baptism, like one’s relationship to God, like one’s membership in a family, like one’s learning, experiencing and continuing in God’s creation, is not merely an event, but an ongoing thing. Such a sacred thing cannot be taken lightly. It is vitally important that parents, since they are the child’s first teachers, and his/her first religious instructors, be well grounded in the Catholic Faith, and therefore, be able to instill that Faith in the child from the very beginning. The Church recognizes human frailty and weakness and realizes that good intentions might not be sufficient to instruct a small child in the Faith. She wants to make sure

that, in order for parents to instruct their offspring rightly, they have a solid grounding in the Faith themselves.

First-time parents are, therefore, requested to contact the Coordinator of Religious Education as soon as possible to set up a schedule for catechetical instruction. The Coordinator will be able to judge quickly how much instruction will be necessary. Trusting that the parents will maintain the necessary level of knowledge of and commitment to the Catholic Faith, instruction for additional children, though encouraged, will not be required.

Unless a close relative or friend of the family is a priest in good standing, the officiant for the Sacrament is to be Holy Rosary's Pastor/Administrator, or should there be one, the Associate Pastor.

Baptismal information needed by Holy Rosary's office, for Baptismal certificates and the register:

Child's Baptismal Name

Child's Date of Birth

Child's Date of Birth

Father's Name

Mother's Maiden Name

Parents' Address, Telephone Number(s), Email

Name of Godparents

N.B.: If the godparents are not Holy Rosary parishioners, (an) affidavit(s), testifying as to their suitability to serve as godparents, will be necessary from the appropriate pastor(s).

The date and time for Baptism must be scheduled with the pastor/administrator.

A Brief Instruction from the Coordinator of Religious Education on Confirmation

Confirmation: The Holy Spirit is given to a person for the first time in the Sacrament of Baptism to sanctify that person. The Holy Spirit is given again in a special way in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which enhances the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds. It thrusts the confirmed person into the mission of the Church, whose mission is to bring all people to Jesus.

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the Sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed (CCC, 1285).

The Role of Parents and Pastor

Holy Rosary recognizes and respects the primary role of the parents in the education of their own children. The means used for this education fall within the prerogative of the parents. However, the administration of the sacraments is the responsibility of the pastor.

On catechesis necessary for the reception of the sacraments, Canon 777 states the following:

“In a special way, the parish priest is to ensure, in accordance with the norms laid down by the diocesan bishop, that:

1. An adequate catechesis is given for the celebration of the sacraments;
2. Children are properly prepared for First Confession and First Holy Communion, and for the sacrament of confirmation, by means of catechetical formation over an appropriate period of time;
3. Children, after they have made their First Holy Communion, are given a richer and deeper catechetical formation;
4. As far as their condition allows, catechetical formation is given to the mentally and physically handicapped;
5. The faith of young people and adults is strengthened, enlightened and developed by various catechetical methods and initiatives.”

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, under the direction of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, invites all persons between the ages of 13 and 18 to participate in a process of Confirmation and liturgical preparation. Sacramental preparation for Confirmation is open to all registered Holy Rosary parishioners and students from Lumen Christi Catholic School.

Parish Sacramental Classes

The parish sacramental classes meet as scheduled on Saturdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. The Confirmation text used in the sacrament program is *Spreading and Defending the Faith, Confirmation in the Image of God Series* published by Ignatius Press. The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has listed Image of God among the catechetical books and series that are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The emphasis of the text is on examining the foundational and other important elements of the Faith. It will also assist in understanding better the truths revealed to us by Christ and His Apostles. The better one understands the Faith, the better one will be able to live it and explain it to others. Candidates will also need to complete 25 hours of service work with an emphasis on works of charity and works of mercy. Testing on the required prayers and teachings will take place before the reception of the sacrament.

Homeschooled Children

Homeschooled children are invited and encouraged to join the parish sacramental classes. However, if the parents choose to instruct and prepare their children at home, they will be required to join the rest of the parish children in the Holy Rosary Catechetical Program in testing as outlined in the parish schedule of classes.

Lumen Christi Students

Because of the special relationship between Lumen Christi students and Holy Rosary Parish, permission has been granted by the administrator, Father Michael Magiera, for students 13 and older in the school to receive Confirmation at Holy Rosary. However, Lumen Christi students and their families who belong to other parishes must request in writing from their pastors a letter granting permission for their children to be prepared for the sacrament at Holy Rosary Church. Lumen Christi students will participate in the parish sacramental classes.

Guidelines for Choosing a Sponsor

When choosing a sponsor, all candidates will follow the guidelines as taken from Canon Law and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Prayers and Teachings to be Memorized

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| * The Sign of the Cross | * Seven Sacraments |
| * Grace Before Meals | * Morning Offering |
| * Our Father | * Hail, Holy Queen |
| * Hail Mary | * Corporal Works of Mercy |
| * Glory Be | * Spiritual Works of Mercy |
| * Act of Contrition | * Mysteries of the Rosary |
| * Rite of Confession | * Gifts of the Spirit |
| * Ten Commandments | * Order of the Mass |

Baptismal Certificates

We are required by the Church to obtain the Baptismal information before a child is allowed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please obtain a copy of your child's baptism certificate from the church in which he or she was baptized. If your child was baptized at Holy Rosary Church, you need only provide us with the date of Baptism.

Program Fees

The tuition fee for the program to prepare your child for the sacrament is \$25. This covers the cost of the student textbooks and other materials needed in the program.

The preceding and following information deals primarily with the reception of Confirmation by young people after they have fulfilled the standardized requirements and completed the preparation course established as the parish norm. Confirmation of adults normally takes place at the Easter Vigil following their reception of the Sacrament of Baptism. If the adult is already

baptized, he may be confirmed at the Easter Vigil, provided the pastor/administrator has been granted the necessary faculties, or at a later time at one of the Confirmation evenings scheduled by the archdiocese.

Parents of Confirmation candidates must register their child(ren) for Confirmation regardless of whether their child(ren) participate in the formal instruction at the church. After having completed the course of instruction and after having been tested, the child will be welcomed to the altar rail or into the sanctuary for Confirmation. All Confirmandi will wear semi-formal attire. Boys will wear a dark suit, dark dress shoes, white or light color shirt and a four-in-hand tie. Girls are expected to wear a modest, tasteful dress, stockings and dress shoes. Sponsors, must be practicing Roman Catholics in good standing. Sponsors are also expected to wear semi-formal attire, described above for the confirmandi. Specific instructions for the reception of Confirmation will be given and the necessary “rehearsals” for it will be conducted.

Specific details on the course of study used in the formal classroom training – with recommendations on course materials for home-schoolers who opt to absent themselves from said training – the testing schedule (required for all who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation) and the “service project” expected of each confirmand is specified above. It will also be made available in a hard-copy brochure for distribution to interested parishioners or will be made available to parents who request them specifically.

Scheduling will never be a problem for candidates who wish to be confirmed in the Ordinary Form. Such Confirmations, celebrated in the cathedral, are frequent and routine over the course of any given year. However, for those who wish to be confirmed in the Extraordinary Form, scheduling might be, regrettably, somewhat restricted or sporadic. The reason is the number of potential confirmandi in any given year. It may be that there are so few confirmandi that Confirmation in the Extraordinary Form might not be possible every year. Depending on the number of confirmandi, Confirmations may be restricted to a two-year or possibly three-year cycle, and may even also necessitate “combining” Holy Rosary confirmandi with those from Ss. Cecilia and Philomena in Brookville, with Confirmations held one year at Holy Rosary and the next year (or two or three years later) at Ss. Cecilia and Philomena. This will always involve communication with the (Arch)bishop’s office and with the pastor of Ss. Cecilia and Philomena and will result in a prudential judgment-call from Confirmation year to Confirmation year. If the confirmand (that is the Confirmation candidate) was NOT baptized at Holy Rosary, our office will need a baptismal certificate. Notice of the Confirmation will be entered into our baptismal register if the confirmand was baptized here. Notice of the Confirmation for others will be sent to the appropriate church of baptism. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Additional information needed by the Holy Rosary office:

Confirmand’s Name

Confirmand’s Confirmation Name

Name of the Sponsor

Penance: The subject deals predominantly with “First Penance” and is primarily intended for parents of children who have reached the age of reason and who are in the process of completing the religious education course necessary for the reception of First Communion. Baptized adults who are to receive First Communion, normally given at the Easter Vigil Mass following the completion of the required RCIA course, must receive either “First Penance” or, if they are returning to the practice of the Catholic Faith after some hiatus, must go to confession before receiving First Communion. The principle is this: Candidates for the reception of First Communion, regardless of age, are required to receive the Sacrament of (First) Penance. Specific instructions will be given for First Penance and the necessary “rehearsals” for it will be conducted. The day, date time for First Penance will be determined by the pastor/administrator and the Coordinator of Religious Education. Please see the ‘Brief Instruction’ below for more information, details and specifics.

First Holy Communion: Parents of First Communicants must register their child(ren) for First Holy Communion regardless of whether their child(ren) participate in the formal instruction at the church. After having completed the course of instruction and after having been tested, the child will be welcomed to the altar rail or into the sanctuary for the annual parish First Holy Communion. First Holy Communions take place once per year, usually in May, on a weekend determined by the pastor/administrator. First Holy Communions will take place at the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass and the Noon Sunday Mass. All First Communicants will wear traditional First Holy Communion garb. Boys will wear a dark suit, dark dress shoes, white or light color shirt and a four-in-hand tie. Girls are expected to wear a white dress, white veil, white socks or stockings and white shoes. Religious goods stores, online stores or catalogues offer a great variety of First Holy Communion outfits for girls and, for both boys and girls, these outlets usually offer First Holy Communion “kits” usually consisting of a missal or prayer book, a rosary, and quite possibly, First Communion bows or lapel ribbons. At the Sunday noon Mass, parents of First Communicants are urged to join their child(ren) at either the altar rail or prie-Dieu and receive Holy Communion themselves. It is hoped that parents will match their child(ren) in their attire. Specific instructions will be given for First Holy Communion and the necessary “rehearsals” for it will be conducted.

First Communicants who were baptized at Holy Rosary need not furnish the church office with baptismal certificates. First Communicants who were NOT baptized at Holy Rosary must provide baptismal certificates. The First Holy Communion will be noted in Holy Rosary’s baptismal records for those First Communicants baptized here. For others, notice of First Holy Communion will be sent to the church of baptism. Please see the ‘Brief Instruction’ below for more information, details and specifics.

A Brief Instruction from the Coordinator of Religious Education on First Penance and First Holy Communion:

First Penance and First Holy Communion: The purpose of the family-centered program is to prepare the second grade children in Holy Rosary Parish to receive the Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion. Since parents are called to be the primary religious educators of their children, the sacramental parish program is designed to assist parents in

teaching, reinforcing and instilling the meaning and value of the sacraments in the lives of their children.

The First Penance and First Eucharist text and activity that is used in the sacrament program is *Jesus Our Life, Book Two* in the Faith and Life Series. Faith and Life is published by Ignatius Press. The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has listed Faith and Life among the catechetical books and series that are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Role of the Parents

Parents are the most important adult Catholics in the life of their child. At baptism you promised God that you would raise your son or daughter in the Catholic faith. Concretely, this means that you will provide the necessary religious education for your child in the faith. It also means that you will show your child that faith in God is something real and practical and part of everyday life. The expectation is that you will bring your son or daughter to Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation.

Through this special sacramental program, we are emphasizing your role as teachers of the faith. At the same time, the parish catechists, staff at Lumen Christi School and the faith community of Holy Rosary parish will assist you in your role as the primary educator of your child.

Parish Sacramental Classes

The parish sacramental classes meet weekly on Sundays from 11:15 a.m. to 11:55 a.m., which is between the 9:30 am and noon Masses. The emphasis of the text is on the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lessons emphasize God's mercy and love, covers creation, the covenant with Moses, the Ten Commandments, redemption, forgiveness of sins, and the Mass. Students will also participate in two retreats, one with the emphasis on Penance, and the other with an emphasis on the Mass and Eucharist. Testing on the required prayers and understanding of each of the sacraments will take place before the reception of the sacraments.

Homeschooled Children

Homeschooled children are invited and encouraged to join the parish sacramental classes. However, if the parents choose to instruct and prepare their children at home, they will be required to join the rest of the parish children in the Holy Rosary Catechetical Program for the retreats and testing as outlined in the parish schedule of classes. A reduced fee may be required.

Lumen Christi Students

Because of the special relationship between Lumen Christi students and Holy Rosary Parish, permission has been granted by the administrator, Father Michael Magiera, for all the second grade children in the school to receive First Penance and First Communion at Holy Rosary. However, Lumen Christi students and their families who belong to other parishes must request in

writing from their pastors a letter granting permission for their children to be prepared for the sacraments at Holy Rosary Church.

Lumen Christi students will receive the fullness of the 2nd grade catechism and sacramental preparation by 1) completing the lessons in the *Jesus Our Life* text and activity books in their school religion class, and 2) by joining the rest of the parish children in the Holy Rosary Catechetical Program for the retreats and testing as outlined in the parish schedule of classes. A reduced fee may be required.

Prayers and Teachings to be Memorized

The children preparing for First Penance and First Eucharist should memorize the following prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Traditional Act of Contrition.

Teachings to be understood and memorized include:

- Sacraments: What is it? How many are there? What are their names in order?
- Grace: What is grace? What are the two kinds of grace? How are they received?
- Sin: What is sin? Know the difference between Original and actual, mortal and venial. What removes Original sin? What removes actual sin?
- The Ten Commandments in order. Students should also know that the first three commandments are directly related to God and that the remaining seven are related to neighbor.

- The Two Greatest Commandments of Jesus
- The Three Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity, with a basic understanding of each.

- The Holy Days of Obligation (in order)
- The Eucharist: What is it? The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.
- Confession: Steps to making a good confession, formats
- Eucharistic Reception: formats

Baptismal Certificates

We are required by the Church to obtain the Baptismal information before a child is allowed to receive the sacraments of Penance and Communion. Please obtain a copy of your child's baptism certificate from the church in which he or she was baptized. If your child was baptized at Holy Rosary Church, you need only provide us with the date of Baptism.

Program Fee

The tuition fee for the program to prepare your child for the sacraments is \$20. This covers the cost of the student textbooks and other materials needed in the program.

The Coordinator of Religious Education:

For the sacraments of Baptism (for first time parents), First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, your most important resource will be the Coordinator of Religious Education. Presently, and hopefully for many years to come, said Coordinator is Mrs. Teresa Gorsage. She can be reached at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in the following way: Church phone: 317-636-4478; Church email: hrchurch@hotmail.com ; Coordinator's cell phone: 317-531-0655; Coordinator's email: tgorsage@comcast.net

Matrimony: Matrimony is a sacrament. Matrimony lasts a lifetime. Marriage is a way of life. A wedding is an event. Yes, it's a great event. Like the day one receives First Holy Communion and Confirmation, it should be one of the happiest days of one's life. But, there is a great difference between an event and the living out of a sacramental state. Marriage is something for which great preparation must be done. To that end, there are requirements in place in the Church as a whole, in the particular Church known as the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and in the parish of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.

A wedding is an occasion for families and friends to gather together to pray for a man and a woman as they enter married life. To be sure, it is a time for festive music, flowers, fine clothing and good food. These festivities should never overshadow the primary purpose of the wedding ceremony, the reception of a Holy and Sacred Sacrament instituted by Christ. These policies and guidelines will help ensure the proper reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony at Holy Rosary Church.

There are two specific documents that can be downloaded/printed. Each document contains all of the guidelines for weddings at Holy Rosary. One of the documents is intended for registered parishioners. It is entitled Parishioner Wedding Guidelines and Forms. The other is intended for non-parishioners. It is entitled Non-Parishioner Guidelines and Forms. There is also a third document intended for those couples who wish to be married in a Nuptial Mass in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite called Extraordinary Form Wedding Guidelines Supplement. Those wishing to be married in the Ordinary Form need not concern themselves with this document. But those who DO wish to be married in the Extraordinary Form must also attend to one of the other general wedding guideline documents, either that for parishioners or that for non-parishioners.

All documents require signatures and must be returned to Holy Rosary. We suggest that the engaged couple keep a copy of everything for their own reference. Each document, for parishioners and non-parishioners alike contains:

1. A Wedding Request Form – to be completed, signed and returned to Holy Rosary
2. A Wedding Information Form – to be completed, signed and returned to Holy Rosary
3. A “Preparing for Marriage” Document – to be signed and returned to Holy Rosary
4. The actual set of guidelines – to be signed and returned to Holy Rosary
5. A Wedding Documentation Check List – This is primarily for Holy Rosary's use, though it is a good reference for the couple to use in gathering documentation and to see the status of their documentation.

Funerals: Funerals, in themselves, are not happy times. They are times for us to mourn. We must also trust that the Church mourns with us, Her children. Holy Rosary mourns the death of any and all of her parishioners. Please know that the pastor/administrator also mourns, having known the death of loved ones, and sincerely sympathizes.

The function of a funeral is to bear our loved one to the throne of God. We do this when we bring our beloved deceased into the church and lay him/her before the gate of the sanctuary. After we do that, Christ, in his priest, offers Himself in sacrifice to the Father as a propitiatory offering for the soul of this beloved man or woman.

A funeral is not the time to “celebrate the life” of someone. It is the time to offer ourselves, along with Christ to the Father and to beg the Father to take the soul of our loved one to His bosom. It is a tribute to the merciful love of Christ and to the victory over death won by Jesus, together with a prayerful plea that the merits of that victory be extended now to the person being prayed for. In this, we necessarily give supreme place to God and acknowledge our unworthiness by our adoration and worship of Him. He, in union with His Son and the Holy Spirit are our focus. The beloved deceased is not.

A funeral is a special time, a holy time, a quiet time, a prayerful time and a sacrificial time. Our prayers for the soul of the faithful departed are to blend with the Sacrifice of the Mass offered by Christ’s priest, in order to speed the soul of our departed loved one into the court of heaven. It is incumbent on use to conduct ourselves with reverence, dignity and awe.

There is a separate document, available for download, that gives specific guidelines and more detail. Please download and print it off when needed. It is entitled ‘Guidelines for Funerals at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.’

This entire document dealing with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Matrimony, Funerals, as well as the following specific guidelines (and forms) for weddings and funerals, are promulgated (or, “re-promulgated” for guidelines and policies already established) Monday, 12 December, 2011, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and take effect on Sunday, 25 December 2011, the Nativity of the Lord.

Rev. Michael W. Magiera, Administrator