

# St. Joseph Church

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## Sacramental Guidelines

### ...for children

For all of these sacraments, at least one parent must be a parishioner of St. Joseph parish and an active, practicing Catholic sharing time, talent and treasure with the parish community. Please note that it is the policy of the Saginaw Diocese that children celebrate the sacraments in their home parish.

**Baptism:** The parent(s) are required to attend a Baptism preparation class before their child can be baptized. We encourage godparents to attend since they also are making a commitment to assist the parents in the religious upbringing of the child. These classes are held at each of our cluster parishes (St. Boniface and St. John) and those seeking baptism may attend any of the three parishes. St. Joseph classes are held on a Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the rectory basement. After the preparation a time will be set for the baptism at one of our weekend liturgies. You can download the cluster baptism schedule at [www.stjosephbcm.com](http://www.stjosephbcm.com)

**Confirmation:** The candidates (children) are required to be registered and faithfully attending either our Faith Formation/Religious Education program or one of the Catholic schools. Both parents and candidates need to attend additional classes and a retreat to prepare for the celebration of this sacrament. Sponsors are encouraged to also attend the retreat with the candidate. Confirmation is conferred by the Bishop or our Sacramental Minister generally during the Easter season.

**First Eucharist:** As with Confirmation, children are required to be registered and faithfully attending either our Faith Formation/Religious Education program or one of the Catholic schools. Both parents and candidates need to attend additional classes to prepare for the celebration of this sacrament. First Eucharist is celebrated in the second grade after Confirmation.

**First Penance/Reconciliation:** As with Confirmation, children are required to be registered and faithfully attending either our Faith Formation/Religious Education program or one of the Catholic schools. Both parents and candidates need to attend additional classes to prepare for the celebration of this sacrament. Children are encouraged to prepare for reconciliation before they begin preparation for First Eucharist.

### ...for adults

***Baptism, Confirmation, or Eucharist:*** A person seeking any of these sacraments must participate in a program of preparation and instruction. The kind and length of this preparation will be determined between the pastoral administrator/pastor and the individual.

***Marriage:*** At least one member of the couple must be a parishioner of St. Joseph parish and an active, practicing Catholic sharing time, talent and treasure with the parish community. The couple needs to contact the pastoral administrator/pastor at least six months prior to the date the couple desires to marry. Couples should **not** reserve a hall or make any other plans until they have contacted the church. There is a preparation program in which the couple will need to participate. The program and other guidelines will be explained at the initial meeting with the pastoral administrator/pastor.