

Sacraments: Preparation & Living the Faith

There are seven sacraments in the Catholic Church grouped into three categories:

- ⇒ **The Sacraments of Initiation.**
- ⇒ **The Sacraments of Healing.**
- ⇒ **The Sacraments of Service.**

Here we intend to provide guidelines for sacramental preparation. These guidelines are not only beneficial for those learning about the sacraments for the first time, but also for those who seek to live a vital, spiritual life rooted in an ever-deepening faith.

Much of this information is from <http://formed.org/>, a Catholic platform subscribed to by our parish and available free to all parishioners. The content includes informative videos, multi-lesson Bible studies, audio books, and streaming movies. You are encouraged to explore the site to find not only those resources listed here on the sacraments, but also the wide-ranging content aimed at strengthening your understanding of our Catholic beliefs, traditions, and practices. Whatever your stage in life or your learning preferences, you're sure to find a good fit!

Simply go to <http://formed.org/>, find "St. Thomas Redmond" and set up your own personal account with an email and password. Then explore at your own pace, searching out areas of interest to you.

Included in our preparation guidelines for the sacraments is additional context provided by the Diocese of Baker documents:

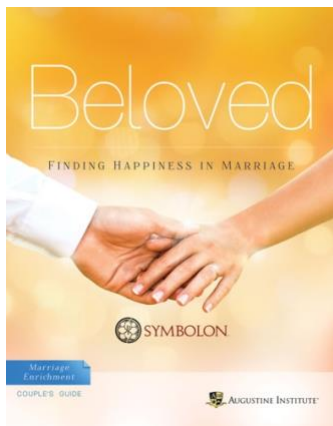
- ⇒ **Pastoral Guidelines.**
- ⇒ **Catechetical Guidelines and Norms for Sacramental Preparation.**



We are called to love and be loved, and through the vocation of marriage “mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man” (CCC 1604). Jesus “himself gives the strength and grace to live marriage [...]. It is by following Christ, renouncing themselves, and taking up their crosses that spouses will be able to ‘receive’ the original meaning of marriage and live it with the help of Christ” (CCC 1615).

“*Beloved*” is a program offered on Formed.org that was created by the Augustine Institute that focuses on marriage—that time after the wedding when you find yourself in the day-to-day challenges of creating a life as one.

“*Part 1: Mystery and Meaning of Marriage*” has six sessions explaining the importance of marriage and the Catholic context of marriage as a sacrament. “*Part 2: Living Marriage*” provides six additional sessions to expand on the foundation laid in Part 1. The focus is on how to understand the meaning of marriage more clearly during the day-to-day living of your vows by emphasizing the importance of keeping faith at the core of your relationship. *Beloved* is also available in Spanish.



IMPORTANT REMINDER: Those wishing to be married in the parish of St. Thomas must attend a six-month counseling series with one of our priests prior to the date of the marriage. There are no exceptions, so please call today to get your time scheduled.