

## 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.**

## Sacraments of Initiation

The sacraments of initiation provide a foundation for the “vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world” that all of Christ’s disciples have (CCC 1533).

We follow the [Baker Diocese Pastoral Implementation for Sacraments of Initiation](#). Children prepare for the sacraments through religious education, youth group, and preparation programs. Adults prepare by participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.). The specific plan for preparation is determined based on a range of factors as outlined in the pastoral guidelines for the diocese, including whether the person has the use of reason, and whether they should be baptized or catechized.

**Parents and godparents play vital roles in the process of initiation into the faith. Parents are the first and primary educators for their children** (i.e., CCC 2223, CCC 2224, and CCC 2226). Committing to be a godparent is agreeing to nurture the faith development long-term. Godparents need to be at least 16 years old, Confirmed, and in good standing with the Church.



*También disponible en español.*

RENANCER

TÚ, TU HIJO Y LA ESENCIA DEL BAUTISMO

### **Baptism—**

***These Resources Are Available in Spanish as Well as English***

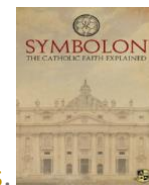
“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit [...], and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated in the Church, and made sharers in her mission” (CCC 1213).

*REBORN is a comprehensive program from the Augustine Institute focusing on Baptism.*

The three sessions explore:

- ⇒ A deep understanding of Baptism in the context of Salvation History with links to the Old and New Testaments, as well as Sacred Tradition.
- ⇒ A step-by-step explanation of the Rite of Baptism, providing the deeper significance behind each prayer and action in the process.
- ⇒ An explanation of how parents and godparents can live out their vital roles modeling a life of faith.

Additionally, there are bonus sessions offered that focus on Catholic parenting, the role of the godparents, and a training for Catechists.



A supplemental resource on **Baptism** is [Part 2: Session 1](#) in the Symbolon series.

*Minutes 1—24 address the Sacrament of Baptism.*