

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.**

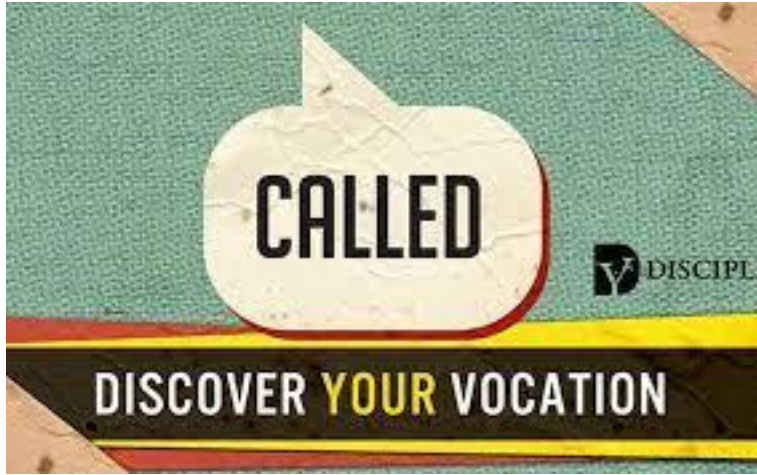
Here we intend to provide guidelines for sacramental preparation. These guidelines are not only beneficial for those learning about the sacraments for the first time, but also for those who seek to live a vital, spiritual life rooted in an ever-deepening faith.

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:

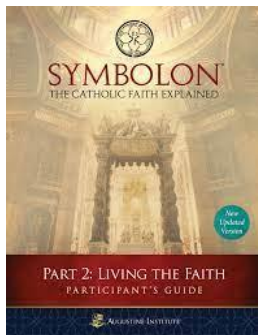
- ⇒ **Pastoral Guidelines.**
- ⇒ **Catechetical Guidelines and Norms for Sacramental Preparation.**



Sacraments of Service Discover Your Vocation

There are three degrees of Holy Orders: episcopate (bishops), presbyterate (priests), and diaconate (deacons) (CCC 1536). “Through the ordained ministry, especially that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers” (CCC 1549).

Many of the resources on Formed.org focus on both sacraments of service. “*YDisciple Called*” focuses on discerning what God is calling us to do in our lives with a consideration of Vocation. The first two sessions focus on what a vocation and discernment are, followed by session three on Holy Orders, session four on Consecrated Life, and session five on Holy Matrimony.



“*Session 5 in Symbolon Part 2*” also explores the sacraments of service. Both programs are also available in Spanish.