



NOTICE – CHANGES TO SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

August 14, 2017

Msgr. Campbell, Rector of the Basilica, has announced two important changes that will affect our parish policy regarding sacramental preparation.

FIRST CHANGE: AGE OF RECEPTION OF CONFIRMATION

Bishop Jeffrey Monforton has made an important change of policy for the entire Diocese of Steubenville. His decree reads, in part: “the Sacrament of Confirmation is to be conferred at the ‘age of discretion,’ which will, in the Diocese of Steubenville, be the fifth grade level (age 11-12)...Introduction of a common age for Confirmation will be done in a deliberate way, over a three-year period of time.”

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated during the 2017-2018 school year for students in grades six, seven and eight. The Sacrament will be offered again during the 2018-2019 school year for students in grades five and six. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the Sacrament will be offered every year for students in grade five.

SECOND CHANGE: REQUIRED PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, any student wishing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Confirmation **MUST** participate in 2 YEARS of religious education prior to receiving the sacrament.

If a student wishes to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation during the 2017-2018 school year, that student must have participated in religious education during the 2016-2017 school year.*

If the student has not participated in religious education the prior year, he or she must register and begin religious instruction so that he or she can receive the Sacrament the following year.

* Religious instruction can be received through St. Mary Catholic School, Parkersburg Catholic School, St. Mary Basilica CCD Program, or through another Catholic School or Parish Religious Education Program. Homeschoolers who are registered with the local superintendent of schools may complete this program by using an approved Catholic Religion Curriculum.