

## **Policy regarding the reception of the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and First Eucharist for children baptized Catholic as infants who attend St. Ambrose Catholic School and the St. Ambrose Parish School of Religion.**

In 2019, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois implemented the “**Restored Order**” of the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist). Children baptized Catholic in infancy are to celebrate the sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) prior to reception of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

### **Diocesan Policy:**

**§204.1. Policy. “Catechetical Age” Defined Children at or about 6 or 7 years, but presumptively by age 7 shall be considered of catechetical age (per canon 97, §2).**

### **St. Ambrose Parish Policy**

To receive the sacrament of **Penance** (Reconciliation) a child will normally be prepared by the School/PSR and parents in the Fall of their second-grade year.

To receive the sacrament of **Eucharist**, a child will normally be prepared the School/PSR and parents in the Spring of their second-grade year.

To receive the sacrament of **Confirmation** a child will normally be prepared by the School/PSR and parents in the Fall of their third-grade year.

If an “**uncatechized**” (*no formal religious formation*) child (*having not reached their seventh birthday*) baptized as a Catholic enrolls in the Parish School or School of Religion, preparation for the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Eucharist will be adapted for them, but the **time-frame will remain the same** (at least three semesters) as listed above to provide adequate faith formation in, and to establish readiness for, the sacraments.

If an “**uncatechized**” (*no formal religious formation*) child (*seven years of age and older*) baptized as a Catholic in infancy enrolls in the Parish School or School of Religion, preparation for the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Eucharist will take place following the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults with the special tract for children.

The sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist for those **baptized as Catholic** are celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois with the Bishop as celebrant.

Children who are **baptized Catholic** and **uncatechized** who are part of the **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** (with a tract for children) will celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil or on a Sunday during the Easter Season at St. Ambrose after the **pastor receives delegation** from the Bishop to do so.

**Policy regarding the reception of the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and First Eucharist for children validly baptized CHRISTIAN (but not Catholic) as infants who attend St. Ambrose Catholic School and the St. Ambrose Parish School of Religion.**

Parents of children **validly baptized in another Christian faith** who wish to become Catholic should speak with Fr. Steve or Deacon Bill.

**Policy regarding the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist for children who have never been baptized who attend St. Ambrose Catholic School and the St. Ambrose Parish School of Religion.**

Parents of children who have **never been baptized** who wish to have their children baptized Catholic should speak with Fr. Steve or Deacon Bill.

- a) Once an unbaptized child reaches catechetical age (**7 years**), the Rite of Baptism for Children may no longer be used for reception of the Sacraments.
- b) Unbaptized children of catechetical age presented for Baptism, because they are true catechumens, are treated in suitable ways that will be different than children baptized in infancy and raised within Catholic households.

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