

May 05, 2017

Sacraments and Such:

Sacraments in General: If any sacraments are important then all sacraments are important. For instance, if parent(s) want a child to be baptized, then the family should be taking part in the worship, sacraments and life of the parish. The same “should be” applies to all of the Sacraments, First Communion, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Marriage.

Most pastors, including here at St. Mary’s, insist that before a sacrament can be received, the person receiving it or the family requesting it should be involved in the sacraments and worship...OR...**should BECOME INVOLVED** in the sacraments and worship...before such sacrament can be given. (What does this mean: At a minimum, you should be attending mass and receiving the Sacraments on a regular basis).

To say: “I (my child) went to/grew up at St. Mary’s School all eight years and received First Communion and Confirmation when in school” does not meet the requirement of being involved in the Church and Sacraments TODAY.

What if I want myself or my child to receive a sacrament at my home parish (St. Mary’s) even though I live elsewhere? That is easily resolved.! All that is needed is a letter from their current pastor giving permission, stating the prerequisites for such a sacrament to be given.

Marriage: The Catholic Church has certain requirements as well as restrictions when it comes to getting married in the Church. For instance, one must contact the parish priest six months before the date the marriage is to take place. The couple must meet with the Priest (or Deacon...or even Parish Life Coordinator) for various pre-marriage preparations. None of these preparations are overly taxing to the couple and they do not take up too much time. Should it be the case that the Catholic wanting to be married does not live in the parish, they should contact their home pastor. (See above paragraph).

I WISH I COULD SAY “this goes without saying” ...but I cannot! If there have been previous marriages on the part of either person wishing to be married in the Church, the circumstance of that (those) previous marriages must be investigated. This required investigation is without cost and could take between 1 hour, a year (or even more).

RCIA: Finally, (for now) ... for those adults who are not Catholic but want to become Catholic: We have a program called RCIA that they must partake in. This begins in August and continues until Easter. The same “Caution” regarding marriage (as stated above) applies.

For all sacraments, please call the office. The number is 812-926-0060. Thank you.

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