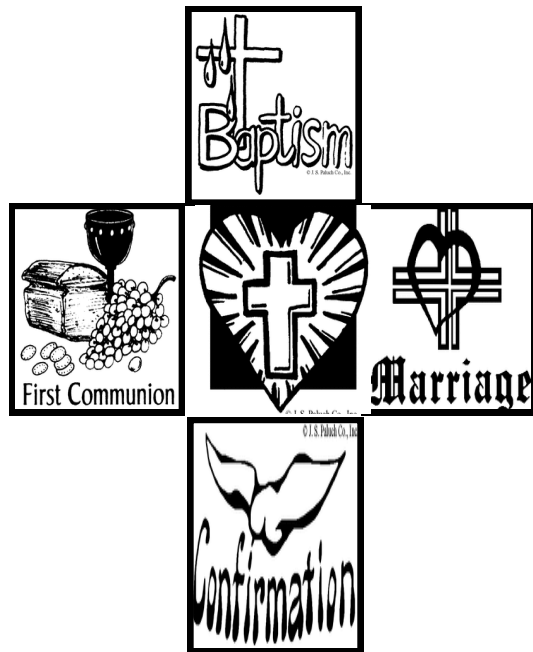


QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1509 NEW COMBES HWY.
HARLINGEN, TEXAS 78550

PARISH OFFICE
(956)423-6341 ext. 106



Website: www.qphrl.org

Revised: 10/15/14

SACRAMENT GUIDELINES Candidate wishing to receive a sacrament at Queen of Peace Parish must be registered in the parish. Candidates from other parishes or living outside the boundaries must present a letter of permission from the pastor of their parish. Please refer to the parish bulletin for registration dates. For more information and registration fees please contact the parish office. For information about First Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, and RCIA contact CCE Office.

BAPTISM

1) **Parents** must register their child and present the official birth certificate at the time of registration.

2) The **child** must not be older than six (6) years of age. Older children must be enrolled in the RCIA program.

3) **Godparent:** is one who, designated by both parents of the child, presents a child for Baptism and helps the baptized child lead a Christian life in harmony with the Catholic Faith. He/She must set the proper example to the child by living and practicing their Catholic faith.

A) Single (not married or cohabiting with someone):

Must be at least 16 years of age.

Must have received sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.

B) Married:

Must have received sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and proof of Marriage in the Catholic Church.

4) Both parents and godparents must attend all 3 baptismal instructions. If these instructions have already been attended, proof of attendance must be presented, at the time of registration. The certificate of completion must be signed by a priest or delegate.

5) If married, both godparents must have attended the instruction, if not, then only the name of the godparent that attended will be typed in the Baptismal Certificate.

FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST

1) Candidates for First Holy Eucharist should have received the sacraments of Baptism and Penance. They must be in 3rd grade or older and participating regularly in the celebration of Sunday Mass. They must have the required three years CCE preparation prior to receiving the sacrament.

2) In the third year of candidate's preparation, parents need to attend a parent class simultaneously with their child.

3) Parents and sponsors are expected to fully participate in Sunday liturgies by frequently receiving the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist if they are fully prepared to receive it. (Members of the Catholic faithful who are married outside the Church or cohabiting should abstain from receiving the Most Holy Eucharist until their irregular situation is resolved, Synod Legislation 2006)

4) Sponsors are not required, but it is suggested that Sponsors for the candidate be their godparents from Baptism. If this is not possible, then the sponsor should:

A) Accept the responsibility of supporting the child in his/her faith journey as he /she prepares to receive the First Holy Eucharist.

B) Be practicing Catholics by attending Mass regularly on Sundays and participating in the Holy Eucharist.

C) They must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

D) If married, they must have received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Persons in irregular marriages or cohabiting (civil or common law) do not qualify to be sponsors.

CONFIRMATION

1) Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation should have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and First Communion. They should be participating in Sunday Mass at Queen of Peace, be 16 years of age or in the 10th grade, and should have completed the required two-year program of preparation.

2) Students should be present 100% to 90% of class sessions.

3) An advent retreat and a retreat prior to receiving the sacrament are required. During the second year the candidates are required to complete service projects within Queen of Peace Parish.

4) "In order to effectively accompany the confirmation candidates in their faith journey, parents and sponsors should enhance their own growth in the practice of the faith. To help them fulfill this responsibility, they are required to attend three two-hour preparation sessions during the second half of the final year of the candidate's preparation." (Synod Legislation 2006)

Registration requirement: Please bring with you a copy of the candidate's Baptism Certificate, First Communion Certificate, and fill out the CCE registration application with the Student and Sponsor information.

Adults who are 18 years or older and seeking the Sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation should call the CCE office (956-423-6341 ext 106). The preparation time will take a minimum of 1 year or as recommended by the pastor.

RCIA

1) Adults requesting faith formation through the RCIA process must submit a completed questionnaire and/or be recommended by the pastor of the Parish.

RCIA CONTINUED

2) All the persons wishing to receive sacraments through the RCIA process will need to furnish documents (birth certificate, baptism certificate with sacramental notations, divorce decrees, annulment papers, and baptism certificates if baptized in another denomination) depending on which sacraments they wish to receive.

3) The sacraments of Marriage, Eucharist, Penance and Confirmation may not be celebrated if the person is un-baptized or from a denomination that is not recognized.

4) If the person is baptized in a denomination that uses the Trinitarian formula of baptism, a "Profession of Faith" will be made after complete catechetical instruction is given.

5) Civilly married couples or persons in a common law relationship that wish to prepare to receive the sacraments of Marriage, Eucharist, Confirmation must meet with a priest to address the convalidation of their marriage prior to beginning the RCIA process.

6) Persons who will journey through the RCIA process are required to have a sponsor who is fully initiated in the faith (having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist). If the sponsor is married, they must be married in the Catholic Church. The sponsors will journey with the catechumen through the RCIA process and be their sponsor for the sacraments.

QUINCEAÑERA

The student must:

1) Have attended 2 years of CCE classes prior to the Quinceañera Celebration,
2) Have a 90% attendance record the first and second year of CCE classes, and have good class participation for both..

3) Only Queen of Peace parishioners will be allowed to celebrate a Quinceañera.

4) Blessings for Quinceañera will not be allowed at Saturday or Sunday Masses.

QUINCEAÑERA CONTINUED

5) Student and parents must attend a three hour Quinceañera class or three one-hour classes that will cover the History of the Quinceañera, Chastity, and preparations for the celebration (ie. readings, intercessions, items that can be presented at church, offering flowers to Our Lady of Guadalupe).

6) Student, damas, escorts and persons who will take an active part in the celebration must attend a practice session as scheduled by the priest or deacon.

7) Quinceañeras celebrated on Saturday will begin no later than 1 PM nor earlier than 6 PM

MATRIMONY

Preliminary Requirements

1) Make an appointment with one of the priests or Deacon at least 8 months in advance.

2) Recent Copy of Baptism certificate.

3) Premarital Interview— by priest or deacon with both parties: form to be completed, signed, and dated by parties and signed by priest or deacon.

4) FOCCUS - Questionnaire to be completed by both parties.

5) Series of Sponsor Couple meetings.

6) Candidates for marriage are required to register for one of the Diocese Marriage Preparation retreats.

7) Bride and groom must identify two people each who have know them well enough and long enough as to be able to give sworn testimony that they are free to marry.

8) A Marriage License is to be obtained, not more than 30 and not less than 3 days before the wedding date.

9) For Marriage Convalidation, a copy of the civil marriage certificate is to be shown to the priest.