

Rite of Enrollment

For those children and their parents who are entering the preparation period for either Reconciliation or Eucharist using *Growing Up Catholic*.

This Rite of Enrollment ceremony marks the beginning of a “journey of faith” for children and their parents who are starting the sacramental formation process. It is also a sign to the larger community that all of us have a role in the formation of anyone in the parish.



Likewise, it shows children and their families that they are part of the larger faith community. The members of the parish community provide prayer and support which is needed for the children, their families, and their catechists throughout the formation period. Each member of the parish is invited to take home the name of one family to support it with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Schedule this Rite at some appropriate time before the beginning of the formation process. If possible and suitable for your parish, the ideal setting for this Rite is within the Sunday Mass, following the homily.

If yours is a larger parish with large numbers of children and families schedule the Rite for every Mass on that particular weekend.

Preparation

- ✚ During the Rite, children and their parents place a special card with their names on it into an enrollment book. (Ready-made enrollment books, used for the catechumenate are available through religious bookstores but you can also use any good-looking notebook or guest book with blank pages for signatures.)
- ✚ You will need the enrollment cards – two copies for each family, one to place within the book, and the other to send home with a member of the parish offering prayer support to this family.
- ✚ You will also need a small table for the book.
- ✚ Copies of the rite are needed for all participants.
- ✚ The Paschal candle or altar candles, and any other decorations. Because the setting is Sunday Mass, you may simply follow the liturgical year in your planning.
- ✚ Refreshments may be served after the Mass.

Rite of Enrollment

For those taking part in Sacramental Formation for Reconciliation or Eucharist



After the Homily at Mass on a suitable Sunday.

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we have among us some young people and their parents or guardians who are preparing to go to Confession and receive Communion for the first time. They are a sign to us of the continuing faith of this community. They ask our prayers and support during this time of preparation. Let us pray for them now.

Children and Parents: STAND at their places.

Leader: Oh Holy Spirit, you have blessed our parish with the gift of these children and their parents. Help them all with your grace, to prepare themselves to Confess their sins and receive Communion for the first time. Help their parents deepen their own relationship with you and the Church.

And help us as a parish community to embrace and support this formation process. Make us good examples of faith and open our hearts to welcome them all. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and with the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All who are present in the Church: Amen!

All in the Church now STAND for the renewal of Baptismal promises and Profession of Faith. This will replace the Creed in this Liturgy.

Leader: Do you promise to choose to be good, and to avoid what is selfish and evil, with God's help?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you promise to treat those around you with love and respect, with God's help?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you promise to reject whatever is from the devil, and to choose what is from God?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father, who created you, the world, and all that exists?

All: I do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ who is the Son of God. Do you believe that he died for our sins, rose from the dead, and will come again to bring us to God's kingdom?

All: I do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who is our Guide, and who unites us in love?

All: I do believe.

Leader: God has given us a new life through Baptism and Faith. May our belief become stronger and our life richer as we prepare for our First Confession and First Communion.

All: Amen!

Leader: Please be seated.

Parents and guardians, are you willing to support your child in this process? Are you willing to accompany them to Mass on Sundays, to serve as the principal teacher of your child, and to help your child grow up Catholic by learning the prayers, customs, and traditions of our Faith?

Parents and Guardians: We are willing!

Leader: Please come forward and enter your names in the Book of Enrollment. This Book will be enthroned here in the Church and we will continue to pray for you all by name in the coming months. In addition, we invite all members of the greater parish community to accept personal responsibility for one of these families by taking their name home with you today to support them with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

All those being enrolled come forward and place their name card in the book.

All present now stand for the Prayer of the Faithful.