SAINT BENEDICT
CATHOLIC ✝ CHURCH

Peace be with you!

We are excited to begin the process of preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion with you and your child! Receiving God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, is a pivotal moment in the spiritual lives of our young people. We aim to help you, as parents, to help form your children both in the parish and at home.

Before we begin our formal sessions, please read through all the information below regarding preliminary steps.

*** If your child is 7 years or older and baptized in a Non-Catholic church or not baptized at all, please refrain from registering your child at this time and contact Ben Fleser at bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org about sacramental preparation for those baptized outside the Catholic Church or not baptized yet.**

***If you are seeking First Communion for your son/daughter and they are older than the 2nd grade, please contact Ben Fleser before you begin registration (bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org)**

St. Benedict Parish Requirements

- **Preparation for First Reconciliation/Communion is open to those who will be at least 7 years old by the time First Reconciliation sessions begin (October 4) and in 2nd grade.**

- Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation (if attending Mass/registered at another parish, please contact Ben Fleser before registering)

- Attend all First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion sessions (see below for dates). If you will be absent for any sessions, please contact Ben Fleser about make up work.

- **Preparation for First Reconciliation/Communion must take place in the Catholic parish. It DOES NOT take place in the Catholic School.**

- If not enrolled at St. Benedict Catholic School, or in a Catholic homeschool program, please partake in religious education at St. Benedict. Please contact Ben Fleser about our parish religious education program.

- There is a $30 fee to cover the cost of curriculum materials for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact us.

If Members of a Different Parish

- If you are registered at, or members of a different parish other than St. Benedict, **we will need a letter from the pastor of your parish granting permission for your son/daughter to be prepared for the sacrament of First Reconciliation/Communion at St. Benedict.**

- Once enrolled for First Reconciliation/Communion, preparation and reception of the sacraments MUST take place at St. Benedict. It is not permissible to be prepared for the sacraments at St. Benedict and receive them at a different parish, and vice versa.

- **Please submit a letter of permission from your parish of registration by September 27.**

Baptism Information

- If your child was baptized at St. Benedict, no extra documentation is needed. Your child's record of baptism can be found at St. Benedict.

- If your child was baptized at a different Catholic church, parents must obtain a new baptismal certificate issued within the last 6 months from the child's church of Baptism (a photocopy of the original certificate will not suffice). Baptismal certificates can be obtained by contacting your child's church of Baptism and requesting a new certificate. You can have them mail the certificate directly to St. Benedict:

  St. Benedict Catholic Church

  Attn: Ben Fleser

  300 N. Sheppard St., Richmond, VA 23221

- **Please aim to have your baptismal certificates submitted by October 25.**

- After your child completes their First Communion, their First Communion record will be sent to their church of Baptism. We will keep a copy of the records at St. Benedict, but all sacramental records are kept together at the church of Baptism. For this reason, we will need accurate contact information for your child's church of Baptism.

First Reconciliation/Communion Formation Session Schedule

*All Sessions are from 9:45am-10:45am at St. Benedict School

First Reconciliation

- **October 4-Parent Session**
- **October 18**
- **November 1-Parent Session**
- **November 15**
- **December 6-Parent Session**

First Confessions: **Saturday, December 12 at 10am and 2:30pm**

First Communion

- **January 24-Parent Session**
- **February 7**
- **February 21-Parent Session**
- **March 7**
- **April 11-Parent Session**

First Communion Rehearsal: **Saturday, April 24 from 9:00am-11:00am**

First Communion: **Sunday, April 25, normally at 11am (If the group exceeds 25 participants, we will have the First Communion liturgy at both the 8:30am and 11am Masses)**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at bfleser@saintbenedictparish.org. We will be praying for you all as you begin this journey!

God bless you,

Reverend Father John David Ramsey
Pastor

Ben Fleser
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis