

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

Please visit the Parish Office or phone 604-869-5382 or email ologhope@telus.net to arrange to receive the Sacraments.

The seven Sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Catholic life: they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Catholic's life of faith. (CCC 1210) [The seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church were instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church to make the love of God real and present in the world.](#) These Sacraments are: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confession, Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders.

Sacrament of Baptism

The parents of a child to be baptized must vow to bring up their child up in the faith of the Catholic Church.

If you are planning a Baptism, here are some things to consider:

- The family must be a registered member of Our Lady Good Hope Parish.
- If the family is not a registered member, they may receive permission from their Pastor for an out of Parish Baptism in Our Lady of Good Hope.
- One Godparent must be a baptized Roman Catholic and a practicing Catholic.
- A baptismal course is required for parents of their first child to be baptized. Godparents are welcomed to attend the class as well.
- To register for Baptism, please fill out a registration form available in the foyer of the Church and return to the Parish Office or email the form.

Adults who have not received Baptism must take instructions in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program prior to Baptism.

For Catholics, the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. Whether we are baptized as infants or adults, Baptism is the Church's way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God.

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Catholic life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door, which gives access to the other Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: *"Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word"* (CCC 1213).

We encourage our parish families to present their newborn infants for the Sacrament of Baptism soon after birth, because this Sacrament is the foundation of the Catholic life. In Baptism the child, freed from original sin, becomes an heir

to the Kingdom of God, receiving the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

Children may receive their First Communion in Grade 2, when they are 7 or 8 years old. Two years instruction is required in the PREP program.

Adults who have been baptized but have not received their First Communion are prepared through the RCIA program.

Catholics believe the Holy Eucharist, or Holy Communion, is both a sacrifice and a meal. We believe in the real presence of Jesus, who died for our sins. As we receive Christ's Body and Blood, we also are nourished spiritually and brought closer to God.

The Church draws her life from the Holy Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith, but recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church. In a variety of ways she joyfully experiences the constant fulfillment of the promise: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (*Mt 28:20*), but in the Holy Eucharist, through the changing of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of the Lord, she rejoices in this presence with unique intensity. (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia 1*).

The Second Vatican Council proclaims that the Eucharistic sacrifice is "the source and summit of the Catholic life (*Lumen Gentium, 11*)" "For the most Holy Eucharist contains the Church's entire spiritual wealth: Christ Himself, our Passover and living bread. Through His own flesh, now made living and life-giving by the Holy Spirit, He offers life to humanity." (*Presbyterorum Ordinis 5*)

The Holy Eucharist completes the Catholic initiation. Those who have been raised to the dignity of the royal priesthood by Baptism and configured more deeply to Christ by Confirmation participate with the whole community in the Lord's own sacrifice by means of the Holy Eucharist. (CCC 1322)

Sacrament of Confession

Children may receive their First Confession in either Grade 1 or 2, when they are 7 or 8 years old. Two years instruction is required in the PREP program.

Adults who have been baptized but have not received their First Confession are prepared through the RCIA program.

The Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Confession, or Penance and Reconciliation) has three elements: conversion, confession and celebration. In it we find God's unconditional forgiveness; as a result we are called to forgive others.

Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with Him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God's forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the Sacrament of Confession. (CCC 1440)

Christ instituted the Sacrament of Confession for all sinful members of His Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the Sacrament of Confession offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification. (CCC 1446)

Catholics are encouraged to frequently receive the Sacrament of Confession in order that they might be well disposed to receive the other Sacraments in a state of grace.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation may be celebrated at the end of Grade 7 after completing two years of preparation in the PREP program.

Adults who have been baptized but have not received their Confirmation are prepared through the RCIA program.

Confirmation is a Catholic Sacrament of mature Catholic commitment and a deepening of baptismal gifts. It is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation for Catholics. It is most often associated with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which baptized persons receive a special grace, which strengthens them for the profession of the Catholic faith. Confirmation is usually conferred by the Bishop, who lays his hands on the recipients, making the sign of the Cross with chrism on their foreheads, while he says: *"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Those who receive Confirmation are given a special grace to profess their faith. By Confirmation they are enriched with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and are more closely linked to the Catholic Church. They are made strong soldiers of Christ, and so they are more firmly obliged by word and deed to be faithful witnesses of Christ, spreading and defending the Catholic faith.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office before making any plans for your wedding. At least a six months advance notice is required before your wedding date, since Archdiocese of Vancouver require a marriage preparation course and paperwork.

For Catholics, the Sacrament of Marriage, or Holy Matrimony, is a public sign that one gives oneself totally to this other person. It is also a public statement about God: the loving union of husband and wife speaks of family values and also God's values.

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a Sacrament. (*CIC can 1055*)

The Sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives the spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved His Church; the grace of the Sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

If you are going into the Hospital, or you are house bound, or you are dying and you would like to receive the **Anointing of the Sick** please contact the Parish Office or Father Gordon.

The Catholic Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, formerly known as Last Rites or Extreme Unction, is a ritual of healing appropriate not only for physical but also for mental and spiritual sickness. We encourage you to consult with our Pastor if you have a friend or loved one who is facing sickness or dying.

“The special grace of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has as its effects: the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his [or her] own good and that of the whole Church; the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Catholic manner the sufferings of illness or old age; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the Sacrament of Confession; the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his [or her] soul; the preparation for passing over to eternal life” (CCC 1532).

Does a person have to be dying to receive this Sacrament? **No.** The Catechism says, “The anointing of the sick is not a Sacrament for those only who are at the

point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him [or her] to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived” (CCC 1514).

Sacrament of Holy Orders

For more information on the Sacrament of Holy Orders please contact the vocations office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, or Ordination, the priest being ordained vows to lead other Catholics by bringing them the Sacraments (especially the Holy Eucharist), by proclaiming the Gospel, and by providing other means to holiness.

Holy Orders is the Sacrament through which the mission Christ entrusted to His Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the Sacrament of Apostolic ministry. The Sacrament of Holy Orders includes three degrees: the diaconate, the presbyterate, and episcopate.

In the ecclesial service of the ordained minister, it is Christ Himself who is present to His Church as Head of His Body, Shepherd of His flock, High Priest of the Redemptive Sacrifice, Teacher of Truth. This is what the Church means by saying that the priest, by virtue of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, *acts in persona Christi* (acts in the person of Christ).

The ministerial priesthood has the task not only of representing Christ – Head of the Church – before the assembly of the faithful, but also of acting in the name of the whole Church when presenting to God the prayer of the Church, and above all when offering the Eucharistic sacrifice (CCC 1552).