

Dear Saint Brendan family faith formation parents,

It was just over one hundred years ago that the Blessed Mother began appearing to three young children and spoke to them about the need for prayer and penance, especially the Rosary. This event is a great model for our vision of family based sacramental preparation. Mary did not appear as a theologian or teacher, but as a mother. It is mothers and fathers, grandparents and godparents, who have the most influence and effectively pass on faith and values to children.

Saint Brendan's family faith formation is committed to investing in high quality at-church and at-home resources for sacramental preparation, but there is still a need to partner with you. Parent involvement is crucial for any aspect of growth in a child's life, even during pre-adolescence when there is a greater desire for independence and peer relationships. Most urgent, though, is the need for partnership with parents to pass on faith and values to children. The most recent sociological research shows that the key factor in passing on faith to children is parents who talk about and model their own faith. Our sacramental resources seek to do just this.

The main component of sacramental preparation are the family meetings, which last 20-40 minutes at home. For each family meeting, there is a "follow through" which should be submitted through our online platform, Martha. Families will receive simple feedback and a check-in if the family meeting is missed or delayed. This way, we are all working together: parish, parent, and family, to prepare our children to not just encounter Jesus Christ in the Sacraments, but to continue to practice the Catholic faith into adulthood.

Finally, remember that we are available to support your family. Please never hesitate to reach out for help to your child's catechist, myself, or any of the priests and deacons for help when you need it. We are happy to accompany and accommodate you as you do your family meetings and share meaningful moments as families.

Below, you will find a bullet-pointed plan for each sacramental preparation year. These are subject to change but reflect the most up-to-date information. If you have questions, please reach out to me at [jdoran@stbrendans.net](mailto:jdoran@stbrendans.net). I am more than happy to take time to meet with you in person, by phone, or virtually. May Our Lady of Fatima pray for our children as they find moments to pray and do penance through their time of sacramental preparation.

Jacob Doran

Director of Youth Evangelization and Catechesis

## Confirmation Preparation

- **At-Home Component**
  - *Zeal* box
    - September-April
    - 7 family meetings (20-40 minutes), about once a month
    - Family follow through for each meeting submitted on Martha online platform
    - 1 Sponsor meeting (to be completed before Jan 1)
  - 6 service hours
    - Can be completed anytime prior to Confirmation
  
- **At-Church Component**
  - Family faith formation monthly attendance required for child and parents
  - Sacrament Intro Family Session
    - September 6 or 7 from 6:30-7:30pm
    - We will distribute *Zeal* boxes at this session
  - Damascus Retreat November 11-13
  - 3 optional at-church family sessions
    - Jan 29 Noon-1pm
    - Feb 26 Noon-1pm
    - March 26 Noon-1pm
  - Practice April 17 6:30-7pm
  - Confirmation on April 21
    - 4pm or 7pm