

## Statement

**St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church believes in The Sacred Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. Professing God's universal love of all, she also is aware of our need and duty to respond to God in kind.**

**Therefore, she calls all her members to a regular practice of their faith.**

**Recognizing that many wish to partake in the sacramental life of Grace, she invites them to commit to the practice of our Catholic faith on a regular basis. In the interest of an integral formation of the person, especially in regard to sincerity and honesty with God and this community, she delays the sacraments to those who have not sufficiently reflected on their commitment.**

**She invites such persons to return when having come to the full stature of Faith and these she embraces always as the model of Christ, her Lord.**

**Therefore:**

- 1. The Sacraments are given to those who believe.**
- 2. Delay in receiving the sacrament is a call to reflection and growth.**
- 3. No one having come to Christ, manifested in their following Him, will be turned away.**
- 4. The Sacraments are of the church. Belief in the Roman Catholic Church and her teachings are required.**

**All members of our faith community – and particularly parents and grandparents – have the responsibility to nurture the faith of children and youth.**

**As Christians:**

- 1. We are a living witness to our Christian faith.**
- 2. We publically worship God.**
- 3. We care for the physical and spiritual welfare of God's people.**
- 4. We require evangelizing, preaching and teaching of God's Word that comes through scripture and tradition.**

**“Going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist should make a difference in the way Catholics live; they should be more accepting of others and more aware of their sinfulness.”**

**Pope Francis**

**The first step in preparing children and youth to receive Holy Communion and Confirmation is regular attendance at Mass on Sunday.**

**Our Sacramental preparation process follows the guidelines from the Diocese of Paterson and is designed as a journey of faith for children, teens and their families. Families whose children wish to celebrate the sacraments must be active parishioners involved with the parish community.**

**Preparation for the sacraments is a two-year process. Attendance at Mass and the gatherings of Generations of Faith *must* be faithful and regular.**

**Children who wish to prepare to celebrate the sacraments are also expected to:**

- . Participate in special sessions held throughout the year.**
- . Participate in Youth Ministry *if a teenager*.**

## **Penance and Holy Communion**

**When children reach the age of reason – usually around 7 years of age – they may begin to prepare to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation [Penance] and Eucharist [Holy Communion.]**



## **Confirmation**

**St. Joseph Youth Ministry is for teens in high school. This ministry provides opportunities for prayer and worship, retreats, ongoing faith formation, peer ministry, social activities and service to others.**

**After a teen has actively participated in youth ministry and is ready to renew a commitment to follow Jesus, [usually during the second year] preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is made available.**