

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Policy regarding The Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children (RCIC)

We have been informed that Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller has made a decision regarding the administration of the Sacraments of Initiation when a child has completed the RCIC program. The Archbishop has directed the parishes of the Archdiocese of San Antonio to give all the Sacraments of Initiation, namely Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the same time when the period of Catechumenate for Children is complete.

Therefore the policy and practice for RCIC at St. Francis of Assisi will be the following:

1. Children under the age of 7 will not participate in the RCIC process and will be part of the infants and children baptisms as has been our practice for many years. These children will be baptized and will then receive First Communion and First Reconciliation after the age of 7. They are required to complete one year of faith formation with their age appropriate class. After completing the first year of faith formation they become eligible to enter the sacrament prep class while also attending their age appropriate class. Currently the sacrament prep is an at home program which is taught through the parent or guardians participation and assistance. They will be prepared for Confirmation when they are in High School according to our usual Confirmation schedule.
2. Unbaptized children age 7 or greater will enter RCIC.
3. Since the children in the catechumenate will be receiving all three sacraments of initiation, namely Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, the catechumenate for children will be a two year program which coincides in length with the preparation period for 1st Eucharist and Reconciliation in the regular sacrament preparation cycle for those who were baptized under the age of 7.
4. The 2 year catechumenate period will follow a revolving schedule which will include preparation for each of the sacraments over the course of the 2 year cycle. Children will enter each year as they present themselves to us and will receive instruction and preparation for each of the sacraments of initiation during the 2 year cycle. One year will be preparation for Baptism and one year will be preparation for Eucharist and Confirmation.