



ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Priests

FROM: Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon, OblSB, *Vice Chancellor for Pastoral Services*

SUBJECT: New Sacramental Guidelines Issued

DATE: February 12, 2026

Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre of Louisville has promulgated *The Sacramental Guidelines: Addressing Key Moments in the Christian Journey* for the benefit of parish catechetical programs within archdiocesan parishes. These guidelines are also designed to support religious education initiatives in Catholic schools and assist parents, including those who homeschool. They serve to complement the existing provisions regulating the preparation for and reception of the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—as well as the Sacrament of Penance, as outlined in the *Code of Canon Law* and the rituals adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and approved by the Holy See.

The Sacramental Guidelines supersede the archdiocesan guidelines issued in 2007. Catechetical programs in parishes and Catholic schools, as well as homeschooling parents, are expected to implement these guidelines. Please be reminded that the Reception of the Sacraments of Initiation and Penance is ordinarily to occur in the parish in which the individual adult and family of children and youth are registered. The record of sacramental reception occurs in the parish where the respective sacrament is received.

For questions or clarifications concerning this information, please contact Art Turner of Faith Formation or Dr. Karen Shadle of Worship, (502) 636-0296.