

Our Lady of the Valley & St. Raphael Catholic Community

Being Catholic: Back to the Basics

We live out our Baptismal call to follow Jesus Christ by investing ourselves in the committed practice of our Catholic faith.



Sacraments

- Our highest priority as Catholics is faithful and regular attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation;
- Full Christian initiation through Baptism, Confirmation and first Eucharist;
- Nourishment of the Catholic Christian life through regular celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist;
- For those who are married, a sacramental union sanctioned by the Catholic Church.

Membership

- Registration in a parish is essential prior to celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist, Marriage or to serve as a godparent/sacramental sponsor or to receive a discount in Catholic school tuition;
- Financial support of the church according to one's means through the use of a verifiable source: church envelopes, personal check or automatic funds transfer;
- A household must be registered for a minimum of three months (being visible, involved and contributing to the support of the parish) prior to beginning sacramental preparation or to be recommended to serve as a godparent or sacramental sponsor.

Formation

- All Catholics, regardless of age, have a serious responsibility to continue to be formed in the Catholic Christian life through on-going, age appropriate faith formation;
- Parents/Guardians of minors have a moral obligation to see to the Catholic faith formation and advancement in the sacramental life of children entrusted to their care through participation in parish-based religious education programs and regular attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

Stewardship

- All parishioners are called to live lives of Christian stewardship through the investment of their time, talent and treasure to advance the mission of Jesus Christ in the life of the parish. This is accomplished by involvement in parish life beyond attendance at Mass (time), the use of your God-given talents and abilities to enhance the life of the church community (talent) and the financial and material support of the parish according to one's means (treasure);
- We embody the values of our Catholic faith as articulated in Catholic Social Teaching through outreach to the poor, defenseless and most vulnerable in our society.

Hospitality

- All parishioners manifest a spirit of welcome and hospitality to one another, to the members of our sister parish and to all who enter our doors, especially the stranger in our midst. "Welcome one another as we would welcome Christ himself."

"One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church"