

# ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

310 N. Cherry St., Flushing, MI 48433 • 810-659-8556 • [www.srbccatholic.com](http://www.srbccatholic.com)

April 20, 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you are all enjoying spring and the warmer weather. As summer approaches, I wanted to contact you and ask you to prayerfully consider what that I am about to share with you.

I am so very blessed to work with the children of St. Robert in The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd! Part of working with the children in this approach to religious formation is honoring your child's spiritual life and dignity the very best that I can. I also want to honor your role as the primary catechists/teachers of your children's faith. With this in mind, I want to offer this time of discernment for you and your family.

With overwhelming approval of the Diocese of Lansing, for the past three years we have been offering preparation for confession and Eucharist for those in ***kindergarten through third grade***. The sacraments are great gifts to us from God. Some children are able to recognize this very early and are able to receive these gifts with great joy! If they are ready, we do not want to squash this joy but rather help the child and you as a family to enter into the gifts of confession and Eucharist. The desire of sacramental preparation (and of all religious formation) is to help children foster a right response to these gifts that God has given to us to help us draw closer to Himself. Some children need a little more time to ponder the mysteries of these sacraments and prefer to wait. That is okay! I want to best honor where the children are in their spiritual life.

**Preparing for the sacraments means a big commitment from you as parents – the commitment to be present at the parent meeting in the fall, to be at the Mass of Enrollment in the fall, to be present at each of the four meetings/mini-retreats for preparation (both children and parents attend), and to bring the children to the retreat day for the entirety of the day. *In addition, it also requires an ongoing commitment from you to faithfully bring your children weekly to Mass on Sundays and to regularly participate in the sacrament of confession as a family.*** Some families are fully prepared to make this commitment. Some families need time to prepare themselves so that they may fully make this commitment. As previously mentioned, I want to best honor where your child is and where you are as a family.

***With all this in mind, please take the summer to think and pray about this.*** Please talk with your child and see if they know Who the Holy Bread and the Wine are at Mass. See if they want to receive Jesus in Eucharist and in confession. Please carefully consider if you are fully willing to make the commitment to requirements for the preparation of these sacraments (as stated above). Please discern if God is calling you to enter into this now or if you are being called to wait. On *October 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm* in Angel Hall, we will have a parent meeting to discuss the specifics of preparation and reception of the sacraments. If you are not present at the parent meeting, I will assume that you and your child have discerned that this is not the year that you would like to participate in preparing for and receiving confession and Eucharist; you would prefer to wait and further prepare your family for this celebration in the future.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

May God bless you!

Hannah Marconeri  
Director of Religious Education