

St. Mary's Church

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Dear Parents,

Life has many discontents. Things that happen in our families, our communities and even our churches can make us ambivalent.

We hopefully are not prepared to isolate ourselves from our families or our communities.

Isolating ourselves from the church is far too common. This becomes particularly problematic when at the same time we turn to the church to take a particular role in educating our children by attending a Catholic school.

When we send our children to a Catholic school, we recognize that there is an expectation that we want the "Catholic things" for our child; that they have a reverence for God, for prayer and a strong sense of commitment to others, especially those that are challenged or struggle in some way.

There are other "Catholic things" that are important too; that your child be Baptized, make their First Communion and Confirmation.

There may be those who think these basic acts of faithfulness are way beyond their reach. That is not true!

Every year we as a parish help children already in our schools prepare for Baptism. As a parish, we celebrate First Communion with many young and not so young children and Confirmation with those in grade eight and above.

Does preparing for these sacraments presume some effort as a family? Yes! It means that you need to connect with your parish community.

These processes are not that difficult so I encourage all to call the parish at (705) 728-2985 or email secretary@stmarysbarrie.com about Baptism or Profession of Faith if baptized in a Protestant church. Likewise, let's work on First Communion, no matter your child's age.

Let us also keep focused on the most important event for the Grade Eights in our schools which of course is not graduation but Confirmation.

There is discussion on our website about many of these questions. You may access this information at www.stmarysbarrie.com at Sacramental Questions.

We on the parish team look forward once again this year to visiting the classrooms of the school as we discuss these miracles of Jesus.

Sincerely,

Fr. Frank

Fr. Frank McDevitt
Pastor