

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

St. Mary's expects to help at least 30 engaged couples to prepare for marriage and celebrate many of these weddings at St Mary's in the coming year.

There will be many infant baptisms on the *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord* in January. Baptism Class is held on the third Saturday of each month at St. Mary's parish hall. The December class, however, will be held at the parish office. There is no need to pre-register.

This year's First Communicants will be introduced in January and will receive their First Communion on the Saturday before Christmas.

We will have more news of these events in the next newsletter!

There are also many **Catechumens** (persons who have not been baptized) and **Candidates** (persons baptized in another Christian faith) who are preparing to receive or complete the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation) at St. Mary's.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC)

We have eight children participating in RCIC sessions. These children and their parents will begin with a tour of St. Mary's church to learn about the history of our church and about the many Saints represented by our statues and stained glass windows. They will also see the vessels and vestments that are used for the Mass. They will continue learning together as we begin the new year.

Our four young Catechumens will receive all three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass. Another four young Candidates will receive First Communion on the feast of *Corpus Christi* and will be Confirmed when they are older.

High School Confirmation

This year we have 55 High School students preparing for Confirmation. Confirmation is about faith, commitment and community. We hope that each student will make the transition from "head knowledge" to a personal relationship with Jesus. They have begun by talking with Patti McTaggart, St. Mary's Youth Director, about the people who have helped them to understand and live their faith. They will continue with discussion, service privileges and a Confirmation "Advance" (as opposed to retreat) weekend. These students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 17th at the 5:10 Mass.

Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Again this year, we have a full house for RCIA!

We have 14 Candidates who were confirmed on Christ the King Sunday (November 22nd). Nine were Catholic adults preparing for Confirmation and five were nonCatholics who first made a Solemn Profession of Faith and then were Confirmed.

We have eight Catechumens who celebrated the Rite of Acceptance on Christ the King Sunday. These Catechumens will be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens during the Advent Vespers service on the 2nd Sunday of Advent (December 6th at 5:00 PM) and will receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass.

We **welcome** all these new members to our family!