

## *Journey Toward the Sacraments*

*The National Directory for Catechesis reminds us that the liturgical life of the church revolves around the sacraments. Thomas Aquinas told us that sacraments are not only commemorative signs of something now past but also signs of something new caused in us by the passion of Christ-grace!*

*For those who grew up with the Baltimore Catechism, they remember well the definition of a sacrament- an “outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.” The theologian Joseph Martos describes sacraments as: “Sacraments are doors to the Sacred-ways through which the ordinary events of our lives are connected to the Lord.” Today the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes sacraments as “powers that come forth from the Body of Christ.” They are the “masterworks of God.” (CCC, n.1116)*

*Through the Sacrament of Penance, we “obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the church.” (CCC, n.1422) First Reconciliation was celebrated by our second grade students on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008.*

*Let us pray as community for all our Confirmation and First Communion candidates as they continue in their faith journey towards the Sacraments. Our Lady of the River’s Confirmation Mass is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. First Communion is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM. We currently have 9 students in our First Communion sacramental preparation program and 12 candidates in our Confirmation sacramental preparation program.*

*“Confirmation more perfectly binds the baptized to the church.” (CCC, n. 1285)*

*“The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.” (CCC, n. 1324)*

*Jesus gave us the sacraments that we all might know and experience the grace and presence of God.*

*We ask for the continued prayers of our parish community as Our Lady of the River students continue to be formed in the faith and journey toward the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.*

*In Christ’s Peace,  
Roberta Pegorick*