



HOLY FAMILY
Catholic Community

May 25, 2018

Dear First Grade Parents,

The following is a summary of the Sacramental Preparation program that is required before a child receives their First Reconciliation and First Communion. Registration for this program will be available via our website starting in August, a note will be sent home during the first week of school, and the program will begin in October. A postcard will also be sent out to notify you of registration time. Please remember, if you are not a registered member of Holy Family, you will not receive a postcard in the mail. If you have recently moved, please call the parish office to update your information.

What Is It?

At this time in your child's life, they child will begin to understand and experience two immensely meaningful and fulfilling sacraments: First Reconciliation and First Communion. Your child will begin to have a more developed understanding of Christ's sacrifice and therefore a deeper connection and personal relationship with God. At that time, the Church extends an invitation to them that will allow them to participate in self-reflection through First Reconciliation in the Fall. In the Spring, they will experience spiritual nourishment through First Eucharist.

I want you to know that I am here to help you through each step in this process. In order to make sure your child is well prepared to begin Sacramental Preparation, it is essential that they have previously received the sacrament of Baptism. Additionally, in order for a child to receive the sacraments, it is necessary that at least one parent is Catholic. If you are interested in entering the Catholic faith, or you would like to have your child baptized, please contact Sabina Carter, Director of Christian Formation.

The On-going Process

In order to prepare the 2018-2019 students, I plan to use the same process that was used this year: During the first week of the 2018-2019 school year, an informational letter and a registration form will be sent home with each SMSA second grade student and any third grade student who did not receive these sacraments in second grade. This letter will remind parents that the sacramental preparation program will be starting in October. Before the first, and every meeting continuously throughout the year, reminders will be placed in the e-Ledger and Holy Family bulletin, which will be available either at Mass or online. Another resource available on the Holy Family website is the Sacramental Preparation calendar.

There are a series of family meetings and parent only meetings for the sacrament of Reconciliation in the months of October through December. This is because the sacrament of Reconciliation is a prerequisite for the sacrament of First Communion. Then, in the months of January through April the process begins again with meetings for First Communion. In April rehearsals are held for each specific Mass the week before the celebration of the sacrament.

Please make it a priority to keep an eye out for that letter and registration form that will be sent out on the first week of school. If you don't receive one, contact me right away. Also, please continue to check the Holy Family bulletin and e-Ledger to keep informed as registration will be available in July. It is always unfortunate when a family with an excited child has to wait until the following year to complete their sacraments due to a late registration. But, I always try to keep in mind that a child's sacramental life is extremely important and is not something that can be, or should be, rushed.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an e-mail. I am excited and blessed to be able to help you and your child through this very special time in their sacramental life.

In Christ,

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