

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Office of Religious Education

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Dear Grade 2 Parents,

In accordance with Church tradition, Sacred Heart Parish confers the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist on children for the first time during their second grade year. In order to adequately prepare the children for the reception of these sacraments and to insure the continuation of their faith formation begun in grade 1, our Parish's Grade 2 program includes both a doctrinal component and a sacramental component.

The Doctrinal Component

This portion of the program is taught by a volunteer catechist in a classroom format using the grade 2 edition of "Be My Disciples", the text book series used in grades 1-5. This will allow children to continue to build their knowledge of the Catechism of Catholic Church begun in grade 1 as it pertains to the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, belonging to the Body of Christ and our calling to serve others as Catholic Christians. Children who attend a Catholic school will receive this education through their school's religion class and do not need to attend the Parish's doctrinal classes.

Sacramental Preparation Program

This component is taught by me, with assistance, through a series of retreats held on Saturday mornings. The retreats conclude with a brief para-liturgical service, celebrated by Father Richard Scioli, which the parents are asked to attend. In addition to meeting Diocesan requirements, the retreat format develops an increased sense of community among the children. **Attendance at all retreats is required for the reception of the sacraments.**

Parent Commitment

By Church tradition, initiation in sacraments is a community event – the joy of bringing the children into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church is felt by both the immediate and Parish families. The initiation of children into these sacraments is the responsibility of the whole community. The sacramental preparation program we are using is designed to create a partnership between the Parish and the families. As such, it is expected that the parents will ensure their children's attendance at all classes and retreats and will complete certain work with their child at home.

Also, there are also two mandatory Parents' Meetings – one on September 6, 2017 and one on January 3, 2018. Both will be held at 7PM in the Bell Tower Room.

Retreat descriptions and schedule are included on the opposite page.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to joining you and your child during this special year in their journey of faith.

Yours In Christ,

Amy Donahue

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Retreat #1 – “God Forgives Us”

November 18, 2017; 9:00-11:30AM

This retreat will guide the children to an understanding that God loves us unconditionally and gives us the gift of His unlimited mercy. This retreat will end with the parents returning for a brief para-liturgical service at 11:30AM, celebrated by Father Richard Scioli.

Retreat #2 – “The Sacrament of Reconciliation”

December 2, 2017; 9:00-11:30 AM

This retreat will cover the Rite of Penance and the formula for confession. This retreat will end with the parents returning for a brief para-liturgical service at 11:30AM, celebrated by Father Richard Scioli.

First Confession – Monday, December 11, 2017; 4:00 PM

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

First Communion Retreat #1 – “Belonging, Gathering and Reflecting”

January 6, 2018; 9:00 AM-11:15AM

This retreat will guide the children to an understanding of the Introductory Rites and how the themes above are exemplified through the actions of the Mass.

First Communion Retreat #2 – “Listening and Preparing”

February 3, 2018; 9:00 AM-11:15AM

This retreat will guide the children to an understanding of the Liturgy of the Word and the first part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and how the themes above are exemplified through the actions of the Mass.

First Communion Retreat #3 – “Remembering, Receiving and Journeying”

March 3, 2018; 9:00 AM-11:15AM

This retreat will guide the children to an understanding of the second part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Rite of Communion, the Closing Rites and how the themes above are exemplified through the actions of the Mass.

***** The children will complete a portion of the sacramental preparation book, “God’s Gift - Eucharist”, during Communion Retreats #1-3. The remainder of the material will be completed at home with their families. These retreats will end with the parents returning at 11:15 to complete an activity with their child, followed by a brief para-liturgical service at 11:30AM, celebrated by Father Richard Scioli. *****

Communion Retreat #4 – Family Retreat - “Let’s Go to Church”

April 7, 2018; 9:00AM-11:30AM

The purpose of this retreat is to enhance their understanding of the Eucharist sacramental preparation topics as they pertain to the rites and rituals of the Mass. **One parent is asked to attend this retreat with his/her child.**

First Communion Rehearsals - April 23 and 26, 2018

First Communion – April 28, 2018

Crowning of the Image of the Blessed Virgin – May 6, 2018