

First Reconciliation & First Communion Preparation 2017

Greetings in Christ,

This is a very important year in your child's spiritual life as he or she prepares to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. Your child will be preparing to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive the very Body and Blood of Christ!

This introductory letter and calendar will provide you with an overview of the events of this year and the information that you need to prepare your child.

The best preparation is to see you practice and live the faith. One of the most important ways to do this is regular attendance at Mass. An integral part of children's faith formation is participation in Sunday Liturgy. Talk with your child about Mass. Emphasize that the Mass is God's family celebrating a sacred meal. To be part of the parish family and to worship together each Sunday is to be part of faith in action. Parents, we expect that you will give your child these experiences so your child will be encouraged to practice and live his/her faith.

For the Student:

Preparation classes are integrated into the religious education classes; consistent attendance is expected. Outside of class, it is expected that students will complete the at-home materials with assistance from a parent or family member. Suggested timelines for completing will be provided. Father Chuck will be meeting with the students in class the Sunday before each sacrament is celebrated.

For the Parent:

There are three parent preparation classes for First Reconciliation and three for First Communion. Your classes will be held during student classes in the Vanderzanden Center Library. During these meetings I will be providing information on the sacraments and how to use the at-home curriculum to prepare your child. Father Chuck will conduct the class on March 1st.

For the Students & their Parents There are two family activities planned.

Church Search on February 25th at 12:30 pm. This is a fun family activity where each student searches the church for items from a list (like the tabernacle, the chalice, etc.). This is a great way for the whole family to familiarize themselves with the names used for objects we see each week, or items that are not seen during Mass. This is a self-paced activity and should only take about 30 minutes.

Blessing Cups on March 18 at 12:30 pm. Students will paint a ceramic cup (symbolic of the Chalice) with the assistance of their parent/parents. The Blessing Cups will be glazed and fired, and are displayed at the First Communion Mass. If you cannot attend please talk to me about alternatives to make sure your child will have a Blessing Cup for their First Communion.

In His Love,

Wanda