

October 14, 2017

Dear 2nd Grade Parents and Guardians,

This is such a grace-filled time for your family! The sacraments of 1st Reconciliation & 1st Holy Communion begin your child's lifelong spiritual nourishment at the Eucharistic table; in communion with the entire Body of Christ (the Church). This is considered one of the holiest and most important rituals of our Catholic faith. Because of this, the church stresses the importance and necessity for the sacrament of 1st Reconciliation prior to 1st Holy Communion so that our children can receive Jesus for the first time with a most pure, holy, and loving heart. This packet contains important information regarding these sacraments. Please read carefully and thoroughly.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, Jan 17th	1st Reconciliation	6:30pm	Church
Sunday, April 15th	Banner Making	9:00am	Marian Hall
Sunday, April 22nd	1st Communion Rehearsal	9:30am – 10:30am	Church
Sunday, April 29th	1st Holy Communion	11:00am	Church

*Please read the details regarding each of the above dates within the attached packet.

We will celebrate 1st Holy Communion with the entire parish community during the 11am Mass! We are aware of our beautiful and modest space, and therefore need to create a plan to best accommodate you, your families, as well as the celebrating parish members during the Mass. We're guaranteeing you one reserved pew (comfortably fits 8) for immediate family and god-parents. If you have extended family and friends joining you for the celebration, we're asking that they find seating in the remaining pews and chairs that will be provided.

Thank you for walking with your 2nd grader on this important faith journey!

Gratefully,

Tara Lyons

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1st RECONCILIATION: Wednesday, January 17th 6:30pm

Pre-Sacrament Checklist:

- Baptismal Candle** (if you don't have or can't find your child's baptismal candle, contact Tara. Extra candles can be provided if needed.)
- Do "practice" confessions with your child. Talk about the sacrament.** (see attached My First Reconciliation card)
- Practice/Memorize Act of Contrition** (see attached Rite of Reconciliation card)
- Do a family examination of conscience together:**

Is my relationship with God the best it can be?

Do I talk with God every day?

Do I encourage my family to pray together?

Do I respect Jesus' and God's holy name?

Is my relationship with other people the best it can be?

Do I listen lovingly to my parents?

Do I follow the rules at school?

Do I respect other people and always treat them fairly?

Do I speak with loving words?

Do I get along with my siblings or do I sometimes fight with them? Not share?

Do I take care of the things I've been given?

Night of Sacrament Checklist:

- Bring Baptismal Candle**
- Attire is Sunday nice.**
- Come directly to the church and sit with your child in your designated pew. The ceremony begins at 6:30pm.**
- Individual confession stations will be set up on both sides of the sanctuary and students will have the opportunity to either kneel behind the screen or sit in the chair face-to-face with the priest.**
- After all students have finished their confession, the evening will close with a candlelight vigil followed by a reception in Marian Hall. Please stay and join us for the entire evening.**



MY FIRST RECONCILIATION



Confessor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Bless me Father, for I have sinned. This is my first confession!

Confessor: *Share your sins with the priest (see your list on back)*
For these sins, and all my sins, I am sorry.

Priest: *The priest will remind you of God's love and mercy. He will give you a specific Penance to pray after you leave the confessional. He will then ask you to make an Act of Contrition:*

Confessor: (Act of Contrition) **My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good. I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.**

Priest: God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Confessor: **Amen!**

Priest: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His mercy lasts forever.

Confessor: **Thanks be to God!**

Thank the priest and return to your pew to pray your Penance.



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Priest: God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Confessor: **Amen!**

Priest: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His mercy lasts forever.

Confessor: **Thanks be to God!**

Thank the priest and return to your pew to pray your Penance.

BANNER MAKING: Sunday, April 15th 9:00am Marian Hall

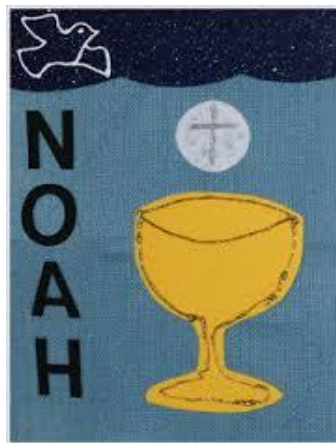
*These banners will be hung up along the side aisles during Mass

*We will supply you with a background (2'x 3'), a dowel, and hanging chord. There will also be some pre-cut shapes, felt, fabric, yarn, etc for your project. If you want to be sure to have a specific color, please bring it. Our shared materials may be limited in color/patterns.

*If not finished, complete banner at home and return to the RE Office on **Sunday, April 22nd**

TO BRING:

- Sketch of your banner design (must have child's first name, optional date)
- Any additional materials specific for your design (hot glue gun, fabric glue, felt, scissors, yarn, etc)
- Banner must include: Child's first name. **The date is optional**
- Suggested symbols/colors
 - Heart (red) we are created by a loving God
 - Cross (brown) represents our faith as Christians
 - 3-Leaf clover(green) represents the Holy Trinity
 - Bread(beige/tan) sharing in a church meal as the Body of Christ present in the Eucharist
 - Grapes (purple) represents the gift of wine which becomes the blood of Christ
 - Holy flames (red/orange/yellow) represents the Holy Spirit
 - Dove (white) represents the Holy Spirit and peace in our lives
 - Chalice (gold) represents the Cup of our Faith
 - Bible (brown/tan) represents the Word of God
 - Rainbow (colors of the rainbow) represents God's promise of hope, salvation, and forgiveness



1st Communion: Sunday, April 29th 11am

Prior to Sunday:

- Practice receiving the host and chalice at home. You can have pretend communion times at home!

Receiving the host:

Fold your hands in reverence and kneel at the kneeler.

Hold your hands out, palms up, placing one hand underneath the other (as a throne for Jesus).

The priest will say, "The Body of Christ." You say, "Amen."

The priest places the host in your hand.

Put the host in your mouth and chew completely.

Make the sign of the cross.

Stay kneeling as you wait to receive the chalice.

Receiving the chalice:

Fold your hands in reverence.

When the cup is offered to you, the person will say, "The Blood of Christ." You say, "Amen"

Extend your hands and take the chalice. Take a SMALL sip. Hand the chalice back.

Make a sign of the cross.

Stand up and return to your pew via the side aisle.

After receiving Communion:

Return to your pew via the side aisle.

Pray quietly in your own words in your heart.

Thank Jesus for being with you.

- Have kids practice moving and being comfortable in their special outfits/shoes.

- Talk about the importance of sharing meals with others and set aside a few intentional family meals.

- Make a loaf of bread and share it with a friend or neighbor.

- Girls Attire:

white dress

white or flesh-colored tights, or white ankle socks

white shoes (no flip-flops, sneakers or backless shoes/sandals)

veil or flower headband is optional

If your daughter is going to wear a veil or a headband of any kind, please allow her to wear it at home to get used to it before her special day.

Please no gloves, purses, rosaries or anything in hands during Mass

- Boys Attire:

dress slacks

dress shirt

suit jacket/blazer is optional

tie/bowtie is optional

dress shoes (no sneakers)

Day of the Sacrament:

- STUDENTS ONLY are to arrive dressed in Marian Hall at 10:30am

- Families can go to assigned/reserved pew.

- Students will be receiving a scapular, prayer book, and rosary as a gift from the parish.

- Immediately following the ceremony, students will line up on the sanctuary for a group photo.