

Sacred Hearts Parish

Religious Education

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Dear Families in Christ,

Welcome to this wonderful year of Sacramental Preparation for your child! It is a very exciting time for the Parish Community and we have you and your children in our prayers. The students in our Parish School are enhanced in their faith journey through the Sadlier *We Believe* Catholic Identity Program, and our children in the Parish Religious Education Program through the Dynamic Catholic *Blessed: First Reconciliation and First Communion* Program. Through these programs, your child learns more about God's unconditional love, most notably through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Your child will also learn that with the reception of the Eucharist, we are called to be more and more like Jesus. Both these beautiful sacraments are meant to be received over and over again to spiritually nourish us. Enclosed you will find a copy of our First Reconciliation and First Communion Handbook. Please take some time to review the information in this handbook and note the dates of upcoming events.

We strongly encourage you to play a leading role in your child's sacramental preparation. The more you talk to your child about the Sacraments and practice with them, the more knowledgeable and comfortable they will be when it comes time to receive these Sacraments. As parents, you are your child's most important role model. Their teachers and I do what we can to supplement the work you do, but your child looks to you and they see the ways in which you live out your faith- your prayer life, your reception of the Sacraments, your relationship with Jesus- and that is what they will grow up knowing and practicing. I cannot stress enough how important Mass attendance is. This is where we experience something far greater than ourselves- we listen to God's Word and how it speaks to us in a special way. We pray together as the communion of saints, the Body of Christ. We acknowledge our mistakes and seek God's forgiveness. And finally, we are strengthened by the Eucharist to live out our faith in our community and beyond.

So, I want to thank you for all the hard work you do and to let you know that I am always here as a resource if there is anything I can do to help you live out your faith. Thank you for sharing the gift of your faith with your child!

Blessings!

Beth Fullerton

Coordinator of Religious Education

"Return to Me with your whole heart"-Joel 2:12

