

## *Mary, Help of Christians Office of Religious Education*

July 24, 2016

Dear Second Grade Parents,

While “family-based” religious education was once considered an alternative method, it is now the norm in many parishes. These parishes are seeing increases in mass attendance, ministry participation, volunteering and religious assessment scores. Faith is almost always understood within a family environment. The moment an infant cries out to a parent, who responds, that child begins learning trust. That trust is reinforced each time the parent provides for the child’s needs. Eventually, that trust is transferred to a loving God. Throughout a child’s life, parents teach about God by what they do or don’t do in the domestic (home) church.

In *The Church Speaks about Sacraments with Children*, Mark Searle notes that the model for learning faith is closer to that of an apprenticeship than that of a classroom. Children learn of God’s persistent love through parents modeling constant love and forgiveness. They learn of the Sacrament’s importance through viewing the place it holds in their parent’s lives. If asking for and offering forgiveness is a part of your family’s structure, your child will have no problem understanding God’s salvific love and enduring mercy

I believe today’s families are busy, and preparing a child for a sacrament will mean making another time commitment. However, I also believe you will find the experience worth your time. If you are feeling like you do not “know enough” to teach your child, relax. The book and family guide will instruct you. In addition, you may access extra resources online @ [www.sadlierreligion.com/sacraments](http://www.sadlierreligion.com/sacraments). I will also provide a handout booklet with extra ideas, activities and information.

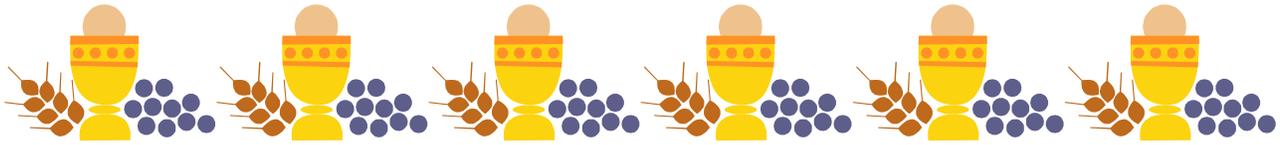
As the primary educator, you will be required to attend a parent meeting/presentation on **November 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM** in the Parish Center, while your child attends a Reconciliation Retreat. In an effort to minimize the number of meetings you need to attend, this November 17<sup>th</sup> presentation will also serve as an initial meeting for parents.

All materials needed for Reconciliation preparation will be available that evening, and at that time you will pay the \$70 fee (this covers part of the expenses incurred for the two books used for Reconciliation preparation, the two used for Eucharist preparation, and the supplies for a Reconciliation retreat and supplies for a First Eucharist retreat). Materials needed for First Eucharist preparation will be distributed after **First Reconciliation, which is March 16, 2017**.

**The First Eucharist retreat on May 06, 2017 includes a practice.** Both parent and child need to attend this. **First Eucharist is on May 07, 2017.** You are always welcome to call my office with questions (878-7325).

Sincerely,

Molly Hynes Collinsworth  
Director of Religious Education



**FIRST RECONCILIATION  
&  
FIRST EUCHARIST  
CALENDAR  
2016-2017**

- First Reconciliation Retreat (child) & 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
*Parent Formation on Reconciliation* (parent) Parish Center APR  
**Thursday, November 17, 2016**  
Receive reconciliation book, pay \$70.00 materials fee
- Tour of Reconciliation Room during PSR  
**Sunday, March 12, 2017** (child) (parent invited) 9:45-11:00 a.m.
- First Reconciliation 7:00 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 16, 2017** (child and family) Church  
Receive Eucharist book
- Parent Formation on Eucharist  
Part 1. **Sunday, March 26, 2017** (parent) 9:45-11:00 a.m.  
St. Francis Hall  
Part 2. **Thursday, March 30, 2017** (parent) 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
St. Francis Hall
- First Eucharist Retreat and Practice 12:30-4:00 p.m.  
**Saturday, May 06, 2017** (parent and child) Starts in Church,  
ends in Parish  
Center APR
- First Eucharist 11:15 a.m.  
**Sunday, May 07, 2017** (parent and child) Church  
Photos before and/or after.  
Reception follows.



**FIRST EUCHARIST INFORMATION:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (current): \_\_\_\_\_

(last year): \_\_\_\_\_  
(PSR, Catholic School, or Home School)

**RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION:**

PARENTS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

If your child was baptized at MHC, we can access the records, but we need you to submit the date of baptism and any name changes: \_\_\_\_\_. **All first communicants baptized elsewhere need to submit a copy of their baptismal certificate.**

Please return this form as soon as possible to the Rectory Office or to the Religious Education Office in St. Francis Hall. Forms may be placed in the collection basket, if inside an envelope with: Attention: Molly Hynes Collinsworth, They may also be mailed to Mary, Help of Christians, DRE; 954 North Maple Ave; Fairborn, Ohio 45324. If you have any questions, please call Molly at 878-7325.