

Dear Parents/Guardians,

According to our records, your child enters Grade 2 or higher during the 2023-2024 school year. That means your child may be ready to begin preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. If you feel your child is not ready to pursue preparation for these sacraments, you may wait for a later time. Your child's faith formation should continue in any case. If you feel you have received this letter in error, please notify the office so we may correct our records.

Sacramental Preparation begins with the Parent Orientation where we will outline our parish process for preparing your children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Please bring your questions regarding preparations and celebrations. You may attend one **Parent/Guardian Orientation Meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 7:00pm**. This meeting will take place in the Parish Hall and is designed for parents only.

You will find a Guide for Parents about the process for preparing for the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation and Eucharist on the reverse side of this letter. **The calendar of events is also enclosed to help you determine your child's readiness to prepare for the sacraments.**

**Please follow the instructions below to enroll your candidate:**

- **Complete our** First Reconciliation/Eucharist 2023-24 Application. Please fill out the online registration on our website using the link below. Registration is due by September 20, 2023. <https://www.ourladyofthefields.org/first-sacraments-preparation/>
- Send a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate **to the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation by September 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you wish you may scan and email it to [faithformation@olfparish.com](mailto:faithformation@olfparish.com).

**The celebration of First Reconciliation** for the group will be held on **Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM**.

We are hopeful that Group **First Communion Liturgies** will take place as planned in the spring. Therefore, we are planning for the following dates:

- **Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 11:00am**
- **Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 2:00pm**
- **Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 11:00am**

Please note that there is a maximum number of children who can receive the Eucharist at each celebration with limited guest seating. You also have the option of having your child receive at regularly scheduled weekend and daily masses after the May 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations. The Office will confirm with you the date and time of your child's liturgy selection.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with your family this year. Please review the important enclosed information.

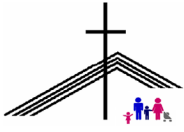
Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

*Andrea McGill Reddinger*

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Director of Children's Faith Formation



## **Guide for Parents about the process for preparing for the Sacraments of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and Eucharist**

- **Before a child can be considered a candidate for sacraments, s/he must have completed the equivalent of one year of faith formation just prior to immediate preparation for the sacrament and must be currently enrolled in a program. Formation can be done through the parish faith formation program or Catholic school.**
- Parents are the primary teachers of their children. Our process recognizes this truth and supports you in your ministry. Catechists will work with you as you prepare your child/ren for these sacraments. The parish conducts special celebrations to introduce the children to the sacraments. Working together, we hope to offer the very best preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Our parish process for sacramental preparation offers our children the individual attention and personal care they need. We open them to experience the liturgical prayer of our Christian community more deeply. Many of our church leaders, including our catechists, priests, deacons, and other community members will be involved in this process.
- We want our parents and the parish community accompanying our children as they prepare to encounter Christ in our sacramental way of life. A calendar is enclosed in this mailing and will be reviewed at the Orientation meeting. All families with children in this sacramental preparation process need to be enrolled in faith formation classes through the parish or Catholic school.
- The Church teaches us that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our lives. It is important for us to gather each week as a community to be strengthened to live our lives in the marketplace. St. Augustine teaches us, “See the Body of Christ. Eat the Body of Christ. Become what you eat.” With the reception of Jesus, we are empowered to live a life of discipleship.

**Therefore, families are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass.**

**Please see our website: <http://www.ourladyofthefields.org>.**

**Children learn best by doing. Therefore, you help to create a hunger to experience Christ in Word and Sacrament. Together, we celebrate and become what we eat: The Body of Christ in the world.**