



August 24, 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to an important and exciting year in your child's faith development. As a parent you have the primary responsibility of passing on the Catholic faith and traditions to your child; however, the teachers and staff of Saint Ambrose Catholic School and Faith Formation will be working in partnership with you in preparing your child for their reception of both First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

It is our privilege to work together with you. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we hope to nurture in your child's heart a deep faith and love for Jesus as he or she prepares to participate fully in the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. We hope that this coming year will give your family shared experiences that will draw you closer together in Christ's love and deepen your own appreciation of these beautiful sacraments.

Guidelines for the Sacraments of Initiation, states: "All candidates for the sacraments of penance and Eucharist, even those who are homeschooled, must be enrolled in a parish process of preparation for the reception of the sacraments. They must participate in all of its communal dimensions (ritual, prayer services, etc.) and any other requirements determined by the parish". Preparation for both the sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist at Saint Ambrose Catholic Community are family-based programs in which parent participation is required, allowing parents and children to prepare together for the child to receive the sacraments for the first time.

Preparation for First Reconciliation begins in October for children in second grade or older. The celebration of the Sacrament takes place in January. Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation includes both a *mandatory* large group parent meeting to re-enforce and enhance the lessons taught at home and *mandatory* parent and child attendance at one of the First Reconciliation Retreats held in January 2023.

Preparation for First Eucharist is undertaken after the completion of First Reconciliation, beginning in early February for children in second grade or older. The celebration of the Sacrament takes place at Mass in the spring. Preparation for the Sacrament of Eucharist includes a *mandatory* large group parent meeting to re-enforce and enhance the lessons taught at home. There is also a *mandatory* First Eucharist retreat for children and parents which will be held in March 2023.

Enclosed with this letter is a registration form that asks for your current address and other pertinent information. We ask that you complete the form and mail it, along with your payment of \$65.00, to Saint Ambrose Catholic Community as soon as possible. Please note that even if your child is currently attending Saint Ambrose Catholic School or another private school, you are required to register them for the parish program as sacrament preparation takes place in the parish community. Future information will be sent to the families who register, so please watch your mail for additional information in the upcoming months. In addition to the registration form, you will find two additional informational sheets in this mailing, which you will need for the upcoming year. We ask that you note the dates on both your home and work calendars and keep these sheets for future reference.

We are truly looking forward to working with you and your child during this exciting year. Please let us know if there is any way we can help you or assist you further as you embark on this beautiful faith journey.

Blessings,

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