

First Reconciliation

"Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness."

~Psalm 103:8

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

In a few weeks your child will be making his or her First Reconciliation. This beautiful sacrament, instituted by Christ, is meant to reconcile us back to God after we separate ourselves from him because of sin. These past few months, the Second Grade class has been discussing the concept of sin and the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Although I have emphasized the merit in making a good confession and the need to go frequently, I would also ask that you reinforce these concepts within your home. As Catholics blessed with the fullness of the faith, we should not take for granted the life giving graces bestowed upon us from frequent reception of the sacraments.

Within the next few weeks, the Second Grade class will be discussing the process of making a good confession at length. Attached you will find a *Children's Guide to Confession*, as well as *An Examination of Conscience for Children*. The Act of Contrition (a prayer your child must know for this sacrament) is listed at the bottom of the *Examination of Conscience for Children*. Please have your child practice this prayer at home in preparation (we will also be practicing it in class). Other prayers your child should know and be familiar with are: The Our Father, The Hail Mary, and The Glory Be.

Thank you for understanding the importance of this sacrament and for supporting your child throughout this crucial time in his or her faith life. Listed below are dates which members of both parishes should keep in mind. I look forward to sharing in your joy as we both watch your child draw closer to the Lord this year.

Sincerely,

Miss Sarah Fleck

SS. Mary and Joseph Catholic Churches

December 4: First Reconciliation service
@ 10:00 a.m.-St. Mary's Parish

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Focus Mass: December 5, 10:30 a.m.
December 11: First Reconciliation service @ 10:00 a.m.

*Please note that First Reconciliation services for **both** parishes are on a Saturday morning.