

Sacramental Preparation

Catholics are a sacramental people. As Catholics, we are aware that the Sacraments introduce us to and accompany us all through our religious lives. For this reason we place great emphasis on our sacramental programs and especially upon the important role that our parents play in them. Here, as elsewhere in the curriculum, the partnership of parent and teacher is of paramount importance. The partnership between parent and teacher helps a child to develop their personal relationship with God, particularly as they celebrate the Sacraments.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Early during in the second grade year, students prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They learn this sacrament is a celebration of God's loving forgiveness. In addition, they learn that we all have a responsibility to care for one another and make good choices. This is how we express our love for God. The students also learn about sin, and that reconciliation is something we do everyday, making peace with one another and celebrating being friends again. Most importantly the children learn that Jesus forgives each of us once we are genuinely sorry for certain choices we make.



Materials

Textbook used is *God's Gift: Reconciliation* by Loyola Press.

Retreat

Student/Parent—January

Service

January

First Holy Communion

Each spring students in 2nd grade prepare for and then in May receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. They learn about God's love and especially Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. In the spring, students receive a new textbook called *God's Gift: Eucharist*. They are also given a family booklet, which has readings, lessons, and activities that students can complete at home. During class, we read stories and parables exclaiming God's love for us. Students are involved in daily prayer while exploring scripture. As a class we reflect on the teachings of Jesus as well as respond to God's invitation to love him and others. Students also participate in a retreat to help with their preparation. Most of all, students begin to understand how they can fully participate in the Mass.



Materials

Textbook used is *God's Gift: Eucharist* by Loyola Press

Retreat

Student/Parent in April

Service

May



Confirmation

Confirmation preparation consists of a 2 year program in which the candidates receive the sacrament in the spring of 8th grade. During these 2 years, the candidates are required to attend mass, take part in various service projects and attend retreats. They are responsible for keeping a service and mass journal that will accompany them to their final Confirmation interview. The candidates will also be responsible for writing a Saint Report and the completion of other projects during their preparation.

Materials Used:

Confirmed in the Spirit – Loyola Press

Finding God – Loyola Press

Chosen – Ascension Press



Service and Mass Reflection Journals:

The service and mass journals will be started when Confirmation preparation begins. Each student is required to perform a certain number of hours in service to others. These reflections on being the Hands and Feet of Christ in the world is part of the service requirements. The mass journal is kept with the student and one mass reflection is to be completed each month. The turn in dates for the mass journal will be given to the student at the start of preparation and continue through the end of 8th grade. Explanations and forms will be shared with students and parents at the beginning of each year.

