

St. Mark's Catholic Church

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September, 2024

To PARENTS of students in Grade 2 or older who have not yet made their **First Confession** or received their **First Holy Communion**:

Dear Parents,

Sacraments are received *within a parish*. They are *not* received “*with the school*”. People normally receive the sacraments in their own parish. If you attend a Church other than St. Mark's, ***please contact your own parish priest as soon as possible*** for the procedure to follow with respect to these sacraments in your parish.

If you come to Mass on weekends to St. Mark's Church, and would like your child to receive these sacraments here in our parish, then **you should attend one of our weekend Masses with your child**, and then see me at the Mass. Our Mass times are: **Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.**; and **Sundays at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Polish), and 11:30 a.m.**

When we meet, I will give you a Registration Form. The form will list the dates of ***six (6) preparation classes in the Church on Saturday mornings (10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.), which you and your child must attend (November 9, 16, 23; May 3, 10 and 24)***. Please return the form to me, ***together with a photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate, by Sunday, October 27, 2024***. The date for the first Confessions is **Saturday, November 30, 10:00 a.m.**; the date for the “group” first Holy Communion is **Saturday, May 31, 2025** at the **5:00 p.m.** Mass.

Please note that your child does not have to receive these sacraments in Grade 2. You can wait until Grade 3 or later, if you wish. Holy Communion is not intended to be a once-only event. Rather it should be the fruit of the regular practice of our Catholic faith. Children should be coming to Mass *every* week to prepare to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. After their First Holy Communion, they should continue to receive Him regularly. It is very important, therefore, that you and your child attend Mass every week. This is an essential part of the preparation for these sacraments. The family that prays together, stays together.

May God continue to bless you and your family with His loving care during this year.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,



(Rev.) Edward Koroway, Pastor