

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second year of your child's sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and 1st Communion! We are so happy that we can be a part of his or her journey in faith. Because this is such a special time in our church life, the Diocese of Amarillo has some special requirements for each child and family.

One, as you're probably well aware, is that attendance is incredibly important as we prepare for two of our most important components of Catholic life. If a child is not in class, he or she misses the formation necessary for meaningful understanding of these sacraments. Therefore, every child should be in class at least 80% of the time. Since we have an RE school year of 28 days, they need to be present for at least 22 of those days. Less than that, according to the diocese, means they cannot receive their sacraments this year.

Two, each child must attend a mini-retreat or prayer day before each sacrament. I've scheduled **Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 1-4 p.m.** for the Reconciliation mini-retreat day. The First Communion mini-retreat day will be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 1-4 p.m.**

And just so you don't feel left out, parents, (ha!) the Diocese also needs one or both of you to attend a meeting pertaining to each of the sacraments. (You can also send a helpful grandparent if needed!). Your child will receive his or her Sacrament of Reconciliation in December this year, not January as in years past. I've planned our first meeting over the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Sunday, **October 29 beginning at 10:10 in the Dwelling.** If for some reason you can't make that meeting, I will offer a make-up meeting on **Tuesday, November 7 at 7 p.m. in Room B-1.**

PLEASE NOTE: every child needs at least one parent to attend one of these meetings for Reconciliation and one for 1st Communion. These parent meetings are a diocesan mandate. Therefore, if you cannot make either of these meetings and you don't make other arrangements to come meet with me, your child will not be able to complete the sacraments at this time.

There are two things that will help us in our preparation this year. One, if you can please sign up for flocknotes and join the group called "Reconciliation and 1st Communion Parents", then I can send you reminders as these different events approach. Two, when we have our parent meeting, if you could please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, that will be of tremendous help!

Although some of these requirements may feel burdensome, please remember that this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for your child. Often life's most significant experiences do necessitate more time and preparation to give the greatest meaning to those involved. Please know that Debi and I and the children's catechists are here to make these sacraments of

Reconciliation and 1st Communion a very special time in the lives of you and your child. Please let us know if you have further questions or concerns.

I will look forward to seeing you later in October!

God bless,

Mrs. Kerry Acker

Director of Religious Education

Enclosure

Save the Dates!

Reconciliation and 1st Communion Year 2 & RCIC

2017-2018

Special Dates for Parents (required by the diocese)

Purpose:	Place:	Time:	Date:
Reconciliation meeting	1 st option: The Dwelling	1 st option: 10:10 a.m.	1 st option: Sunday, October 29, 2017
	2 nd option: B-1	2 nd option: 7 p.m.	2 nd option: Tuesday, November 7, 2017
First Communion meeting	1 st option: The Dwelling	1 st option: 10:10 a.m.	1 st option: January 21, 2018
	2 nd option: B-1	2 nd option: 7 p.m.	2 nd option: Tuesday, January 30, 2018
1 st Communion practice	The Church	7 p.m.	Thursday, May 3, 2018

Important Dates for Children

Purpose:	Place:	Time:	Date:
Reconciliation Mini-Retreat	Gym	1 to 4 p.m.	Saturday, December 9, 2017
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church	10 a.m.	Saturday, December 16, 2017
1 st Communion Mini-Retreat	Gym	1-4 p.m.	Saturday, April 14, 2018
1 st Communion practice	Church	7 p.m.	Thursday, May 3, 2018
Pictures	Church	9 a.m.	Saturday, May 5
Sacrament of 1 st Holy Communion	Church	10 a.m.	Saturday, May 5

***THESE EVENTS ARE MANDATORY, SO PLEASE INFORM ALL COACHES, SCOUT LEADERS, MUSIC TEACHERS, BALLET INSTRUCTORS, ETC, IN ADVANCE!**