



Saint James Parish

Religious Education Office

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Celebrating the Sacraments: Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Speaking as a parent myself, I remember how dramatically my faith changed when my son was born. It suddenly occurred to me that if I could love this tiny person as much as I do, imagine how God, who is infinite, could possibly love me! All of us!

What parent has not lost their temper, or at least puzzled over what our children sometimes say or do? And yet, even in those times, we know that we love them more than they can begin to imagine. And so, we forgive. We guide. We love.

As you help to prepare your child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, remember that same forgiveness, that same love; for it is in these sacraments, that they, and we, experience the infinite mercy and love of God. Show by your example how to recognize when you have hurt someone, and how to ask for forgiveness. Take them to Mass with you, and model reverence in the presence of God as you receive the Holy Eucharist. Guide them gently, when they make mistakes, and praise them with all of your heart when they follow your guidance. You are your children's greatest teachers. They will live their faith as you live yours.

There are several prayers and activities that will help you and your children as they prepare to receive the sacraments. Please make the time to review and practice the prayers with them. The Examination of Conscience and the Acts of Random Kindness project are just a few things that will help your children begin to form life-long spiritual habits that will strengthen their faith, and connection to the Lord and each other.

As always, you and your families are in my prayers. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Lynda Fiorenza