

*“Remain in Me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. **I am the vine, you are the branches.** Whoever remains in Me and I in him will **bear much fruit**, because without Me you can do nothing... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and **your joy may be complete.**”*
(John 15:4-5, 11)

August 2023

Dear parents of young disciples,

I pray that your summer has been incredibly blessed and joy-filled!

You are receiving this letter & additional information because one or more of your children is of the age when we typically begin preparing children to receive the mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist for the first time in Holy Communion! *If your child has not yet been baptized, please contact me for more details about how he or she might be able to prepare to receive that Sacrament first!* What a beautiful and exciting time in your child’s life! If you and your child(ren) would like to begin preparing for these sacraments, please first read through all of the enclosed information and take the commitment to prayer. If your family is ready to commit to the process of formation and to growing in faith together as a family, please first be sure that your child is registered for a program of systematic formation in the faith – whether it be through Catholic school, our parish Family Faith Formation program, or systematic homeschooling curriculum. You may find more information about our parish program and the opportunity to register on our parish website (<https://www.stwendelin.org/family-faith-formation>). Catholic school families are also encouraged to participate in our parish Family Faith Formation program, since it includes opportunities for the *entire family* to grow in faith **together**, which is not typically a part of a child’s daily Catholic school education.

A schedule of sacramental formation sessions for ALL parents & students preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Communion either this year or next year is enclosed in this mailing. The first of these sessions will be on **Sunday, October 1st** between the 8am & 11am Masses (beginning at approximately **9:00am**) in the **Upper Room. ALL families are asked to attend these Sunday sessions, no matter where your child(ren) attend school.** Sacramental formation is the responsibility of the parish, according to Diocesan policy, so while religious formation in a Catholic school is an incredible blessing and foundation for your children, preparation for the sacraments must still happen at the parish at which you are registered. The Wednesday sacramental formation sessions that are also noted on the schedule are encouraged for all children, but not required for those who attend a Catholic school. The first of these is on **September 20th at 6:15pm.**

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. These sacraments are the greatest gifts God could possibly give us – and the *greatest gift you could possibly give to your child* is leading them to Christ through these gifts of grace! God bless you!

In the love of Christ,



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