



August 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a busy and exciting year of Sacramental Preparation for your second grader! **First Reconciliation** at St. Albert the Great will be celebrated on **November 14, 2019**, and **First Holy Communion** will be celebrated the **first weekend in May**.

Mandatory Parent Sessions:

(Please mark your calendars - both sessions will be held from 7-8pm in the cafeteria)

Parent Session First Reconciliation Prep: Tuesday, September 24

Parent Session First Communion Prep: Thursday, March 5

In these sessions, we will discuss not only the logistics and the materials used for sacramental preparation, but we will also spend some time in prayer and faith formation.

Pope Francis states, ***“When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul, to heal my heart and to be healed of some wrongdoing...Each time we go to confession, God embraces us. God rejoices!”*** We hope that the children going through sacramental preparation encounter this all-encompassing mercy and love of God so they routinely seek Reconciliation as a Sacrament to help them heal and maintain strong relationships with God, others, and themselves.



In the *Bread of Life* discourse in John chapter 6, Jesus shares, ***“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.” John 6:56.*** When we receive Communion, we become a part of the Body of Christ - as a Church community but also as an individual. When Jesus abides in us, He gives us the power to become more Christ-like - to be transformed into His hands and feet. What a great privilege and responsibility! We hope that your child becomes filled with the love of God and empowered by the Eucharist to live as a disciple of Jesus and to join with the Church community and become His presence in the world.

How can you help prepare your child at home?

1. **Attend Mass together** - This is ESSENTIAL for your child to fully understand the beauty and importance of the Sacraments. Discussing the parts of Mass and encouraging participation will help your child fully experience the love of God.
2. **Pray together** - Before meals, at bedtime, at the start of the day, in the car - anytime! Prayer can be as simple as a conversation with God, thanking God for all the blessings in your lives, or as traditional as the Liturgy of the Hours. There are lots of creative resources online. We will also share some ideas at the parents' session.
3. **Discuss your own relationship with God with your child** - How does God guide you throughout the day? How does God help you make decisions/determine right from wrong? How does God lead you to reconcile your relationships?

The preparation your child receives at home is more important than the preparation your child receives at school. Please let us know how we can accompany your family this year! May we pray for each other!

God bless,

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