

Dear Second Grade Parents,

In preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist we have some important dates and commitments for your calendar.

First Reconciliation Meeting

Sunday, November 4 at 9:00 am

Church (parents only)

First Reconciliation

Saturday, January 19 at 10:00 am

Children and their families should plan to attend this.

First Eucharist Meeting

Sunday, January 27 at 9:00 am

Church (parents only)

Copies of Baptismal Certificates

Please turn into the parish Office with your child's PSR registration form.

*****A COPY IS ONLY NEEDED IF YOUR CHILD WAS NOT BAPTIZED AT OLOS*****

Blessing Cup Session

Sunday, February 10 9:00-10:15 am

Parish Hall

PSR students and at least one parent should attend this.

Bread-Making Day

Sunday, March 31 11:30 am- 12:30 pm

Parish Hall

Blessing Bag Assembly

Sunday, March 10 9:00-10:15 am

PSR Classroom

Banner

Due by Tuesday, April 2

Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, April 2 6:30 to 8:00 pm

In the Parish Hall (children and families)

Fish Fry Dessert Table

Friday, March 5 4:15-7:45 PM

PAC

Mandatory Practice

Sunday, April 28 at 9:00 am

Parish Activity Center (children and at least one parent)

Celebration

Saturday, May 4th 4:15 pm Parish Activity Center

First Reconciliation:

There will be a parent meeting in which we will discuss the importance of reconciliation.

Children will have the opportunity to make their first reconciliation on **Saturday, January 19** at 10:00 am. Fr. Paul, Fr. Stephen, and other area priests will be available to hear confessions. Children and their families should plan to attend this.

First Eucharist Meeting:

This is an informational meeting for First Eucharist preparation and ceremony. We will hold this meeting in the church. Please come prepared with any questions about the logistics of the celebration.

Baptismal Certificates:

It is necessary to have your child's baptismal record to verify the Baptism and to post required information in the parish's sacramental register. Please request a copy of the baptismal certificate from the church where your child was baptized. Please turn these into the catechists or to the office with your child's PSR registration form. If your child was baptized at Our Lady of Sorrows, please fill out the enclosed form.

Blessing Cup:

Every child, along with one of their parents, will have the opportunity to make a special blessing cup. Please come and help your child create a memorable item. Children will also work on their drawings which will be used in the First Communion program. This will take place on **Sunday, February 10** from 9:00-10:15 am in the Parish Hall. **PSR students and at least one parent should plan to attend this.** If you are not able to make it, please alert your child's catechist. A blessing cup and a set of markers will be sent home with you. Please return the decorated cup and the markers when finished with this project. The cup will be presented to your child at the Potluck Dinner.

The Blessing Cup workbook should be completed and brought to the Blessing Cup session. If you need another copy of this book it can be found on the OLOS website at www.olosmonroe.com under the PSR tab.

Bread-Making:

On **Sunday, March 31** from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm, students and at least one parent are invited to join us in the Parish Hall to make loaves of Irish Soda bread. This dough does not require any yeast (or rising) and is easy to make. Once loaves have been assembled and placed in pans, catechists will take it home to bake for the Potluck Dinner which will take place that following Tuesday. At least 8 loaves are needed for the Potluck dinner. Look for sign-up sheets outside your child's classroom in March.

Blessing-Bag Assembly:

Please come on **Sunday, March 10** to the PSR classroom and help your child assemble two blessing bags. Blessing bags can be kept in the car and given to needy people. The First Communicants will assemble two bags. One they will keep for themselves and the other one will be collected and distributed to parishioners to hand out.

As the Body of Christ we are called to care for all of our brothers and sisters, especially those in the most need. This will be a hands-on activity that recognizes and supports this Church teaching.

Fish Fry Dessert Table:

As Catholics, we are called to serve the world and each other. The Fish Fry Dessert table offers a perfect chance to do both! Students and their families work the table to serve parishioners and community members delicious treats to top off their meal. All donations from the table go to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and support their mission in Haiti.

****OVER****

Banner:

Banners will be made by each First Communicant. These will be placed on the First Communicant's chair the day of the ceremony. This banner will designate the seat for the First Communicant and mark the row for family members. Our Lady of Sorrows will provide each student with a piece of fabric for the banner, a blue chalice, and a yellow sunburst. The blue chalice and yellow sunburst must be used on the banner. The First Communicant's name must be on the banner. Other than those requirements, the banners should be individualized with special gifts and talents unique to the First Communicant. Parents, you can bedazzle, sew, glue, whatever! The sky is the limit! Pinterest is a wonderful website to help inspire your creativity. Michaels or Hobby Lobby are great places to look for embellishments. Banners must be turned in at or before the Potluck Dinner on **April 2nd**.

Potluck Dinner:

At Our Lady of Sorrows, we gather together as a community to join in a mini Seder meal prior to First Communion. We will have prayer, a potluck meal, and a special presentation from the First Communicants. This is an important time to show support for our First Communicants and demonstrate community. The family Potluck Dinner will be on **Tuesday, April 2nd** from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. We will have sign-ups closer to the date. During this evening, First Communicants will also get to taste an unconsecrated host and the wine from their special blessing cup as well.

Please plan to bring your child's favorite dish to this meal. Frozen chicken nuggets, boxed macaroni and cheese, and bags of Oreo cookies are perfectly acceptable to bring to this meal. Since the Eucharist is centered on our favorite spiritual foods of bread and wine, this meal should be celebratory and reflective of this upcoming sacrament! Look for sign-up sheets outside your child's classroom in March.

Practice:

A full practice for all students celebrating First Eucharist will be held at 9:00 am on **Sunday, April 28**. This is the **last rehearsal** before the celebration, it is very important the children and a parent attend.

Celebration:

Sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated on **Saturday, May 4th during the 4:15 p.m. Mass**. First Communicants will receive the sacrament as a class before the congregation.

As we begin this important sacramental preparation please pray for your child. Remember that you are the primary religious educator of your child. Encourage regular Mass participation, say grace together as a family before each meal, and be open to sharing your faith.

If you have any questions about the First Eucharist or anything else, please contact Chris Baumgardner.

Much Peace,

Christine Baumgardner
CRE
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BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

If your child was baptized at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, please fill out the following and return it to the parish office ASAP.

Child's Name _____

Date of Baptism _____

Date of Birth _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Name _____ (Maiden) _____