

Dear 2nd Grade Families:

The *Together in Jesus – First Reconciliation* sacramental preparation program captures children’s attention with interactive stories, activities and colorful stickers to reinforce exciting concepts. Lessons focus on biblical stories about Christian living – including the Good Samaritan, the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Prodigal Son – to help children appreciate that God loves them and is always ready to forgive them. Activity stickers help children relate the stories to their lives. Also included are a “Questions Parents Ask” handout and a “Family Time” poster. These two excellent resources are nested in the middle of the six lessons, so be sure to locate these and place them in a place of prominence right at the beginning.

When families become involved with a child’s preparation to receive the Sacraments, two things happen—the child’s experience is enriched and parents often have a renewed appreciation of what receiving that Sacrament has meant in their own lives. This shared experience is the key to the *Together in Jesus* program. Each *Together in Jesus* lesson builds carefully on the last. So when the big day arrives, both the child and the family are fully ready to receive, appreciate, and celebrate this great gift.

The six at-home lessons are to be completed and returned to All Saints on the evening of your child’s First Reconciliation. You will also find that we have given you a copy of the *Scope and Sequence At-A-Glance For Parents* and two options for end-of-lesson assessments: a short, multiple-choice quiz and a reflection/drawing review. You may choose to do one or both of these options at the end of each lesson. Either a multiple-choice or reflection/drawing assessment should be completed for each lesson and should be returned along with the completed lessons at 1st Reconciliation.

If you have any questions about these materials, please contact the Faith Formation office, and we will be happy to assist you. We hope that these at-home activities enrich your faith and enhance your family’s experience of the sacrament of reconciliation!

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