

CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF CHEROKEE AND HOLSTEIN

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH

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27 October 2020 Tuesday of the 30th Week in Ordinary Time

Dear Parents of 2nd graders:

This year is an important year for your child and you as your child prepares to join us at the table of the Lord in Holy Communion in the spring of 2020.

Before that great day of celebration arrives, there will be much preparation and formation needed so our child is ready to receive Holy Communion.

For many years the Diocese of Sioux City has required parents to attend a meeting to go over the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the requirements of the preparation program. While we have held these meeting at Cherokee and Holstein in past years, due to the COVID pandemic we are not able to hold this meeting this year.

Depending on the circumstances, we may offer a meeting to prepare for First Holy Communion in early 2021.

Thus, information about First Reconciliation is begin provided by your child's catechist [Sheila at Cherokee and Amber at Holstein], via the parish website under Faith Formation [go to your favorite parish and click on Grade 2], and via email updates.

Regarding First Reconciliation—we normally celebrate this in December with all the children with their parents and siblings. As of this time, a date has not been set as it appears it will be difficult to celebrate as a group as we have in the past due to the current COVID pandemic. We will celebrate this important Sacrament with your child and you before the celebration of First Holy Communion [which is scheduled to be Sunday May 9, 2020 in the children's home parishes at the Sunday Mass].

In addition to what your child is learning in their Wednesday Faith Formation class, I encourage you to visit with your child about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend Mass in-person every Sunday [or Saturday evening] and Holy Day or online if not able to attend in-person.

In addition, for all families, I invite you to visit FORMED.ORG to view the following [click SEARCH at the top of the screen and type in the name of the program to view]:

For children:

- [You are Forgiven](#) Short videos for children from *Signs of Grace*
- [Forgiven for Children](#) How to Make a Great Confession [12 min]

For parents:

- [Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession](#) 3 sessions and pdf guides.
- Lighthouse Talks:
 - [The Healing Power of Confession](#) Dr. Scott Hahn
 - [Confession](#) by Fr. Larry Richards

[If you have not signed up with FORMED.ORG, please visit <https://cherokeecountycatholics.org/adult-faith-formation> for instructions.]

For families at Cherokee, in the past a ½” white binder, “Our Family Bible Stories for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist”, has been given to all families. [A few families may have this binder as you have had children previously in the 2nd grade session.] This document may be found at <https://cherokeecountycatholics.org/grade-2> under DOCUMENTS. [If you want a print copy, please contact me and one will be prepared and delivered to you.] Please review the information found on pages 2-5 and begin going through these stories [beginning at page 6] with your child, one story a week along with the activity, i.e. “Family Time”, examination of conscience, review of prayers, “Steps for the Sacrament of Reconciliation”, etc. Some of these stories will be used in class.

For families at Holstein, visit <https://cherokeecountycatholics.org/grade-2-1> for more information. Please feel free to use “Our Family Bible Stories for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist” as described above.

During this time, I hope this will be a spiritually rewarding experience for both you and your child as you work together through this program as you take advantage of the possibilities that this year brings as we grow in our commitment to our Faith.

Please contact me if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or are unable to attend this meeting.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Mark J. Stoll, JCL, VF
Pastor