



2019-2020 SCHEDULE SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM—YEAR ONE

(Revised 9/17/2019)

Parents and Guardians have a significant role in this special preparation for their children's celebration of First Reconciliation and First Communion. In OLG School and the Sunday Faith Formation Program, catechists work with the children to prepare them for these important steps in their faith journey. But it is the lived faith at home, role modeled by the parents/guardians that best helps the children to integrate what they learn into their young lives. In conjunction with Archdiocesan guidelines, preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion *is a two-year period* beginning in 1st Grade. This year our parish is expanding our support of families in Year One by providing experiences and resources so that families can grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, their understanding of the Sacraments, and in their connection to the parish. In addition, families will be better prepared for Year Two, which has a greater emphasis on the Mass and on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

To support these efforts, families are asked to participate in the following:

- **ORIENTATION MEETING** *Sunday, September 15, 9:30-10:45 AM*, Walmesley Center. Children will gather in the gym with catechists
- **FAMILY FAITH SUNDAYS** Attend at least 5 of the 7 monthly events where families participate in a wide variety of activities focused on a particular theme. These events take place in the Walmesley Center, 9:30-10:45 AM followed by attending the 11:00 Mass. **This year's dates are: October 6, November 3, January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, & June 7**
- **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** To make Sunday Mass a more positive and meaningful experience for children, we provide an experience with the Sunday readings that are designed to meet the developmental and spiritual needs of the elementary-aged child. Children come to the 11:00 am Mass with their family and are dismissed at the beginning of Mass and return at the Offertory. During the children's "Word" service, we focus generally on one reading—usually the Gospel reading. This is followed by a child-oriented reflection that often includes an activity to help the Scripture stories have more meaning in their young lives.
- **GATHERING WITH YEAR TWO FAMILIES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT IS AHEAD!!** *Sunday, May 17, 10:00-10:45 AM, School Hall* Children will remain with parents/guardians.

"Families are at their best when they focus on LIVING the faith more than learning beliefs. Both matter and both are interconnected. The proposal here is to tilt the focus of family faith formation toward LIVING into the commitments, values, and practices that emanate from a relationship with Jesus Christ."