

August 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,



110 SAINT MARY AVENUE SW
FT. WALTON BEACH, FL 32548
O: 850-243-3742
F: 850-243-1271
www.saintmary.life

Saint Mary
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Seven Sacraments are a vital part of our Catholic life. All students who plan to celebrate First Communion in the spring will first prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the fall. Reconciliation (sometimes called Confession or Penance) is better understood today as the sacrament of conversion, for it helps us to improve and grow in our faith. We plan to have our First Reconciliation Service on **November 5th at 6:00pm** in the church.

As a parent, you will help prepare your child for the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Sacramental programs are **family-centered**, for we realize the central place is the family in forming a child in his/her faith life. Parents have the primary role in the religious education of their children and we are here to present the Church's teachings and support you in this role. **When a child is ready to receive a sacrament, parents are asked to take an active part in their child's preparation.** We ask that you prepare your child at home with the Augustine Institute online platform "Signs of Grace" using our parish code. You will receive the parish code for "Signs of Grace" after registering online for Saint Mary sacramental preparation program [HERE](#).

PARENT/STUDENT SESSIONS are included in the online "Signs of Grace" program. There will be **no large in-person meetings this year nor in-person classes this year.**

In preparation for the sacraments:

1. **PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM** at <https://saintmary.life/sacramental-preparation/>
2. Also, **PLEASE BRING A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE** (you may call the church of Baptism and request they mail you a copy), unless your child was Baptized at SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH in which case we have this information in our registry.
3. **ALL** students are expected to complete the "Signs of Grace" online program sessions. These sessions are for students who are in 2nd - 5th grade, have been baptized and want to make their sacraments this school year. If your child has not been baptized, please call the parish office at 850.243.3742.

We very much look forward to journeying with you in preparation for your child's First Reconciliation and First Communion. In advance, we thank you for your support and participation in this special preparation time. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at explorers@saintmary.life or 850.243.3742

With love in Christ,

Laura Gulig
Coordinator of Children's Ministries