



Welcome Families to the year of Sacramental Preparation!



I am very excited to welcome you to a year of formation, engagement, prayer and celebration. It is my pleasure to share with you the excellent preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Oftentimes, these sacraments are filled with images of parties and books to complete. Not to diminish those images, I would like to offer a new image as well to you. The image is your child's face filled with the wonder and awe of receiving God's mercy and love in these precious sacramental moments. The best image is that these sacramental moments are ours for life; not just in that one moment. So in order to prepare our children and ourselves, you are invited to attend one of the following sacramental programs:

Reconciliation Session: October 2 at 6pm **OR** Oct. 9 at 6pm in Church- Parents/Guardians only need to attend one of these sessions.

Eucharist Session: March 4 at 6pm or March 11 at 6pm in Church- Parents/Guardians only need attend one of these sessions.

The dates for the celebration of the sacraments are as follows:

Reconciliation- Feb. 5 at 1:30pm in the Church for the school students and 6:30pm in the Church for the RE community. Students from private Catholic schools are invited to either celebration. More information on this to be shared at the parent formation evening;

First Communion- May 2 at 10am, 12pm or 2pm- a Signup genius will be provided to select your mass preference after all parents/guardians have met with Mrs. Ballintyn for the Reconciliation Information Session.

These sessions are critically important so that you can spend time in prayer and reflection on the importance and meaning of these sacraments so that you can make the encounter for your child that much more meaningful and important. This evening is for YOU! Your child will be receiving the catechesis during School/RE classes.

Please note all dates for the preparation for the sacraments are noted on the via this link: [Calendar](#) Please note that the Summer Session students have additional Sunday morning classes with their catechists to ensure that they are prepared for reception of the sacraments. Those dates are listed in the above referenced calendar.

Please note that in order to begin this sacramental process, you must complete the online registration form via this link: [Registration Form](#) The payment for the costs associated with both sacraments is \$80. Checks can be submitted via mail or dropped off at the office during school hours. Checks should be made out to St. John the Beloved. The online registration form and check are due by October 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Ballintyn via dballintyn@sjbde.org. Blessings for a wonderful school year.

With gratitude and blessings,

Dolores V. Ballintyn, MRE
Director of Religious Education