

# Sebago Lakes Region Parishes

St. Anne, 299 Main Street (Route 25) Gorham

St. Anthony, 268 Brown Street, Westbrook

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 919 Roosevelt Trail (Rt. 302), Windham



Dear Parents or Guardians,

Do you have a child or know someone that has a child who is at the age of preparation for the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and First Eucharist? It is through the sacraments that our children encounter Jesus who desires to walk with them throughout their lives. This is the start of a very special time for your child and your family. As parents, you are the first and best teachers in the ways of faith. We support you in this role and look forward to assisting you during this preparation process.

Beginning this year, all parishes throughout the diocese will implement a two-year sacrament preparation process. This means that all children must participate in a first year of formal faith formation before the immediate sacrament preparation year. Preparing children to receive three sacraments is an immense undertaking; this process will provide the time they need to grow in their understanding and desire for the sacraments.

- **Year One** includes children in first or second grade who are just beginning their faith formation. During this year your child will be introduced to: the Trinity - God the Father, Creator of all life, Jesus, God's Son and their friend and the Holy Spirit, who fills us with God's life - Bible stories, prayers and the Mass.
- **Year Two** includes children in second or third grade who will prepare for and celebrate their sacraments. During this year your child will focus on the three sacraments they will celebrate. They will begin to understand: God's love, forgiveness of sin, the parts of the Mass, the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and the Holy Spirit as our helper and guide.

We cherish your role as parents, knowing that your faith makes a profound impact on your child. Therefore, we invite you to join with your child in several sessions during both years. We will give you tools to help your child understand what it means to be a Catholic who loves God and is loved by God. We hope this will also help you, as a family, to grow in your love of God.

We know that families come in many shapes and we welcome all parents/guardians regardless of your situation - married, single, divorced, currently active in the Church or not, Catholic and non-Catholic. We want to provide you with the resources you need to be comfortable as you prepare your child to receive the sacraments and live a faith-filled life.

For more details, please join us for an informational meetings, contact and registration information is listed on the back of this letter.

Please pass this letter on to parents you know need this information. We thank you for your cooperation and ask for God's blessings upon all of us as we help each other during this extraordinary time of grace.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Lou".

Pastor  
Sebago Lakes Parishes.

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Listed below are the informational meetings, registration contact information.

† St. Anthony, 268 Brown Street, Westbrook

August 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am

Contact Debbie Bellantoni 857-0492 [debmegstanthony@gmail.com](mailto:debmegstanthony@gmail.com)

† St. Anne, 299 Main Street (Route 25) Gorham

September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am

Contact Sr. Jackie Moreau Office number 839-4857, Cell 899-5427  
e-mail: [jackie.moreau@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:jackie.moreau@portlanddiocese.org)

† Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 919 Roosevelt Trail (Rt. 302), Windham

September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

Larry Guertin, 892-8922 e-mail: [Lawrence.Guertin@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:Lawrence.Guertin@portlanddiocese.org)