



**St. Patrick Church**  
**Religious Education Office**

September 10, 2020

Dear Parents of St. Patrick Church First Communion Families!

Greetings! This is an exciting year for your children. We at St. Patrick Church know how wonderful it is to receive Jesus for the first time and share your excitement! With consideration our changing community concerns, we have scheduled this fall's spiritual and learning opportunities for our families. We will give you the schedule for the spring in November, when we can better evaluate what our directives will be for the spring. Thanks for your understanding and flexibility. Please read this letter carefully.

**Registration:** There is a sacrament registration form that you must complete in detail. That form is attached. There is a sacrament fee of \$50. Some families have already paid that fee with their RE registration. Other families have not yet paid. Please call the office, 815-385-2959, if you want us to check your payment status. We will need a Baptismal certificate for each child. If your child was baptized at St. Patrick Church, please indicate that fact on the form. If you have already sent us the baptismal certificate for your child, you need *not* send another. This form is due October 14, 2020.

**Parent Meetings:** There are **special meetings once a month** associated with our First Communion preparation program this year. Through this fall, these meetings will occur from **10-11am** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Sundays in Muldoon Hall** (basement of main church). As stated earlier, we will give you the schedule for the spring later this fall. These meetings will be for the first communicant and at least one parent. As we have to assure our gathering are less than 50 people, I will ask you to RSVP how many will be coming. All families seeking their sacrament, whether Montini, religious education, or homeschooled students, are asked to participate.

- **This Fall's Parent and Child meetings will be on October 18 and November 15.** We ask at least 1 parent and the child preparing for the Sacrament to participate in these meetings. These participants will be led through lessons from "Blessed" – a sacramental preparation program from Dynamic Catholic. If you are unable to or uncomfortable in meeting face to face, please let me know and I will set up alternative options for meeting.
- **At these meetings, parents and children will sit together at their own family table with all wearing masks and 6 feet distancing for other families.** Our goal is to allow fellowship time for our families and also allow safety for all involved.

**Parent Spiritual Retreat:** Our retreat day will be announced after we can be sure of our directives on safety for the spring.

**First Communion retreat and First Reconciliation:** Our intention at this time is to have a family retreat scheduled on April 24, 2021 from 9am to 12pm. At this retreat, the children will receive their First Reconciliation and complete other activities to prepare the child for First Communion. At least 1 parent is asked to be with the child on this day.

**First Eucharist Celebration:** At this time, we have First Communion Mass tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 1 and 2, 2021. We are looking to finalize the times later this year when we have clearer direction as to how we can celebrate.

If you have any questions regarding the changes in this program, please contact Lisa Johnson at 815-385-2959 or [reoffice@stpatrickmchenry.org](mailto:reoffice@stpatrickmchenry.org).

Blessings to all!  
Lisa Johnson, DRE  
St. Patrick Church