



September 2023

Dear Second Grade Parents:

This is an important year for your child! We are pleased to welcome you to sacrament preparation beginning with First Reconciliation (Confession) celebrated in January, followed by First Eucharist (First Communion) celebrated in April and May.

Sacrament preparation for both First Reconciliation and First Eucharist involves the following:

1. Mass attendance – We are inviting families to (re)commit to celebrate Eucharist at Mass on Sundays. Without regular participation in the Mass on Sundays, it is difficult for children to be rooted in the importance of this Sacrament and outward expression of their faith.
2. Formation – students receive formation of the sacrament in their religion class, both in our Catholic Formation program and in our school.
3. Family Interview – families schedule a fall meeting with Kate as an opportunity for her to get to know the child(ren) and their family and talk about the year together.
4. Family sessions –First Reconciliation Family All Day Retreat in the fall and First Eucharist family session in the winter.
5. At-Home Bible studies – parents will work with their children at home, using their child's new children's bible and discussion guide.
6. Children's Retreat for First Eucharist

We offer two dates for each of our sessions so we can accommodate everyone. Sign-ups will come home in our Sacramental emails. **Sacramental emails will be on Tuesday afternoons.** If you are not receiving these emails after you register, please let Karen in our CF office know at berschk@lumenchristiparish.org.

The family all day retreat for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at the end of September. There are two options for this session: Saturday, September 30 from 9:00am-3:00pm or Saturday, October 7 30 from 9:00am-3:00pm. **If your child was not baptized at Lumen Christi, please bring a copy of his or her baptismal certificate to this session.**

The sacrament fee for both sacraments is \$80 per child and may be paid online at the parish website under the giving tab/donate/pay fees. This fee covers the cost of the retreats and the beautiful children's bible that your child uses both in class and for their assignments at home.

I look forward to working with all of you. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I pray that the Holy Spirit will bless us all with growth and strengthening of faith as we participate in this sacrament preparation.

In Christ's peace,

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