

August 2010

Dear Parents,

As a parish community we all work together to help our children as they take another important step in their faith journey. Our program for the preparation to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time is a family-centered, parish-based program for children in second grade or above. Since our records indicate that you have a child in the second grade, I am sending you a brochure and a registration form. To be able to participate in these sacraments at Saint Bartholomew children need to be enrolled in either a parochial school or the parish faith formation.

To help you prepare your child to receive these sacraments we provide you with a family guidebook as well as a child workbook for each sacrament. There is a \$40 fee to help defray the cost of these books. The family guide as well as the child's workbook will be handed out during the parent night for each sacrament. Payment for the books are due when registering for the sacraments.

There will also be a parent-only information night as well as a parent and child activity/retreat day for each sacrament. The dates and times can be found in the enclosed brochure; it is essential that you attend these events. The parent nights for each sacrament require no registration, and you are free to choose whichever date works for you. However, the format for the activity/retreat day does require that you choose one of the dates for both Reconciliation and Eucharist.

The practice for the actual liturgy of the Eucharist will take place the week before. The dates and times are also found in the brochure. You will be assigned your liturgy for First Eucharist early next year through a random drawing. Please save and refer to the enclosed brochure for the dates and descriptions of the programs.

We need a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if your child was baptized at a church other than Saint Bartholomew. You may call or write the church of baptism to obtain a certificate of record if you don't have one in your home files. A copy of the baptismal certificate should be sent with your check and completed registration form to the Parish Office, Attention Jim DeShane, by October 1, 2010, or the certificate can be faxed to me at 952-473-0980.

If you have any question or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 952-473-6601. I look forward to being a part of this important occasion in the faith life of your family.

Sincerely,

Jim DeShane
Director of Faith Formation

JD:tk
Enclosures