



**ST. JOSEPH PARISH & SCHOOL**  
**Avon Lake**  
*One Family in Christ*

September 2019

Dear Second Grade Parents,

A warm and heartfelt welcome to the beginning of a very special sacramental year. This year, we will embark on a faith formation journey as, together, we prepare your child for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Our journey will be joy-filled as we help your child discover the real Presence of Jesus and the ways in which he/she will prepare his/her heart for this awesome gift!

This letter will outline all of the dates you will need that will be part of the preparation we will do together. As we work to make our sacramental program the most meaningful it can be this year for you and your children, it is important to remember the words found in the Diocesan Sacrament Preparation Guidelines: **“It is truly desirable that parents assume an active role in the preparation of their children. Parents are to be carefully instructed throughout the year on the meaning and theology of the Eucharist as well as their roles as primary catechists for the Sacrament.”** Stated just as powerfully from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: **“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.”**

It is our desire to involve you, as parents, in our preparation process and to provide a significant experience for you and your children. In short, you are the most important teacher, example, experience your child will have this year as he/she prepares to receive Jesus, thus our focus will be on both including you and preparing your child.

As this year of preparation begins, we are aware of the competing time demands of family life. We know that the stressors of work and home, multiple children and school commitments, and athletic commitments to name a few create an unwieldy and often difficult weekly juggle. However, we ask that you prioritize our time together as sacred and special during this year of preparing your child to receive Jesus. Join us in our excitement and anticipation of the greatest gift any of us could possibly receive. Throughout this year of preparation, we acknowledge and honor your role as the primary catechist of your child.

We look forward to working together in the year ahead!

In His Service,

Rev. Ronald J. Wearsch  
Pastor

Mrs. Rozann Swanson  
Director of Religious Education



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## **Reconciliation**

**Parent Sessions;** 9:30-10:40 am in the Practice Gym

- Sunday, October 6; Sacramental registration will take place online. Please have your child's Baptismal certificate if your child was not baptized at St. Joseph. Sacramental fee is \$40 and due with online registration.
- Sunday, November 3

**Reconciliation Retreat;** 10:00 am-12:00 noon in the Practice Gym

- Saturday, November 16

**First Reconciliation; Families will choose the date of their choice and be asked to complete a form indicating their choice**

- Saturday, December 7; 12:30-1:30 pm
- Saturday, December 21; 12:30-1:30 pm

## **First Communion**

**Parent Sessions;** 9:30-10:40 am

- Sunday, February 2 in the Practice Gym
- Sunday, March 1 in the Social Hall

**Monday Practices;** 4:00-5:00 pm in the Church

- Monday, March 23 - PSR students only
- Monday, March 30 - PSR students only
- Monday, April 6 - PSR students only

**Jesus Day;** Saturday, April 4 at 10 am–12 noon in the Social Hall

**Final Practices; Day School and PSR students**

- Monday, April 20; 4:00-5:00 pm in the Church
- Wednesday, April 22; 9:00–10:00 am in the Church
  - For the April 22 practice, the public schools of PSR students will be called and a request made for an excused absence. Transportation is provided by the parent that morning to Church and then back to school.

**First Communion;** Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 am in Church