

THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE IN RECONCILIATION

Preparing Your Child for Their First Experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Participation in the Sacraments -

- ✠ At a Child's Baptism, parents accept the responsibility of training their child in the practice of the faith. It is thereby the duty of the parents to bring the child up to keep God's commandments, as Christ taught us, by loving God, (participating in the Sacraments), and loving our neighbor as ourselves, (acts of charity, peace, and justice).
- ✠ Mass on the Lord's Day - Witnessing your regular Communion with Christ will help your children grow in faith; by the Grace of God, they will gradually come to recognize Him in Word, Sacrament and humanity. Additionally, parents that receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly and joyfully impress in the hearts and minds of their children the truth of grace received when we ourselves open our hearts and minds to the mystery of divine love.
- ✠ "Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by his death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity." *ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI, CARITAS IN VERITATE*
- ✠ In the administration of the Sacrament of Pardon and of Reconciliation, the priest - ...acts as "the sign and the instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner." What takes place in this Sacrament, therefore, is especially a mystery of love, a work of the merciful love of the Lord.
- ✠ "We all need to draw from the inexhaustible fountain of divine love, which is totally manifested to us in the mystery of the Cross, in order to find authentic peace with God, with ourselves and with our neighbour. Only from this spiritual source is it possible to draw the indispensable interior energy to overcome the evil and sin in the ceaseless battle that marks our earthly pilgrimage toward the heavenly homeland."

EXCERPTS; ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI, TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE COURSE ON THE INTERNAL FORUM

Family Time

- ✠ Next to the family's reception of the Sacraments, (especially receiving the Eucharist), prayer, & reflection at home are the second most important elements in a child's formation. To help prepare their children for First Reconciliation, families will receive a Family Guide at the parent meeting. At home catechesis is vital to your child's preparation for the sacrament.
- ✠ Children learn best what their families live out in their daily lives. In addition to praying as a family, and participating in the life of our parish, your child's regular attendance at either Faith Formation Sessions or a Catholic School is necessary. Please be sure to submit both the General Registration and the First Reconciliation Request/Registration Form.

Parent Meeting and Family Gathering

- ✠ First Reconciliation preparation begins with parents meeting with our pastor. Parents attend only one of two scheduled parent meetings, in the church, on **Wednesday, September 14**, 7:00-8:00pm or the following **Tuesday, September 20**, 7:00 - 8:00pm.
- ✠ In addition to the parent meeting, there will be a Family Gathering. The Family Gathering is offered on two different dates to accommodate various schedules. Families with the initials A-K, meet in the cafeteria on **Sunday, October 16** after the 9am Mass from 9:50 to 10:20. Families with the initials L-Z, likewise, will meet on **Sunday October 23**, after the 9am Mass. Sacramental preparation is a family endeavor; both parents, candidates and siblings should attend the First Reconciliation Family Gathering.
- ✠ First Reconciliation Services are on **November 8**, (A-K) and **November 22**, (L-Z), 7pm in the church.