

January 11, 2009

Dear Parents and Students Preparing for 1st Reconciliation,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and blessed Christmas and New Year break. Now it is back to the "Real World" of school and routines. As you know, we start up with CCE again, Sunday Jan. 11th and Wed. Jan. 14th. So, we look forward to seeing everyone there.

The 1st Reconciliation retreat is Sat. Jan. 17th beginning at 8:30 AM in the Religious Education Bldg.! NOT the Hall! Immediately after the completion of the retreat, approx. 11:30, we will go to the church for the celebration of 1st Reconciliation. The children and at least one parent have to attend both the retreat and the celebration of 1st Reconciliation. The children will receive Reconciliation first and then the parents and guests who want to receive may do so. We will have 3 or 4 priests hearing confessions, Fr. Don and three other priests from local churches. Fr. Brian will not be here that day since he will be on the trip to the Holy Land.

Between now and Saturday the 17th, please review with your child the steps in making a confession including: what is a sin by reviewing the 10 Commandments, what commandments do they think they have "broken" (examination of conscience), they need to admit these sins and then ask for forgiveness (confession). Then talk to your child about how they could have done things differently. Then, let them know that God, (through the priest) will forgive them (absolution). After that, they will be told to say some prayers or do something to make up for the sins they committed (penance) and they need to realize they need to try not to repeat the "bad behavior".

When you & your child are reviewing this information, they can write down what sins they have committed, but they don't have to. On Sat. the 17th, as a part of the retreat they will be doing this in preparation for receiving reconciliation with the priest. This way, your child will have everything written down and will not have to worry about remembering everything when they go in to see the priest.

The catechists and I want to thank you for allowing us to be involved in preparing your child for Reconciliation. We pray that this has been an enjoyable and spirit-filled experience for your child and your family. The catechists and I are here for you as a resource and hope you will come to us in the future with any questions or concerns.

After your child has received their 1st Reconciliation, please go to the hall where there will be cake and drinks in order to celebrate with your family your child's celebration of 1st Reconciliation. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns, 773-2330.
Have a great week.

God Bless,

Tricia St. Amour, CRE