

Dear Parents,

Pope Francis in his encyclical “The Joy of Love” writes, “Parents rely on schools to ensure the basic instruction of their children, but can never completely delegate the moral formation of their children to others.” He also writes that a parent cannot always control with whom their children choose to hang around but they should be concerned with “where their child is existentially, and where they stand in terms of their convictions, goals, desires and dreams.” You have chosen to take ownership of the call to shape the moral development of your child by ensuring they receive the grace of the sacraments offered by Christ through the Church. While you may not always know where your child is or with whom they associate you will know that you have prepared them as best you can by teaching them the commandments, the golden rule, compassion, forgiveness, and love.

During the second half of the school year we begin preparation for 1st Communion. The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of the Christian life. In this Sacrament we are offered a foretaste of heaven and unite with all members of the Church throughout the world, the faithful departed, the Saints, and the Angels in our praise of God and conviction to do His will.

During the next few months the teachers and I will introduce the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist to your children by utilizing chapters 11 and 18 respectively. The second grade year focuses on the Sacraments and Liturgy, but chapters 11 and 18 specifically discuss the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. To help you fulfill your mission three parent meetings have been planned. Parents of our non-Catholic students are invited but not required to attend. It is encouraged so that you might have a clear understanding of what it is your child is learning in the classroom.

The first parent meeting is **January 23rd at 7pm in meeting rm 2** and will include general information, sacramental paperwork, and a Q&A session. **February’s meeting is the 20th from 7:00-8:30pm in meeting room 2** and will be an in depth look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The **March meeting on the 20th from 7:00-8:30pm in meeting room 2** will focus on the Sacrament of the Eucharist. I am requesting that at least one parent attend the February and March meetings. Our **practice day is scheduled for April 22nd from 11:00am-1:00pm** with **1st Communion occurring during the 11am Mass on April 29th. The date for Reconciliation is March 4th at 3:00pm during the parish reconciliation service.** Reminders will be sent out as we get closer to the meeting dates via email.

If you have any questions please ask by emailing me at jmocek@olphtoledo.net, or by calling the Church Office at 419.382.5511.

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