July 23, 2020

Dear Parents:

If your child will be at least 7 years old in the fall, has completed one year of Religious Education/ was in a Catholic School this year, and is a registered parishioner at Church of the Resurrection, then your child is eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in the 2020-2021 year. The classes and two years of Religious Education are a requirement put in place by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and not unique to the Church of the Resurrection. This is a time of celebration and I am so happy to travel on this path of preparation with you and your child! **For anyone not comfortable meeting in person online content will be provided.**

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| **First Reconciliation** | | | |
|  | Parent Bootcamp Meeting | Tuesday, 10/6 | 6:30pm - 8pm |
| Pick 1 Option | Child and Parent Meeting Option 1 | Tuesdays  10/20 & 10/27 | 7:00pm - 8:15pm |
| Child and Parent Meeting Option 2 | Saturday, 10/24 | 9:30am - 12pm |
| Virtual Option | Work due 10/20, 10/27, 11/17 | N/A |
|  | Reconciliation Practice | Tuesday, 11/17 | 7:00pm - 8:15pm |
|  | First Reconciliation Service | Saturday, 11/21 | 10:00am - 12pm |

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| **First Eucharist** | | | |
|  | Parent Bootcamp Meeting | Tuesday, 2/23 | 6:30pm - 8pm |
| Pick 1 Option | Child and Parent Meeting Option 1 | Tuesdays  3/9 & 3/16 | 7:00pm - 8:15pm |
| Child and Parent Meeting Option 2 | Saturday, 3/20 | 9:30am - 12pm |
| Virtual Option | Work due 3/9, 3/16 | N/A |
|  | First Eucharist Practice | 4/26 (10am mass)  4/28 (1pm mass) | 6:30pm - 8pm |
|  | First Eucharist Mass | 5/1 | 10am or 1pm |

**Parent Meetings:** First Reconciliation Parent Bootcamp will take place in the church. The First Communion Parent Bootcamp will take place in the parish hall (if we are able). You will be able to bring your child(ren) to the parent meetings hopefully by the First Communion bootcamp we will be able to provide childcare once again you will be updated as the time approaches. At least one parent from every family must attend **both** of these meetings.

**Child and Parent Meetings:** There are 3 options for our meetings where you attend with your child. You must select your chosen option at the time of registration. To facilitate planning, you must attend your selection.

**Option 1: Two Consecutive Tuesday Night Meetings**

**Option 2: One Saturday Workshop**

**Option 3: Virtual Content**

The virtual content will be sent out and must be completed by the dates assigned. There will be no live meetings that you will need to attend besides the parent bootcamp.

In the Old Testament we see countless times that the Lord appears to His people and makes special oaths with them, a bond between God and man, a covenant. These covenants with God are carried out today by the Catholic Church as our 7 Sacraments. Like Abraham when the Lord appeared to him in Genesis 22:1 here is our chance to say “Here I am” to the Lord. You may not know everything, you may be confused as to how to teach your child about the Eucharist, or this might be your 4th child to go through sacramental prep. Whatever your background or experience we are here to help you grow as a family in the knowledge of and the ability to live out the faith and to have fun while doing it!

Our participation in the Sacraments is not just following a ritual or passing down something because our grandparents did it. It is a vividly and passionately lived out relationship with God who personally loves us and sent His Son to die for our sins.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Preparation classes have been restructured to meet children at their level and show them what their role is in the community of God’s people. This will be a time for you and your child to meet others in the parish, learn through songs and hands on activities, and grow in faith as a family. Sacramental Prep this year will be above all centered on the joy of the Sacraments.

The registration process must be completed online. Deadline for the online registration is **September 29th**. Please visit <https://www.resurrectionmd.org/eucharist> to register. Communication is primarily through email. Please use an email you check frequently.

Our children are the young Church. Jesus is risen and it is time to celebrate!

In Christ,

Savannah Ackerman

Director of Children and Family Ministries

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