

Preparation Process for the Sacraments

YOUR PARENTAL ROLE IN THE PREPARATION PROCESS

You are a vital part of your child's spiritual formation. We at St. Clement's are here to support you, but never replace you or exempt you from your responsibilities as a Catholic Christian parent/guardian. In addition to your regular spiritual duties and moral obligations as a Catholic Christian parent, we encourage you to make use of the various Faith Formation materials that will be provided to you for at-home use.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

*The journey to Reconciliation and Eucharist is spiritual and not merely social or academic, meaning learning lots of religious information. **Preparation is approached as helping your child to have a personal friendship with the risen Jesus and His church.** This relationship is offered to us in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. We cannot stress enough the teaching of the Church on the necessity of celebrating the Eucharist at least every Sunday. We, therefore, pass on to you as parents/guardians the official teaching of the Church on this subject that it may be a guiding light in your spiritual life and in your vocation as a Christian parent/guardian:*

"The faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation [Sundays and Holy Days] unless excused for a serious reason...Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2181).

For many younger adults and parents, this teaching may sound new and unfamiliar. It rests on our belief that God in Christ Jesus lavishes us with his grace in the sacramental life of the church. So, please, set a good spiritual example for your child by making Sunday Mass a priority. This life of grace is the good news we will teach and proclaim to your child.

A SPECIAL INVITATION

*Both you and your child are cordially invited to the **"Getting to Know You Party"** on **Friday, November 4, 2016 at 5:00 pm in St. Clement's School Gym.** Your invitation is included in this mailing. This gathering is an important first step for the children from public and private schools to get to know one another as they begin the journey of preparing and making First Reconciliation and First Eucharist together. It is part of our teaching on unity and community. Even though it is not a "classroom" session, it is a special session that we encourage every child in the preparation process to attend. **If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to make arrangements for your child to attend with another family or relative. Please remember to RSVP.** Salage.d@scpny.org*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

*Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 10, 2016.** This is the day your child will receive his/her First Reconciliation. At the **October 20 and 21 Parent/Guardian Preparation Sessions,** we will ask you to sign up for one of the three scheduled Reconciliation Services. **The services will be held at 9:30 am, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm.***

