



St. Paul's Faith Formation Office

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2016 – 2017 Sacrament Preparation For Children attending Catholic Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to this important year of **Sacrament Preparation** at St. Paul's! Children attending a Catholic School receive instruction about our Catholic Faith during the school year in religion class. Sacrament preparation is covered only in a general way. The home parish is where students prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments of our Catholic Faith. According to the Guidelines for the Diocese of Syracuse all children and youth who wish to celebrate the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation must be actively participating in a Parish Faith Formation Program or attending a Catholic School. A full-year of Catholic education is required before entering the Sacrament Preparation process at St. Paul's. Children must be in 2nd grade or above to begin First Reconciliation and First Eucharist and in ninth grade or above to begin the preparation process for Confirmation. A registration form and calendar are attached.

Sacrament preparation takes place in your home parish. If you belong to a parish other than St. Paul's and wish to prepare and celebrate a sacrament here, you must obtain permission from the pastor of your home parish. Parents are required to attend meetings, workshops and some rehearsals with their child. Regular attendance at Mass is also required, especially during the important years of preparation.

The **Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, September 25** at 6:30 p.m. - all students in 9th and 10th grade accompanied by a parent must be present.

The **First Reconciliation/Eucharist Parent Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, October 2** at 6:30 p.m. - at least one parent (or other designated adult) must be present.

If you have a conflict or concern regarding Sacramental preparation, please call and I will try to help you find a way for your son or daughter to continue to learn and grow in our Catholic Faith. Giving a high priority to weekly attendance at Mass and fitting Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation classes into busy family schedules teaches our children that our Catholic Faith has meaning and value. May God bless you and give you...

Peace,