



St. John the Evangelist Parish

711 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Jackson, MI 49201
517-784-0553



Dear 2nd Grade Parents,

August 2019

You are beginning an amazing and busy year with your child and we, the Faith Formation Team at St. John, could not be more excited for you and them! This year you will be invited to enter more deeply into your own relationship with Christ and to share your faith more fully with your child as they prepare for and celebrate their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Our team is here to assist you in that. We will begin the year with a “parents only” meeting on Sunday, **September 29, from 2-4pm** in the parish community center. This will be a combined meeting for the parents of students preparing for both First Communion and for Confirmation and is for all parents, regardless of where your child attends school. We hope to see you there!

Prior to that meeting, please go to our website at: saintjohnjackson.org, under the “Sacraments” tab select the “Holy Eucharist” page and **complete the online form** to be registered to prepare for this year’s sacraments with us.

Before we get to September, though, let’s take a moment to reflect on Reconciliation and Eucharist, both for yourself and to help you prepare to discuss these sacraments with your child.

How do we experience the Holy Spirit in Reconciliation? When we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution, **we hear Christ speaking His mercy directly to us**. He restores our white garment of Baptism. The word “reconciliation” comes from Latin and literally means to meet again at the eye. In this sacrament we can, once again, be assured of meeting God eye-to-eye. Reconciliation is offered at St. John on Saturdays, 3-4pm, no appointment needed.

One bite by Eve condemned the world, but one crumb of the Eucharist saves it! In the Eucharist we receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. As Catholics, this is what we believe—**the Eucharist really, truly is Jesus Himself**. It is Him saying, “I love you” to us, and who doesn’t need to hear that they are loved a little more? The Church calls it, “the source and summit of the Christian life” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1324). We are called to attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days to receive God’s grace in this amazing gift of the Eucharist.

We expect that you are attending Sunday Mass weekly and celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, being filled with that grace of God yourself, otherwise why would your child’s celebration of these sacraments be so important to you? If you have any questions about Reconciliation or Eucharist and would like to discuss them, please know that we are always happy to chat! It is such a joy for us to walk with families at this time and we are looking forward to spending this year getting to know yours better. We’ll see you soon!

Todd D. Gale
Director of Faith Formation
todd@saintjohnjackson.org

Angel Koerkel
Coordinator of Sacramental Prep
angel@saintjohnjackson.org

Clare DeWitt
Coordinator of Youth Formation
clare@saintjohnjackson.org

IMPORTANT INFO

PREP REGISTRATION

Before September 29, 2019

Find form at:
saintjohnjackson.org
“Holy Eucharist” under
“Sacraments” tab

PARENT MEETING

September 29, 2019

2-4pm
Parish Center

FIRST RECONCILIATION

October 27, 2019

First Reconciliation Retreat
2-4pm
Parish Center

November 16, 2019

First Reconciliation Celebration
10am-Noon
St. John Church

FIRST EUCHARIST

April 26, 2020

First Eucharist Retreat & Practice
2-4:30pm
Parish Center

May 3, 2020

First Eucharist Celebration
Time to be determined
St. John Church