

Dear Parents:

RE: RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

I am writing to you as Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains Parish to share good news for your child and family. With the support and engagement of you as parents, the parish and Catholic school community, I look forward to assisting your child to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Your child in Grade 2 at St. Teresa Catholic Elementary School is a potential candidate for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion next year.

His Excellency, Bishop Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough has brought the parishes of the Diocese together to offer a Sacramental Preparation Program that is consistent in form and content. This initiative is designed to assist the home, school and parish in nurturing the faith of your child as you prepare them for receiving the sacraments.

All the Catholic parishes in the Diocese work closely with the school communities. The Catholic schools provide Religious and Family Life Education for your child and the parishes provide the Sacramental Preparation Program for your child. The Sacramental Preparation Program will be offered at the parishes.

There will be a Parent Information Night to further explain the Sacramental Preparation Program, session dates and locations, as well as, how you can continue to support your child's faith development. The Parent Information Night will be held in September in the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains Church.

Additionally, there are four (4) sessions for to prepare for First Reconciliation with a retreat and there are three (3) sessions and a retreat to prepare for First Eucharist. Dates for these sessions can be found in the chart below to support your family's schedule planning.

There is a fee of \$25 for each Sacramental Preparation Program totaling \$50, over the year to help offset the cost of the materials. Your child will receive two books, *Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation* and *Celebrate and Remember Eucharist*. If this expense poses a concern, I strongly encourage you to speak with me so that our assistance can be offered to you.

As Rector, I am responsible in collaborating with the Bishop in following Canon Law and Diocesan Policies to ensure that all the requirements are completed in preparation for the celebration of these sacraments for your child. If your child has not been baptized yet, please feel welcome to contact me at your earliest convenience. The parish offices are open during the summer months and I look forward to meeting you.

The parish community is looking forward to supporting your child in prayer as they prepare to receive the sacraments and celebrating this time of God's grace with your child and your family.

I take this opportunity to assure you of my prayers and a very warm welcome to the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains Parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas A. Lynch
Rector