

1 October 2009, Feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Dear Parents of 2010 First Communion Students,

As you know, the 2009-2010 Faith Formation year will be a very special time of preparation for your child. We are humbled and excited to journey with your family this year as your child enters even more fully into communion with the Church.

Our parent meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 2nd, at 7pm**. During this meeting we will introduce you to the preparation process that will begin in earnest for your child during Lent of 2010. In the meantime, you are encouraged to have conversations with your child about the special time that is coming and the special gift that Jesus will give him/her next May.

The most important aspect of a child's preparation for reception of First Holy Communion is the development of a daily habit of prayer, and in this you are the most important influence on your child. Use this time to take another look at the common formal prayers of the church, to enrich your mealtime prayer with petitions, prayers of thanksgiving, and Scripture reading, and/or to begin or continue a special nightly prayer time with your child while encouraging your child to speak to God with his or her own words.

Enclosed you will find information about special bible study nights as well as dates for First Reconciliation, the First Communion retreat, and First Communion Mass. As we have 4 different 2nd grade sections this year, these meetings will be a special time for the children and parents to connect with each other as they share this experience. As always, please feel free to call or email me with any questions you may have over the course of the year, and on behalf of the 9 catechists and assistants who are working with the 2nd graders this year, I pray that this year of Sacramental Preparation may be filled with many special blessings for you and your families.

God be with you,

Mandie DeVries
Director of Faith Formation
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Enclosure

p.s. Please Note: We will have an optional pilgrimage to the Grotto in West Bend, IA on April 17th. More info to come on that!