

ST. PATRICK PARISH / ST. MARY MISSION

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2023 09 30

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist continue the process of initiation as children mature by growing in their faith following Baptism and culminating with Confirmation. The candidates who will be participating in First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are typically in grade two since theoretically by then they should have some understanding of the Catholic faith. If you have a child who is older and has not received their First Communion or First Reconciliation they may also be enrolled at this time.

Sacramental preparation is the parent's responsibility with the help of the parish. Considering this, the parents' role on passing on the faith is paramount more than ever.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist at St. Patrick Parish, Railton, involves the children's participation in lessons that will take place in the Parish Hall and by extension at home. This way parents are directly involved.

There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Tuesday, 15 October 2024 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. If you are not able to be there on that day the same meeting content will take place Sunday, 20 October at 12:30pm (following the 11am Mass) in the church.

The meeting will consist of an outline of the program as well as encouraging you to be supportive of your child and to try your best to be interested in what your child is doing.

Parents who want to register their child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist can go to the parish website (see above) and download the Registration Form. ***You are asked to fill out the required information and include a copy your child's Catholic Baptismal Certificate. Please bring them to the Parent meeting. Do not return them to school.***

Please take time to help your children to form a deeper relationship with Jesus perhaps utilizing the following: *reading them short Bible stories (at their level of understanding), teaching them prayers, praying with them such as grace before meals and so on. I invite you and your family to participate at Sunday Mass at 11:00am in Railton or on Saturday at 4:30pm in Odessa on a regular basis.*

Gathered to worship God as a parish community is the strongest connection to Jesus since this is where our calling as the Body of Christ unites us.

I hope that this process will be a benefit for you as a parent by actively building a spiritually strong bond with your child. It may also be a good opportunity for you reignite your faith as well.

Hope to you see at our meeting.

Sincerely in the Lord,



(Fr.) Sebastian Amato,
St. Patrick Parish