

# SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO/SAINT PETER PARISHES

810 Pearl Street, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

Telephone (715) 723-4088

October 7, 2017

Dear Parents of First Communicants,

You are the principal teachers and models of faith for your children. When you presented them for baptism, you promised to train them in the practice of the faith. Therefore, I want to enlist your cooperation in preparing your children for their first sacramental encounter with our Lord since their baptism: their first confession. You should review with your children their understanding of the Sacrament of Penance. Help them learn how to examine their consciences. All those preparing for this sacrament should know the Ten Commandments, and you should review these with them. All the children should also have memorized and Act of Contrition. The one most of them are learning is:

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, who art all good and deserving of all my love. With Thy help I will sin no more. Amen.

Please work on this with your children and be sure they know this, or another version, by heart.

To show that this sacrament is part of your life as a Catholic, you are urged to accompany your children on the day of their first confession, and you are welcome to go to confession at that time yourselves. The time for first confession will be 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 9, in St. Charles Church.

Soon after this your children will take another major step in their initiation into the Church—a process begun at baptism and completed by confirmation: their First Communion. This will be a time for rejoicing for your families and for the whole parish, as these young members join us at the table of the Lord to share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice. This is indeed a privilege for them, but also a time of commitment to continue their study and practice of the Catholic faith. This is an area where you are indispensable. Your children learn how to be Catholics by following your example. For their First Communion to be more than a time for your children to be the center of attention, weekly attendance at Sunday Mass is essential, since it is the primary expression of the Catholic faith by all who profess it. An atmosphere of reverence and prayer at home is also necessary to show that religion is a way of life, and not something limited to Sundays. Only you can provide the necessary example and environment for your children to grow in their faith.

First Communion is scheduled to be celebrated during the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at St. Charles; and Sunday, May 13, 2018, at St. Peter.

We all look forward to these joyous occasions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Gorman  
Pastor