

# ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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May 31, 2022

Dear Families,

I hope you are all enjoying spring and the warmer weather. As summer approaches, I wanted to contact you and ask you to prayerfully consider the news that I am about to share with you.

I have been so blessed to work with the children at St. Robert in The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. I want to be able to honor your child's spiritual life and dignity the very best that I can. I also want to honor your role as the primary catechists of your children's faith. With this in mind and through observation over the last ten years, I have come to see that many children are ready to receive their sacraments of confession and Eucharist earlier than the formal second grade mark that we have previously set.

With the approval of the Diocese of Lansing and our pastor, Fr. Jonathan Perrotta, we will be moving forward with offering preparation for confession and Eucharist for those in kindergarten through second grade. The sacraments are great gifts to us from God. Some children are able to recognize this very early and are able to receive these gifts with great joy and anticipation! If they are ready, we do not want to squash this joy but rather help the child and the family to enter into the gifts of confession and Eucharist and help them to foster a right response to these gifts that God has given to us to help us draw closer to Himself. Some children need more time to ponder the mysteries of these sacraments and prefer to wait and that is okay! I want to best honor where they are in their spiritual life.

I also want to honor where you are as a whole family as well. Preparing for the sacraments means a big commitment from you as parents – the commitment to be at the Mass of Enrollment in the fall, to be present at each of the four meetings/mini-retreats for preparation (both children and parents attend), and to bring the children to the retreat day. In addition, it also requires an ongoing commitment from you to continue to faithfully bring your children weekly to Mass on Sundays and to regularly participate in the sacrament of confession as a family. Some families are fully prepared to make this commitment and others need time to prepare themselves so that they can fully make this commitment. As previously mentioned, I want to best honor where the child is and where you are as a family.

With all this in mind, please take the summer to think and pray about this. Please talk with your child and see if they know who the holy bread and the wine are at Mass. See if they want to receive Jesus in Eucharist and in confession. Please discern if God is calling you to enter into this or if you are being called to wait. On *October 10 at 6:45 pm* in the Media Center, we will have the parent meeting to discuss the specifics of preparation and reception of the sacraments. If you are not present at the parent meeting, I will assume that you and your child have discerned that this is not the year that you would like to participate in preparing for and receiving sacraments and you would prefer to wait.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

May God bless you!



Hannah Turchi  
Director of Religious Education

Rev. Jonathan Perrotta  
Pastor