

 September 11th, 2020

Dear First Penance & Eucharist families,

Welcome to your special year of sacramental prep at St Mary’s! We are so excited to guide you into a closer encounter with Christ in all of His beauty this year—even though we won’t be able to connect in person much.

Once you register, you will receive…

* **Signs of Grace textbook & workbook**-  Hardcopy books published by the Augustine Institute
* **Signs of Grace online access-** A link to signup for an online version of the program (optional, but very well-done and engaging, so we hope you check it out!)
* **Parents Journal**- Prior to your child working on the session, you would view the parent session (5 in total) and work through this accompanying journal as desired.

We strongly recommended that you utilize the online portal.  It includes great videos, activities, and the textbook content in one streamlined and easy to use platform.  We know finding the time, may be challenging, but we believe it will be worth your effort.

In mid-October, you will also be introduced via email or phone to a **Family Mentor**, a parishoner who has committed to coach you through this year.  He or she is there to…

* answer your questions
* provide suggestions and ideas
* pray for you and your children
* and to keep you on track with reminders about where everyone should be in their course of study—and who couldn’t use that?

This will be a new role for everyone but we are excited about the blessings it could bring, and hope you will meet it with a spirit of openness!

If you are one who needs a scheduled time to make sure this happens in your family, note the option on the registration form to sign up for a group that *meets weekly on zoom* for a **Lesson Launch** to get you started. While we are not able to host consistent gatherings this year, we are hoping to hold a few special in-person events, the details of which will be forthcoming. If there are other needs that you think we’ve overlooked, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate.  We are very excited for this program and look forward to a beautiful year together!

Sincerely in Christ,

Laura Danner

**“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”   -John 1:5**

2nd grade- FIRST PENANCE

The Augustine Institute’s **Signs of Grace: *You are Forgiven***

This is a suggested schedule to follow through the year—it will keep you on track for covering all of the recommended material in a timely manner. Should you find you would benefit from a specific meeting time with a group of people (virtually or in person), please let your Mentor, Laura, or Josephine know and we will find a way to make it work.

***Week of…***

Oct 18th- watch Intro video from Monsignor Royal

 -receive your materials and get to know your mentor!

Oct 25th- Parent Session 1

Nov 1- Child Session 1

Nov 8th- Parent Session 2

Nov 15th- Child Session 2

Nov 22nd- *Thanksgiving Break* Saturday, Nov 28th @ 5:30pm- Advent Wreath Making (1st-5th)

Nov 29th- Parent Session 3

Dec 6th- Child session 3

Dec 13th-

Dec 20th- *Christmas Break*

Dec 27th- *Christmas Break*

Jan 3rd-

Jan 10th- Parent Session 4

Jan 17th- Child Session 4

Jan 24th- Parent Session 5

Jan 31st- Child Session 5

Feb 7th- Child Session 6

Feb 14th- *Feb Break*

Feb 21st- Child Session 7

Feb 28th- Child Session 8

Mar 7th- First Penance (tentative—Th @ 7pm, Fri @ 7pm, Sat @ 10:30am)\*

Mar 14th- First Penance (tentative—Th @ 7pm, Fri @ 7pm, Sat @ 10:30am)\*

Mar 21st- First Penance (tentative—Th @ 7pm, Fri @ 7pm, Sat @ 10:30am)\*

May 2nd- Sunday, May 2nd @ 11:30am- May Crowning (2nd grade only)

\*While we are hoping for traditional April/May ceremonies, state and diocesan restrictions at this time do not allow us to set firm dates. We will keep you informed of changes and certainly, as soon as possible, let you know when ceremonies are set.

3rd Grade- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Augustine Institute’s **Signs of Grace: *You are Loved***

This is a suggested schedule to follow through the year—it will keep you on track for covering all of the recommended material in a timely manner. Should you find you would benefit from a specific meeting time with a group of people (virtually or in person) as you get rolling, please let your Mentor or Laura or Josephine know and we will find a way to support you in this!

Oct 18th- watch Intro video with Monsignor Royal

 -receive your materials and get to know your mentor!

Oct 25th- Parent Session 1

Nov 1- Child Session 1

Nov 8th- Parent Session 2

Nov 15th- Child Session 2

Nov 22nd- *Thanksgiving Break* Saturday, Nov 28th- Advent Wreath Making (1st-5th grades)

Nov 29th- Parent Session 3

Dec 6th- Child Session 3

Dec 13th-

Dec 20th- *Christmas Break* Sunday, Dec 20th @ 6:30pm- Advent Spiral (3rd grade only)

Dec 27th- *Christmas Break*

Jan 3rd-

Jan 10th- Parent Session 4

Jan 17th- Child Session 4

Jan 24th- Parent Session 5

Jan 31st- Child Session 5

Feb 7th- Child Session 6

Feb 14th- *Feb Break*

Feb 21st- Child Session 7

Feb 28th- Child Session 8

Mar 7th- participate in Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mar 14th- participate in Sacrament of Reconciliation

Mar 21st- watch video (or live, can we pray?) Retreat with parish leaders

Mar 28th- *Holy Week*

April 4th- *(Easter)*

April 11th- *Spring Break*

April 18th- \*First Holy Communion (tentative—Sat @ 10:30am, 1:30pm)

April 25th- \*First Holy Communion (tentative—Sat @ 10:30am, 1:30pm)

May 2nd- \*First Holy Communion (tentative—Sat @ 10:30am, 1:30pm)

May 9th- \*First Holy Communion (tentative—Sat @ 10:30am, 1:30pm)

\*While we are hoping for traditional April/May ceremonies, state and diocesan restrictions at this time do not allow us to set firm dates. We will keep you informed of changes and certainly, as soon as possible, let you know when ceremonies are set.