



5960 West Loomis Road • Greendale, WI 53129-1824

Dear 5K & First Grade Parents,

We hope all you have had a wonderful summer and are ready for the kids to go back to school! We are ready for them to return!

We are writing to you today because you have a child in either 5K or the 1st grade. This means that 2nd grade is right around the corner...really it is...the time will go so fast, trust me. The highlight for a 2nd grade Catholic is the first reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist at the end of that year. For me, these are always one of the highlights of the year as a priest and pastor. It is joy to watch the children receive these sacraments after the months of preparation!

We wanted to reach out to you well before the start of 2nd grade to alert you about an adjustment that Archbishop Grob has made regarding the reception of the Sacrament of Baptism and of First Eucharist/Reconciliation. Let me lay a bit of foundation first. There are two pathways of becoming a Catholic. The first is the one most Catholics are familiar with, Infant Baptism. This means we baptize an infant (or child up to the age of reason, 7 years old) and then they prepare for 1st Communion in 2nd grade and Confirmation in 11th Grade. The other pathway is the Order of Christian Initiation of Adult OCIA and the Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC, really an adaptation of OCIA). In this pathway an individual receives all of Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. Those who would follow this pathway are any person 7 years or older. Previously, there was some wiggle room in the 2nd grade as children are 7 years old at the beginning of the school year, so I have often baptized 2nd graders at the start of the school year.

The Archbishop has recently clarified the Archdiocesan Sacramental guidelines in this regard by setting an archdiocesan wide deadline for a child to be baptized as an infant (and then receive the usual 2nd grade Sacraments) as the first day of 2nd grade or September 1st, whichever is earlier. After this deadline passes, children who approach for Baptism must be baptized following OCIC and after two years of sacramental preparation.

So, we are writing today to make you aware of this adjustment and to encourage any parents who intend to raise your child in the Catholic faith but have not had your child Baptized to do so soon. In order to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time in 2nd grade your child must be baptized before their 1st day of 2nd Grade. Likewise, if your child was baptized in another Christian tradition but you wish to raise them as Catholics please reach out to us before the start of 2nd grade. If your child is already baptized in the Catholic faith you do not need to do anything.

To begin the process for baptism for you child you can contact the parish office at the number or email below. If your family is not Catholic and do not intend to become so please, know that in our parish school, our loving and supportive teachers who carry out the sacramental preparation teach in such a way that no child feels excluded, but respected, during the classroom preparation time

God Bless You!

Fr. Kevin McManaman