



April 6, 2026

Dear Parents,

The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are important parts of our lives as Catholics living together as community. Reconciliation is the sacrament of forgiveness and peace. Eucharist brings us together, unites us, and gives us the strength to live as the People of God.

We are happy to assist you in preparing your child for Reconciliation and Eucharist; however, your child's appreciation for these sacraments is mainly in your hands. You, as parents, are the ones from whom your child first learns and continues to form most of his/her religious attitudes.

To help you and your child prepare for and celebrate these sacraments, we have an exciting retreat scheduled for September 13, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. beginning in the auditorium. The retreat will be led by author/speaker John Wood and his wife Kristin. Please note: This retreat is for PARENTS AND CHILDREN and is part of the final preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Our hope is that both parents will be able to attend.

The first part of the retreat will be the Dragon Slayer Presentation. John and Kristin present this fun presentation all over the country, and we are confident you and your child will love this experience! In the second part of the retreat, while the kids are having their own session, John Wood will be offering a **presentation specifically for the parents**. John has spoken at hundreds of parishes and schools across the country, and his book, "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission," has sold over 240,000 copies. New York Times Bestselling author Matthew Kelly has said, "I believe John is one of the great emerging Catholic voices of our time. John Wood has a passion that is contagious...read this book and make an effort to hear him speak!" This inspirational talk speaks to the heart of the parent. I promise it will be worth your time and help you prepare with your son or daughter for these important sacraments.

Another part of the final preparation for these sacraments is the required parent meeting. The parent meeting will be held on September 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Joseph Room. Parents who have attended my sacramental preparation meeting in the past do not have to attend this meeting.

The registration form for the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Eucharist has been included with this letter. Please fill out completely and return to the parish office by May 18. This will allow time to coordinate with Extraordinary Mission Ministry for the retreat. **Make sure you have the mother's full maiden name. I also need the full date of Baptism: month, day and year.** If your child was not baptized at St. Michael Parish, please attach a copy of the baptismal certificate to the form.

There is a \$60.00 sacramental fee. This covers the cost of the books that you as parents will be using with your child and the retreat. Please include the fee with the registration form.

What a joyous year this will be! Know that your child is in my prayers as he/she begins this preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Yours in Christ,

Geri Leibfarth, Director of Religious Education