



ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

808 S. East Avenue Oak Park, IL 60304 PH 708-848-3099 FAX 708-848-2773 www.ascensionchurch.com/re

November, 2016

Dear Reconciliation Preparation Families,

Ascension welcomes you and your child as you prepare for the celebration of Reconciliation. Reconciliation is one of the sacraments of healing offered to baptized Catholics. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with your family during this time of preparation and we pledge our support.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is ongoing and occurs at various age appropriate stages in the life of the child and adults in the community. The ten year olds' growing sense of justice and fair play provides the basis for the exploration of Christian morality as a way of life. The children in class preparation will cover the following topics: Loving actions matter, the Ten Commandments, Love as God Loves, the Prodigal Son, the Sacrament and the rite of Reconciliation. Materials will be sent home for parents to support and expand upon these topics.

Three out-of-classroom sessions are also part of the preparation for Reconciliation. Two of these sessions are for parent-child together, and one is parent only. The parent only meeting is offered so you can renew your understanding and application of our Catholic traditions, giving you the confidence to assist your child in his or her preparation. A Reconciliation Service is celebrated on two weekends of March. Families may choose to attend either service. **Parents are encouraged to receive the sacrament with their children.**

God bless your family as you begin this time of preparation. May you treat one another with kindness and respect, being willing to ask for and extend forgiveness when it is needed. May each of these experiences bring you closer to our loving God who goes out to meet us as the Father met the Prodigal Son, who searches for us as the Shepherd does for the one lost sheep.

Sincerely yours,

Diane Moriarty, DRE

Reconciliation Preparation Sessions

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| January 12, 2016 | Inscription Ceremony
(Parents and children)
At this prayer service the children are formally invited to begin preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. | Church
7:00 to 8:00 pm |
| February 2, 2016 | Reconciliation a Fresh Look
(Parents Only)
The sacrament of Reconciliation is an encounter with God's unwavering love for us. Pope Francis said, "The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness." As adults we have a hard time grasping God's mercy, so how do we share with our child what we have a hard time believing ourselves? This is a night to delve into a deeper understanding of God's forgiveness and our need for reconciliation. | Pine Room
7:00-8:30 pm |
| February 23, 2016 | The Rite of Reconciliation
(Parents and children)
This session will involve the children in a discussion and reflection on the meaning of Reconciliation in their lives. The children will participate in a "run through" of the Rite of Reconciliation so they know what to expect and have their questions answered. Families will sign-up for the Reconciliation Service they wish to attend. | Pine Room
6:45-8:00 pm |
| March 5, 2016 or
March 12, 2016 | Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Families of the Reconciliation candidate)
Families choose the date on which they will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Children and their families attend the ceremony. The service consists of song, prayer, scripture reading, reflection, examination of conscience, act of contrition, individual reconciliation, and communal prayer of thanksgiving. The service is followed by hospitality. The entire experience takes about one and one-half hours. Children are invited to come dressed for church. Parents are encouraged to receive the sacrament during the service along with their children. | Church
10:00 am |