



# HOLY FAMILY

7321 BURKITTSVILLE ROAD † MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND 21769

August 14, 2017

Dear Parents of Those Preparing for First Reconciliation,

Congratulations on your child's upcoming First Reconciliation! This year is a golden time in your children's lives, when they explore God's merciful love in a deeper way.

Your privilege as Christian parents is to be your children's primary teachers in the faith, helping them grow as disciples of Jesus. You continue to be their most influential example of how to live out our faith and by watching you turn to the same sacraments in your faith life, they will learn to do the same. Our efforts in Sacramental Prep are focused on two things: helping you live out your own sacramental life and preparing your children for these beautiful sacraments.

Our program offers a couple steps in helping you prepare your children for Reconciliation. We begin with a ***Parent-Child Workshop*** at which we will review the sacrament and give you workbooks and other helpful materials as well as offer a better understanding about the sacrament. We have **new books** this year called *Encounter with Christ* by Our Sunday Visitor. While you prepare your child using this workbook and the recommended chapter schedule, we are available to answer any of your questions that may arise.

The ***Final Parent-Child Workshop*** is the last step, at which we offer some final assistance in the Examination of Conscience, answer questions, collect the workbooks, and host practice Confessions for the children. Your presence at each workshop and session is essential to your child's sacramental preparation. Please let me know if you will not be able to attend one of these workshops. Since we do have new books, attending these meetings is of the utmost importance. Missing these few events, especially without communication, may delay your child's preparation process. Please see the back of this letter for important dates.

**We need a copy of your child's Baptism certificate before they can receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** If your child was not baptized here at Holy Family or at St. Francis – St. Mary Parish, please provide a copy as soon as possible. Note that most parishes require one to two weeks' notice before sending certificates.

Christian parenting is a holy vocation, a sacred responsibility of bringing your family to know and live in union with Jesus Christ. I invite you each day to pray together and ask God's grace to shine upon you and your family. We are excited to work with you in helping your children prepare to experience God's love and mercy more fully.

In Christ,

Edgar Haynes

Director of Youth Catechesis

Dates:

First Parent-Child Workshop- Wednesday, September 13, 6:30-8:00pm

Final Parent-Child Workshop- Wednesday, November 8, 6:30-8:00pm

First Reconciliation- Saturday, November 11, 10:30am-Noon