



July 14, 2020

Dear parents of the First Communion Class:

I hope this letter finds your family safe and well during this time. I can't believe that it has been over three months now since the cancellation of our faith formation classes for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. All the children enrolled in our program have no doubt been personally affected by this. We know that this especially applies to your child, who spent many hours in the classroom and at home preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time this past spring. Please know that our prayers have been with you. I can only imagine how challenging it has been for you and your family over these last few months. A special word of gratitude to Kathleen Romeo, Anna Chick, Neyda Araoz, and Susan Bessette for their time and commitment to teaching your child this year.

As we move forward now through the summer months and our churches reopen for the public celebration of Masses, we have begun thinking about our faith formation program and what the classroom experience will be like for our children in the Fall. Some of the questions that we have been asking ourselves include: Will in-person classes be offered to our students? Will there be a virtual component or online alternative offered as well? At this time, many ideas have been circulating and discussed by the pastoral team, but nothing definitive has been determined. Our main focus is connecting with you and your child about a plan for them to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist later this summer, in August or September, or in the Spring of 2021. To that end, I ask that you read what follows carefully as it contains very important information. In addition, if your child still has yet to receive the sacrament of Baptism, please contact the rectory as soon as possible at (860) 423-8439 to set up a meeting with one of the priests.

First, let me say that your child will not be expected to repeat last year's classes this upcoming school year. Every child who prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this past year will move forward into the next grade level, as expected, while automatically being added to the list of students preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the Spring of 2021.

To ensure that your child is adequately prepared to receive these sacraments, we ask that you do the following with them at home: (1) Review the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and the Act of Contrition prayers with them (copies of these prayers are enclosed with this letter), and (2) work through Dynamic Catholic's First Communion program: *Blessed* with them. The program is available completely online and free of charge. The link to the first session of the program can be found here: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/blessed/first-communion/program-view/session-1>. The program consists of six online sessions that contain approximately seven videos for each session. Each video is approximately 5-10 minutes in length. The videos are shown in English (with Spanish subtitles available). About 5-6 total hours should be allotted to viewing this program with your child. It will serve as a nice review of what they learned in the classroom this year. If, for whatever reason, you and your child don't have access to the internet or a computer, please review the material related to First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in your child's faith formation book that they received last Fall.

Now, if you would like your child to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist later this summer, in August or September, prior to the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, this is a possibility as well. In order to do this, we will need your cooperation and support.

First, we ask that you plan to review your child's prayers and work through the online first communion program with them in the next few weeks. The sooner the better.

Next, please go onto our parish website (www.catholicwindham.org) and sign up for a 30 minute meeting with one of our three priests. Each priest will be making himself available to you and your child at certain times and days from July 27 - August 27. Please note that only Fr. Michael is proficient in conversing in Spanish. If you and/or your child are not comfortable with speaking in English, please schedule your meeting with Fr. Michael. All meetings will be scheduled online through the app on our website on a first-come, first-served basis. If you don't have access to the internet or a computer, please call the rectory at (860) 423-8439 and ask for one of the secretaries, who will schedule your meeting for you. All meetings will take place in St. Joseph's Church Hall, 99 Jackson St., Willimantic, CT 06226 in order to observe social distancing.

The purpose of the meeting between you, your child and one of our three priests will be threefold: (1) to determine your child's preparedness for receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist; (2) to hear your child's first confession; (3) to schedule the weekday or weekend Mass in August or September at which you would like your child to receive their first Eucharist.

The weekday and weekend Mass schedule is as follows:

Monday:	12:10pm 6:00pm	St. Mary's Church (Novena Mass) Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Church (Spanish)
Tuesday:	9:00am	St. Joseph's Church
Wednesday:	12:10pm	St. Mary's Church
Thursday:	9:00am 6:00pm	St. Joseph's Church Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Church (Spanish)
Friday:	12:10pm	St. Mary's Church
Saturday:	9:00am 4:00pm 5:30pm	St. Joseph Church St. Joseph's Church Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Church (Spanish)
Sunday:	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 5:00pm	St. Joseph's Church Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Church (Spanish) St. Mary's Church Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Church (Spanish) St. Joseph's Church

Please come to this meeting with three preferred dates. Questions related to the Mass itself can be discussed with the priest at the meeting.

I think that covers it. If you have any questions or concerns related to this above-mentioned plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 423-8439 ext. 17. Again, on behalf of Fr. Larry and the entire pastoral team, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding during this time and assure you of our prayers. We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jonathan

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come; thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from
evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord
is with you!
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your
womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother
of God, pray for us sinners, now
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for
having offended you, and I detest
all my sins because of your just
punishments, but most of all
because they offend you, my God,
who are all good and deserving
of all my love. I firmly resolve
with the help of your grace to sin
no more and to avoid the near
occasion of sin. Amen.