

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

for Preschool (K4)—Grade 6

2017-2018

Dear Parents:

You are the first and best teachers of the ways of faith as you guide your children in their formation as Catholic Christians in today's world.

We at St. Charles Parish have the privilege of encouraging, supporting, and affirming you in this challenging role as we provide the experience of interacting with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We do our best to provide enriching programs that are based on Scripture and the Tradition of our Church and to present these programs in a spirit of caring for and serving others.

We welcome you to our programs for 2017-2018 as together we learn and live the treasure of our faith with our children on the life-long journey of becoming disciples of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Jan Murphy
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Religious Education Office
262-367-3277, Ext. 205



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WHAT DO THOSE INITIALS MEAN?

Many families say they are sending their children to "CCD". What does that mean?

The initials "CCD" stand for "Confraternity of Christian Doctrine". It was originally a religious education program for adults studying to convert to the Catholic faith. In 1905, Pope Pius X recommended that it be established in every Catholic parish. A Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is now a shared effort to hand on the faith to adults as well as to students who attend public schools and therefore do not have a class in religious formation as part of their daily class schedule.

At St. Charles, we prefer not to use the term "CCD". For our K4-Grade 6 programs we typically say "Religious Education" or "Catholic Faith Formation". Our faith does include belief in Catholic teaching, but we also incorporate faith into our daily life experiences as part of an ongoing process rooted in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

P O L I C Y I N F O R M A T I O N

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR PRE-SCHOOL—GRADE 6

If students cannot attend a class, please call the Catholic Faith Formation Office at 262-367-3277 (Ext. 205). Please leave a message if no one personally answers the phone.

If students need to be excused from class before the regular dismissal time, please notify the teachers and the office. Please come into the building to meet your child. This procedure is to help ensure the safety of your children.

CLASS CANCELLATION

Whenever St. Charles School closes all day for inclement weather or other emergency situations, after-school and evening activities for the entire parish will also be cancelled (with the possible exception of religious services).

The above policy primarily affects the Wednesday evening Religious Education classes/activities.

COMMUNICATIONS

If you have questions or concerns about specific classroom activities or policies, or if you have questions or concerns about our programs in general, please phone or email us.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and are precious in the eyes of God; therefore we would expect your children to respect their teachers, classmates, and themselves at all times. Respectful behavior will affirm the dignity of each person, will enable maximum learning to take place and will present to our parish community a favorable perception of how our students behave.

We ask that parents encourage a positive and purposeful attitude toward Faith Formation sessions and extra activities. Let your children know that respectful behavior and active participation is expected of them by you and by us.

We will give your children every opportunity to practice Christian behavior here at St. Charles; however, we will notify you if they show continuing patterns of disruptive or disrespectful behavior so we can work with you to solve any problems and encourage positive behavior.

GUIDELINES FOR CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR FOR PRE-SCHOOL-GRADE 6



Students in each classroom will follow specific policies agreed on by the teacher and the class as a whole.

Students are also asked to follow some general policies for all Religious Education students as follows:

Sports clothes are acceptable attire for classes. Because the students may sometimes be in church, slogans on shirts need to be in good taste, such as sports team shirts or plain colored shirts. Caps are to be removed when in the building, and outdoor clothing is to be kept on the hooks/shelf next to your classroom.

Students are to please leave iPODS, and iPADS at home. Use iPHONES for emergencies or extenuating circumstances only.

Students are to refrain from chewing gum and snacking at times other than snack times agreed upon within each classroom. (Please let us know if there is a special need due to allergies etc.)

Students are to respect the property of St. Charles Parish, including the restrooms, the classrooms, and especially the items in the desks of the St. Charles School students.

Most importantly, students are expected to speak to and treat one another and their teachers in a respectful, Christian manner at all times.

SACRAMENT PROGRAMS



First Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated for the first time when children are in Grade 2. The children are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during their regular Religious Education classes, which are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. The first semester (September - December) is spent in preparation for this sacrament, since it is celebrated prior to First Eucharist, according to the sacramental guidelines for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

A Parent Session is held in October to present Church teaching about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to discuss how the sacrament is presented to the children, and to work out details for the celebration of the sacrament, which is celebrated on a Saturday early in January prior to beginning preparation for First Communion.



First Communion

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is also celebrated for the first time when children are in Grade 2. The second semester (January - April) is spent in preparing the children for this sacrament during their regular Religious Education classes on Wednesday evenings.

A Parent Session is held (usually in February) to present Church teaching about the sacrament and to acquaint parents with the methods of presentation. Time is provided for asking questions and for making necessary arrangements for the celebration of First Communion. First Communion is celebrated during the regularly scheduled Parish Masses. Families choose the date/time for their child's First Communion at the Parent Session. Please check the Faith Formation Calendar for the weekends and Mass times that First Communion will be celebrated at the end of April/beginning of May.

According to the guidelines of the Parish, it is expected that children will have completed Grade 1 Religious Education before they are enrolled in the First Reconciliation and First Communion classes in Grade 2.

Special Preparation Opportunities for Sacraments

1. Please contact the DRE (PS-Grade 6) for specific information regarding children beyond Grade 2 who have not yet celebrated First Reconciliation and/or First Communion.
2. Please contact the DRE (PS-Grade 6) for specific information regarding children beyond the age of seven who have not yet been baptized.
These children participate in the process of Christian Initiation.
This process unfolds in stages, with the children getting to know Jesus and build a friendship with Him, gaining knowledge about what Catholics believe, praying and celebrating rites with a small group or the parish community, and being supported by their peer group, parents, sponsors, and godparents. The end goal of the initiation process is to celebrate all three Sacraments of Initiation- - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist- -at one time, usually at the Easter Vigil.
3. It is ideal to prepare children for the sacraments within the context of the parish school or religious education programs. However, we also welcome those who home school their children and strive to make them feel a part of our parish process and community. Please contact the DRE (PS-Grade 6) for details.
4. We also welcome children with special needs, such as Down syndrome, autism, ADHD, learning disabilities, physical disabilities etc. We work closely with parents to help the children prepare for and celebrate the sacraments and/or participate in the regular programs at the level of which they are capable.

Confirmation



The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee when students reach the age of sixteen - - - usually coinciding with Grade 11 or Juniors in high school.

Preparation includes participation in the Confirmation preparation sessions, attending a weekend retreat, meetings with sponsors, service experiences, and submission of all documentation required by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Students who attend Catholic high schools are asked to enroll in the Parish Confirmation preparation program as Juniors.

Preparation policies and details regarding Confirmation are included on the website at www.lakecountrylifeteen.com as well as in an information packet provided at the Confirmation orientation sessions.

CURRICULUM/ACTIVITY INFORMATION



The curriculum for all ages/grade levels of Faith Formation strives to promote a balance between "knowing about and being able to articulate the faith" and "making faith a lived reality or part of everyday life."

In our programs we use up-to-date materials that are consistent with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the National Catechetical Directory, guidelines from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and which are approved by the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). Materials are prepared and arranged so that they are easily presented by our many volunteer catechists.

Following is a brief summary of the content of the curriculum for each grade level. More detailed information is provided when classes begin. We also welcome your questions regarding curriculum, and invite you to stop at the Religious Education office to discuss our classes and materials.

PRE-SCHOOL (K4), KINDERGARTEN (K5)

These classes use materials prepared by RCL Benziger called **Stories of God's Love**. This is a Bible-based program. Student leaflets use stories of the faith and real-life stories to help children in K4 and K5 discover and explore the wonders of God in the world around them, in themselves, their families, their friends, and in the special gift of Jesus. Seasonal leaflets introduce holy days, church feasts, saints, and the holidays.



GRADES 1-6 gain specific abilities and experiences appropriate to their grade level, which include:

1. History/Creed/Church (*basic doctrines, dogmas, beliefs of the Church*)
2. Moral Life (*moral values contained in the Commandments and Beatitudes*)
3. Liturgy/Sacraments/Prayer (*Liturgical Seasons of the Church Year, Seven Sacraments, traditional prayers, spontaneous prayer, Mary and the Saints*)
4. Scripture (*skills in using the Bible and specific passages that can be learned and applied at each grade level*)
5. Life Experiences

Students in Grades 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 use materials from **Blest Are We, Faith and Word** published by RCL Benziger. This curriculum presents a specific theme for each grade level and incorporates the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “What Catholics Believe”, “How Catholics Worship”, “How Catholics Live”, and “How Catholics Pray” into each of the lessons. Other features are Bible knowledge and skills and “Faith In Action”, which explores various parish ministries. A separate unit explores Feasts and Seasons of the Church Year. Students “meet” some of the Saints throughout the book.

FIRST GRADERS are introduced to the basic teachings about the Blessed Trinity. They discover much about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit---three Persons, one true God.

THIRD GRADERS focus on the Church. They learn the marks of the Catholic Church, the creeds of the Church, and the Church as a praying, celebrating, caring, and ministering community.

FOURTH GRADERS learn about the Church's rich tradition of moral example and teaching, which provides the basis for their own moral development. Focus is on the Commandments and the Beatitudes. A more in-depth study of the Sacrament of Reconciliation than that presented in Grade 2 is also a part of their program. Students celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during a regularly scheduled class time.

FIFTH GRADERS study the sacramental life of the Church. Basic concepts about the seven sacraments are reinforced, and new aspects are presented. They also learn that the Church is the sign of Christ in the world. They discover the difference that Jesus makes in our lives.

SIXTH GRADERS learn what the Bible is, where it came from, how to use it, and how it can relate to their own life. They learn the story of the people of Israel as recorded in the Old Testament and major themes of the Old Testament. They also explore the life and ministry of Jesus in the New Testament with emphasis on the Paschal Mystery---the Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, which saved us from sin and gave us life after death.

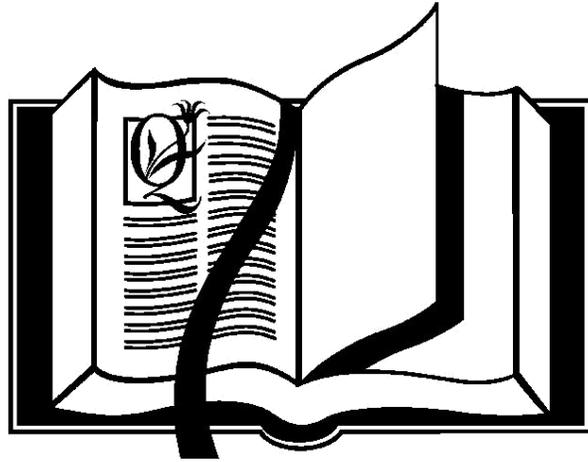
FAMILY SESSIONS

Grades 3-6 from the Summer classes, Sunday classes, and Wednesday classes attend a Family Session scheduled once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester. Parents are invited to attend an adult session on the same subject that the students study in their classes. Students and parents then gather for faith sharing and closing prayer at the end of the session. The dates for these sessions are either noted in the detailed calendar and/or will be communicated as the year progresses.



SECOND GRADERS use two separate textbooks during their year of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist published by Loyola Press. **God’s Gift: Reconciliation** is used during the first semester and **God’s Gift: Eucharist** is used during the second semester.

The children in Grade 2 at St. Charles School use the same materials to emphasize that the sacraments are Parish celebrations rather than separate celebrations for School and Religious Education.



CALENDAR (July 2017-May 2018)

Whether you are receiving the hard copy of this calendar or reading it online, please use it to help plan school, sports, work, and family activities for the next school year. We encourage you to share the calendar information with the organizers of various activities to avoid as many conflicts as possible with faith formation activities.

Then, please refer to it often throughout the school year to verify dates/times of classes, activities, and special events. It will remain posted throughout the year on the St. Charles website at www.stcharleshartland.com. If you would like an extra hard copy, please stop to request one at the Religious Education Office.

When searching for the calendar on the website, click on Religious Education (K4-Grade 6) and then click on Handbook/Calendar. Please read through the Handbook section to review general policies as well as information on the sacraments and curriculum information for each grade. The calendar follows the informational section.

May your family be blessed as, together, we learn more about our Catholic faith and how to live it day by day on our journey of becoming disciples of Christ.

Jan Murphy

262-367-3277, Ext. 205

jmurphy@stcharleshartland.org

SUMMER PROGRAM

Monday, July 17 - Friday, July 21
(8:30 - 11:30 a.m.)

Classes for: Grade 1
Grades 3-6

Monday, July 24-Thursday, July 27
(8:30-11:30 a.m.)

Classes continue for:
Grade 1
Grade 3-6

Saturday, November 11, 2017
(9:30 – 11:00 a.m.)

and

Saturday, February 24, 2018
(9:30 -11:00 a.m.)

Seasonal Classes & Family Sessions for:
Grades 3-6

The Summer Program is an alternative to the Fall Program for those families who may find this a more suitable option. Please be aware, however, that there are some activities the summer students are expected to attend during the school year. Please note these carefully, and plan your weekends accordingly.

These events include:

Saturday, November 11, 2017 (9:30-11:00 a.m.)
Seasonal Class for **Grades 3-6** and Family Session

Saturday, February 24, 2018 (9:30-11:00 a.m.)
Seasonal Class for **Grades 3-6** and Family Session

Grade 2 is not offered in summer because of special preparation needs for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 NO CLASSES	4 LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8 Fall Fest	9 Fall Fest
10 Fall Fest NO CLASSES	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	18	19	20 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	21	22	23
24 Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	25	26	27 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	28	29	30

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	2	3	4 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	5	6	7
8 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	9	10	11 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) Parent Session for First Reconciliation (option 1)	12	13	14
15 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	16	17	18 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) Parent Session for First Reconciliation (option 2)	19	20	21
22 NO CLASSES (Fall Break)	23	24	25 NO CLASSES (Fall Break)	26	27	28
29 NO CLASSES (Fall Break)	30	31				

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 All Saints Day Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	2	3	4
5 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	6	7	8 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	9	10	11 Gr. 3-6 Summer Students Seasonal Class & Family Session (9:30-11:00 a.m.)
12 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	13	14	15 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	16	17	18
19 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	20	21	22 NO CLASSES (Thanksgiving Break)	23 THANKSGIVING	24	25
26 NO CLASSES (Thanksgiving Break)	27	28	29 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	30		

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	4	5	6 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	7	8	9
10 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	11	12	13 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	14	15	16
17 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	18	19	20 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	21	22	23
24 NO CLASSES	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 NO CLASSES (Christmas Break)	28	29	30
31 NO CLASSES						

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 NO CLASSES (Christmas Break)	4	5	6
7 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	8	9	10 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	11	12	13 Gr. 2 Celebration of First Reconciliation (10:00 a.m.) and (12:45 p.m.)
14 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	15	16	17 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	18	19	20 Gr. 2 Ceremony of Dedication & Blessing Gr. 2 (5:00 p.m. Mass)
21 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.) Gr. 2 Ceremony of Dedication & Blessing Gr. 2 (9:00 & 10:45 a.m. Masses)	22	23	24 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	25	26	27
28 NO CLASSES	29	30	31 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) Parent Session for First Communion (option 1)			

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	5	6	7 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) Parent Session for First Communion (option 2)	8	9	10
11 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	12	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Gr. 2-6 (6:00-7:15 p.m.)**	15	16	17
18 NO CLASSES (Winter Break)	19	20	21 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	22	23	24 Gr. 3-6 Summer Students Seasonal Class & Family Session (9:30-11:00 a.m.)
25 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	26	27	28 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)			

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.) Lenten Reconciliation for Gr. 3-6	5	6	7 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) Lenten Reconciliation for Gr. 3-6	8	9	10
11 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	12	13	14 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	15	16	17
18 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	19	20	21 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	22	23	24
25 PALM SUNDAY NO CLASSES	26	27	28 WED. OF HOLY WEEK NO CLASSES	29	30	31

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 EASTER NO CLASSES	2	3	4 NO CLASSES (Easter Break)	5	6	7
8 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	9	10	11 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	12	13	14 Religious Ed. Registration for 2017-2018 (6:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
15 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	16	17	18 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	19	20	21
22 PS/Kn/Gr 1 (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Gr.3-6 (10:15-11:45 a.m.)	23	24	25 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) First Communion Practice	26	27	28 Celebration of First Communion (5:00 p.m. Mass)
29 Celebration of First Communion (9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Masses)	30					

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) First Communion Practice	3	4	5 Celebration of First Communion (5:00 p.m. Mass)
6 Celebration of First Communion (9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Masses)	7	8	9 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) First Communion Practice	10	11	12 Celebration of First Communion (5:00 p.m. Mass)
13 MOTHER'S DAY Celebration of First Communion (10:45 a.m. Mass)	14	15	16 Gr. 2-6 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



KEY DATES



We hope that the Key Dates / Events from the calendar will be a helpful summary for you.

DATE	WHO	EVENT
Wednesday, October 11 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	Grade 2	Parent Session for First Reconciliation (Option 1)
Wednesday, October 18 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	Grade 2	Parent Session for First Reconciliation (Option 2)
Saturday, November 11 (9:30-11:00 a.m.)	Grades 3-6 (Summer Students)	Seasonal Class and Family Session
Saturday, January 13, 2018 (10:00 a.m. session and 12:45 p.m. session)	Grade 2	Celebration of First Reconciliation
Saturday, January 20 and Sunday, January 21 (During the 5:00 p.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Masses)	Grade 2	Ceremony of Dedication & Blessing
Wednesday, January 31 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	Grade 2	Parent Session for First Communion (Option 1)
Wednesday, February 7 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)	Grade 2	Parent Session for First Communion (Option 2)
Saturday, February 24 (9:30-11:00 a.m.)	Grades 3-6 (Summer Students)	Seasonal Class and Family Session
Saturday, April 14 (after the 5:00 p.m. Mass)	All Families	Religious Ed Registration for 2017-18
Saturday, April 28 (5:00 p.m. Mass) Sunday, April 29 (9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Masses)	Grade 2	Celebration of First Communion
Saturday, May 5 (5:00 p.m. Mass) Sunday, May 6 (9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Masses)	Grade 2	Celebration of First Communion
Saturday, May 12 (5:00 p.m. Mass) Sunday, May 13 (10:45 a.m. Masses)	Grade 2	Celebration of First Communion

