

FEBRUARY UPDATE

Many thanks to those parents who were able to attend the Eucharist Parent Workshop on Thursday, January 26th in McDonough Hall. I hope it was productive and helpful for you to begin the preparation process at home with your child.

If you were unable to attend, please do not worry. The first full week of February your child will receive a MASS BOOKLET for you to use each weekend as you participate in our parish's weekend masses, and a two-page handout which summarizes the points made and discussed at the parent workshop.

IT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR YOUR CHILD TO CELEBRATE THE MASS WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ON A REGULARLY BASIS!

Attending mass as a family strengthens bonds within the family (your domestic church) which in turn strengthens bonds within the parish family of St Giles. While the parish school children do attend mass as a class each week, this is not a substitute for you attending as a family.



JUST A REMINDER.....

IF YOUR CHILD HAS NOT CELEBRATED THEIR FIRST RECONCILIATION PLEASE CONTACT FR. CARL TO ARRANGE A TIME TO CELEBRATE THIS WONDERFUL SACRAMENT PRIOR TO THE FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT IN MARCH.

FR CARL MAY BE REACH AT 708-383-3430 EXT. 422

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PERSON IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

The parent workshop reviewed the understanding that our Catholic Christian baptism calls us to be disciples (who follow the Way of Jesus Christ), who are members of a community (a parish), and who are also people of service to others.

Many families do a great many acts of service and at times may not even realize that they are simply because they think “this is what is right” or “this is what we do as a family”. In reality you are modeling your Catholic faith for your child through your acts of kindness.

There is one special service project possibility for you to consider as your child prepares for their First Eucharist. **The Aunt Mary Story Project** is an opportunity for children to help children. **The Aunt Mary Story Project** provides mothers/fathers in prison with the opportunity to connect with their children. This project provides imprisoned parents to select a children’s story book to read aloud into a tape recorder for their child to hear. The book and the cassette tape is then sent to the child in order for them to hear their parent’s voice and feel the love they have for them.

How can First Eucharist children at St Giles parish assist this project? Participate in a **READ-A –THON** benefitting the Aunt Mary’s Storybook Project!!!! Children and their parents who choose to participate may:

- **download READ-A-THON FORMS**
- **SELECT YOUR PLEDGE GOAL**
- **SEEK SUPPORTERS**
- **START READING!!!!**

Children and their parents may choose to seek pledges from friends and family members for each book read or for a specific number of books read by the First Eucharist candidate (i.e. for each book read by the candidate I will pledge \$1.00)

The monies raised go to the **Aunt Mary’s Storybook Project** to purchase books, cassette tapes, and postal materials.

More information may be found at: <http://www.cjtinc.org/auntmary.html>

THE AUNT MARY STORYBOOK PROJECT option will run from FEBRUARY 15 through MARCH 30.



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FAMILIES ARE STILL ENCOURAGED TO PRESENT THE GIFTS AT ONE OF OUR WEEKEND MASSES.....CONTACT ZELDA TO SELECT YOUR MASS DAY/TIME
708-383-4185 EXT 101 OR reled@stgilesparish.org

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EUCHARIST RETREATS

First Eucharist Parent-Child Retreats will be held March 16th & 17th please reserve your space by the end of February.

What you need to know about the retreats:

The retreats will begin in the Church with Fr Carl giving a presentation of our Sacred Space. Children and parents will have an opportunity to learn about the vessels, vestments, and sacred elements of our Church's celebration of Eucharist.

After this presentation parents and children will move to McDonough Hall for a presentation on how to properly receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Eucharist along with the stories of how we came to celebrate this sacrament.

There is also an opportunity for parents and children to work together to create their FAMILY BANNER. It is highly recommended for parents to bring with them:

Sharp scissors/ glue gun & glue sticks / extra ornamental elements for their family banner.

Each banner is to consist of the Symbols of the Eucharist along with the family name.

Templates of the symbols of Eucharist will be available at the retreat along with school glue, felt letters, and a variety of colored felt squares,

GET THOSE IMAGINATIONS FUELED.....



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PREPARATION BOOKS should be worked on each week at home with parents and children. Teachers and catechists will periodically ask children to bring their preparation books to class or may assign a specific task for students to do at home with their parents/family.

If at any time questions or concerns with the preparation process arise, feel free to contact MaryEllen Casselman at 708-383-4185 ext 103 or mecasselman@stgilesparish.org