

2020 -21

SACRAMENTAL PREP PROGRAM
Grade 2 —1st Penance & Eucharist



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WELCOME

Welcome to the Parish Sacramental Education Program (Sacramental PREP). We look forward to working with you, the parents/guardians, in helping your child(ren) appreciate the great gift of Catholic faith and the Sacraments.

What we request from you as parents are support, involvement and encouragement. Our church teaches that parents have the primary right and responsibility for the Religious Education of their child(ren). St. Martin of Tours program aims at supporting our parents by offering consistent, developmental and formal education in the basic life and worship of the Catholic tradition. We strive to bring children to a deeper and more loving relationship with the Lord Jesus. We cannot do this without your help. You can help your child at home by further developing what we introduce in the classroom. With that kind of teamwork, almost anything's possible!

St. Martin of Tours Sacramental Education Program Mission Statement

St. Martin of Tours is committed to equipping young people for a lifelong journey of faith. We support and encourage the goals of the student to affirm their Baptism and take personal responsibility for their faith going forward. We take seriously our commitment to provide the students with proper instruction, helping to prepare them for the opportunity to make good life choices. To achieve this goal, we will provide the students with opportunities to obtain the knowledge and skills that they can use to achieve wisdom for living their Catholic Faith.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Sacramental PREP Program includes grades 2 and 7, otherwise known as *2nd Grade Sacramental PREP* and *Confirmation PREP*.

The *2nd Grade Sacramental PREP* Program is an academic one week summer session, a home-based program along with an Enrichment Program. The Enrichment program will consist of six sessions, of which families need to attend four.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Any change or cancellation to classroom sessions along with other important information will be relayed via email, your cell phone, and will be on the parish website and social media pages. Please make sure that you have a current/correct email address and current cell phone number on your child's registration form.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Please keep this handbook on hand for future reference.

Director of Religious Education: Mrs. Kathy Ross

1 Riverstone Circle

New Hope, PA 18938

Office Phone: 215-862-5472

Cell Phone: 267-230-1224

email: kross@smartinoftours.org

Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays- 10:00-5:00, Thursdays, 10:00-5:00 and Sunday mornings by appointment

REGISTRATION:

When you register your child for second grade PREP they are automatically enrolled in *2nd Grade Sacramental PREP*. Registration begins in March and closes the end of April for a June class start date. PREP families must be registered as parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Church. Unless a student was baptized at St. Martin of Tours, a baptismal certificate must be presented at the Parish office prior to registering.

Non-parishioners need to submit a letter of permission from their Pastor or DRE with their registration form/s.

A non-refundable registration fee should accompany the registration form.

SACRAMENTAL PREP PROGRAM (Grade 2)

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION:

Parents are expected to follow St. Martin of Tours Parish policy for sacramental preparation and celebration with their children. This policy will be explained more fully at the parent sessions held in conjunction with each sacrament.

Since Catechesis (Religious Education) involves much more than classroom preparation, **THE MOST IMPORTANT PREPARATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH IS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SUNDAY LITURGY.** Families are expected to attend Sunday Mass as well as Mass on Holy Days of Obligation.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST REQUIREMENTS:

- Guidelines established by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia concerning baptized children specify that the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be received prior to First Eucharist.
- The child must be baptized.
- The child's minimum age is seven (7) years old.
- The family must be registered in St. Martin of Tours Parish or have a letter of permission from their pastor.
- The education level is a two-year process of religious education that traditionally begins with Grade 1. First Reconciliation and First Communion is held at the second-grade level.
- If the child is above seven (7) years of age and has not had religious education, parents need to contact Father Kindon or Kathy Ross to discuss.
- * Parents of children with special education needs are asked to contact Kathy Ross to discuss their child's IEP and any medical issues.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) is/are expected to bring their child(ren) to Mass every week.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s), through their example, is/are expected to challenge their child(ren) to lead a Catholic life.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of children in Sacramental PREP is/are expected to fulfill the goals of good Stewardship (time, talent, & treasure).
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are to attend any required meetings regarding sacramental preparation. Any parent who misses a required meeting should contact the Parish office to schedule a make-up educational session with Fr. Kindon or Mrs. Kathy Ross prior to their child receiving the sacrament.*
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) is/are expected to bring their child(ren) to both retreat days, one for First Penance and one for First Eucharist.*
- A calendar with important dates for parent meetings, enrichment program meetings, retreat days, rehearsals and the dates of each Sacrament celebration will be sent to you in the Summer.
- The textbooks are to be completed and shown to Mrs. Ross, during the Enrichment sessions or the Retreats.

FORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES:
REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST PENANCE AND EUCHARIST

These are family-centered, which means that a parent is to participate with the child or children in the activity. Children are not to be dropped off at an activity nor are other families to be responsible for children other than their own.

Children need to see their parents involved in their Catholic Faith and giving example of the importance of that Catholic Faith for themselves as well as their children.

Students will work on their sacramental book with a parent and then bring it in during their retreat to demonstrate completion.

Ten (10) Hours of Formational Activities are required. This includes five (5) hours of Service Activity and five (5) hours of Spiritual Activity. The Formational Activities from which a family can choose are:

SPIRITUAL

- i. Christmas Eve Nativity (3 hours)
- ii. Advent Penance Service (1 hour)
- iii. Lenten Penance Service (1 hour)
- iv. Holy Week Liturgies:
 - a. Holy Thursday (1 ½ hours)
 - b. Good Friday (1 ½ hours)
 - c. Holy Saturday –Easter Vigil (1 ½ hours)
- v. Stations of the Cross during Lent (½ hour)
- vi. Adoration- chapel between 5:00-8:00pm First Fridays
- vii. Report of a Saint (written at grade level) (2 hours)
- viii. Write a report on a visit to an area shrine (written at grade level) (2 hours)
Shrines in our Archdiocese:
 - a. National Shrine of St. John Neumann
 - b. National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia
 - c. National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel-Cathedral in Philadelphia
- ix. Altar Serving (10 hours) This requires a full year’s participation. (also counts toward service)

SERVICE

- i. Aid for Friends Ministry – Last Wednesday of every month (1 hour)
- ii. MLK Day of Service (3 hours)
- iii. Decorating Church for the various holidays (1 hour)
- iv. Prepare at least 10 Aid for Friends meals at home and put them in the freezer in the gathering area of the church.
- v. Other service & spiritual activities must be approved by Fr. Kindon.

We recognize, acknowledge and express a special "Thank you" for all involved in our Parish Religious Education Program. May God reward the time, energy and sacrifices you so generously donate in sharing your faith with others with a deepening of your own personal faith.

Date _____

Dear Father Kindon:

I have read the Sacramental PREP Handbook and have taken the time to explain the policies to my child/children. We understand that we are required, by our registration, to adhere to the policies in the handbook.

Please sign and return this form to the Parish Office by June 1. Keep your handbook in a convenient place for reference

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

E-Mail Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Student(s) Name(s) _____