



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Parish & School

Dear 1st and 2nd Grade Parents,

My name is Kathryn Hermes and I am the new Director of Evangelization. Through this position I assist Fr. Kyle in faith formation and Sacramental preparation for children and adults, both at the parish and the school. I am excited for the new school year ahead at St. Francis Xavier!

I am writing to inform you of some **changes in our policy for reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion**. These updates pertain to you if you are Catholic and you desire your child to receive their First Communion. *If you are not Catholic and/or do not wish your child to receive this Sacrament, you are not required to implement any of these policies. Please inform your teacher if this is the case.*

Parish-wide (meaning both church and school), we are requiring students who wish to receive their Sacraments to attend weekly Sunday Mass. To implement this, we will be utilizing "Mass attendance cards," which will be distributed by the teachers. **These cards must be filled out and placed in the collection basket each Sunday.** If you attend a different parish for Mass, the card must still be filled out with your child's name and the date, and be signed by the priest who celebrated the Mass at that parish. The card can then be brought to school the next Monday. OR a bulletin from that parish can also be brought back to school, as long as the child's name and grade is written on the bulletin, and it is signed by the priest there.

We will begin keeping track of Sunday Mass attendance cards starting the weekend of September 9th. We encourage you to begin submitting your cards before that date so as to get into the habit, but we will not start counting until the 9th.

Additionally, we will no longer have one big First Communion day in the spring; rather, each child will receive his or her First Communion on a day of their choosing and after they are deemed ready by Fr. Kyle and/or myself. Please see the attached FAQ sheet for more information.

I have attached a "proof" of what the cards will look like (they will be business card-sized), as well as the FAQ sheet explaining these changes. We are having a **Sacramental Prep Parent Meeting Thursday, August 23rd at 6:30pm** in the school cafeteria, and we encourage you to attend if you are able. Both Fr. Kyle and I will be there to more thoroughly explain the changes and to answer any questions.

Please bring any questions, comments or concerns to the meeting on the 23rd, or feel free to contact me anytime. Know of my prayers for you and your children!

in Christ,

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