

St. Thomas More Parish
800 Ohio Pike, Withamsville OH 45245

Dear Parents,

This coming year is a very special year...a holy year...for your children, your whole family, and our parish community. We are traveling our faith journeys together as we prepare our children to celebrate for their first time the incredible sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. While focus appears placed on the children growing in faith, this journey is an opportunity for all of us to deepen our understanding of these sacraments and their spiritual impact in our everyday lives.

Jesus is the One Who instituted the sacraments. He did so knowing we need the real spiritual gifts they provide that feed and strengthen our hearts, minds and bodies for life's struggles outside the Garden of Eden. The sacraments help to constantly reveal the depths of God's love and Will for us.

God created us to be in community, in relationship with Himself and with everyone we meet. Just as the disciples were prepared and first received the sacraments together, our young disciples prepare through "sacramental gatherings" and receive the sacraments for the first time in communal sacramental celebrations.

Please note: Each child and at least one parent are required to attend each gathering

Sacramental Dates

Sun 10-25-15	11:00-2:00 pm	First Reconciliation Retreat	Parish Dining Hall
Thur 12-03-15	6:30 - 8:00 pm	First Reconciliation Gathering with Fr. Bill	Parish Dining Hall
Thur 01-28-16	7:00 - 9:00 pm	First Reconciliation Celebration	Church
Sun 2-21-16	11:00 - 1:00 pm	1st Communion Gathering	Parish Dining Hall
Sun 3-13-16	11:05 -11:50 am	1st Communion: Why the Mass?	Church
Sat 4-16-16	9:00 am - 3:30 pm	1st Communion Jesus Day Retreat	Parish Dining Hall
Thur 5-05-16	6:15 pm	Individual Communion Photos	Marian Grotto
	6:45 pm	Group Communion Photo	Church Steps
	7:00 - 7:30 pm	May Crowning with Rosary Procession	Church Steps
Thur 5-12-16	6:00 – 7:00 pm	First Communion Rehearsals	Church
	7:00 – 8:00 pm	Ice Cream Social	Parish Dining Hall
Sun 5-15-16	11:30 am	First Communion Celebration at Noon Mass	Parish Dining Hall

Please mark these dates and times in your calendars and planners.

We look forward to sharing this amazing journey to God with your children and you and ask for His abundant graces on all of us in this special time that we might learn and lead as He wishes.

Yours in Christ,

Linda Bader
Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE)

Becky Ready
Director of Religious Formation (DRE)