October 19, 2017

Parent Meeting at St. Maria Goretti Church

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017 - First Reconciliation

The service starts at 7:00 pm. When you get to church, take a seat in the pews and wait for the service to begin. There will be a short prayer service before confessions begin. Several priests will be stationed around the church for the children to meet with for confession. Children may receive confession in a face-to-face meeting or in the confessional (the choice is yours/theirs). Parents are offered the opportunity to make confession as well. When you are done, please return to the pews to pray your penance leave in silence. Parents, grandparents, godparents and extended family are invited to attend this service but keep in mind that this service is not as structured or as formal an occasion as First Holy Communion.

Saturday, April 1st, 2017 – First Communion Retreat

Please being your child to the church by 8:45 am to sign in for the retreat. The retreat will be held in Drexel Hall and will start promptly at 9 am. It should end around noon. Parents are invited to but are not required to stay with their children throughout the retreat (the choice is yours/theirs). All Communion Banners are to be turned in at the retreat. During the retreat, the children will be making bread and will practice receiving Communion, either in the hand or on the tongue (the choice is yours/theirs) with unconsecrated hosts. If your child has any food or other allergy concenrs, please contact Meg Szewczak, Director of Religions education to let her know. Mrs. Szewczak’s email is meg.szewczak@stmariagoretti.net. If you are interested in volunteering to help at the retreat, please contact Mrs. Szewczak.

Friday, May 12th, 2017 – First Communion Practice

We will meet in the church on the evening before First Holy Communion to practice for the Mass. The meeting time is: 6:30 pm. Practice should take approximately an hour. At practice, you will find out where in the church your child will be sitting for Mass. So, you will have a better idea of where you should sit for Mass so that you can get a good view of your child. Again, we will practice receiving Communion with unconsecrated hosts. Please contact Mrs. Szewczack if you have any allergy concerns related to the hosts we use. Also, if you wish to obtain additional unconsecrated hosts so that you may practice receiving Communion at home, please contact Mrs. Szewczak to make those arrangements.

Saturday, May 13th, 2017 – First Holy Communion

There is only one First Communion Mass this year and it is at 10:00 am. Please drop your children off at Drexel Hall between 9:00 and 9:15. The teachers will check them in and line them up for their procession into the church for the start of Mass. The children will process to the church together with their teachers for Mass. Parents, grandparents, godparents and extended family are invited to attend Mass. We anticipate that First Holy Communion Mass will run for approximately one and a half hours. When Mass is over, the children will process to the Chapel with their teachers. They will be dismissed to a parent (please send only one) from the Chapel after Mass. You are invited to take your child’s Communion Banner home with you as a keepsake of the day.

Photographers from Bradley Digital will be in Drexel Hall to take portraits of each child. These same photographers will also be taking photos in the church during the Mass and will take a photo of each child as he/she receives their First Holy Communion. Each family is entitled to one free digital downloaded photo from the Bradley Digital website. Additional photos may be purchased from the website as well. As we get closer to the event, more information about ordering pictures will be made available. REMEMBER: THERE IS NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE CHURCH DURING MASS. After Mass is over, and your child been dismissed from the Chapel and has rejoined your family, please feel free to take as many photos as you would like both inside and outside of the church.

DRESS CODE FOR GIRLS: Girls should dress in traditional white dresses with stockings or tights. Please do not have your daughter wear high heels, gloves or fresh flowers to Mass. Please do not allow your daughter to carry purses, rosary beads, prayer books or bouquets to Mass. If you wish to give your daughter a bouquet of flowers, please do so after the Mass and outside of the church.

DRESS CODE FOR BOYS: Boys should wear a suit. Khakis and a sports coat are acceptable but a suit is preferable. Boys are to wear white ties and dress shoes. Please do not put a boutonniere on your son’s jacket. Please do not allow your son to carry rosary beads or prayer books to Mass.

If your child is unable to attend our scheduled First Holy Communion Mass, please let Mrs. Szewczak (meg.szewczak@stmariagoretti.net) know as soon as possible. Together you can discuss other arrangements for your child’s First Holy Communion.

If you have a priest, deacon, sister or other religious person in your family who would like to participate in the Mass, please contact Mrs. Szewczak as soon as possible. Similarly, if you have a lector, altar server or usher in your family who would like to participate in Mass, please contact Mrs. Szewczak as soon as possible. If your child would be interested in participating in Mass, as a reader or a presenter of the gifts, please let Mrs. Szewczak know as soon as possible. All are welcome!!!