

## St. Mary's Parish

August 5, 2007

Dear Parents of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

All parents with children in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> grade who have not yet received the sacrament of reconciliation are invited to a parent meeting on September 27 at 6:45 p.m. in the school gym. In light of the policy for reconciliation given to us by our Archdiocese of Indianapolis, parents are given the opportunity of discerning when their child should make their First Reconciliation. The policy reads as follows:

### 9550.3 First Reconciliation of Children

- a. Catechesis- Those children who were baptized as infants and have attained the use of reason are to be prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance prior to First Eucharist.

*Since this policy is based on Canon 914, it assumes that all children shall be offered the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of penance before their reception of first communion.*

- b. Readiness. The pastor, along with the parents and catechists of the child, are to determine the readiness of the child to participate in the sacrament.

*The pastor and his staff are also expected to explain to the parents the church's teaching in regard to first confession before first communion. In those exceptional cases in which a child, under the guidance of his/her parents, chooses not to celebrate the sacrament of penance, he or she will not be deprived the right to receive first communion. However, the child shall be encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance later so that he or she will not be deprived of it altogether.*

We will give further information and an outline of our reconciliation program to you at the parent meeting on September 27. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Anita Navarra, Coordinator of Religious Education  
Nancy Schroeder, School Principal