

Dear Saint Brendan School Parents,

It was just over one hundred years ago that the Blessed Mother began appearing to three young children and spoke to them about the need for prayer and penance, especially the Rosary. This event is a great model for our vision of family based sacramental preparation. Mary did not appear as a theologian or teacher, but as a mother. It is mothers and fathers, grandparents and godparents, who have the most influence and effectively pass on faith and values to children.

As Saint Brendan School continues its excellent work of preparing children for the Sacraments and teaching the truths of the Catholic faith, there is still a need to partner with you. Parent involvement is crucial for any subject in school, whether it is a building a biome diorama or writing and practicing a speech. Even more urgent, though, is the need for partnership with parents to pass on faith and values to children. The most recent sociological research shows that the key factor in passing on faith to children is parents who talk about and model their own faith. Our new sacramental resources seek to do just this.

These resources will not be separate from the school curriculum, however. The family meetings, which last 20-40 minutes at home, are all aligned to the religion course of study taught at every catholic elementary school in the Diocese of Columbus. As well, teachers plan to integrate the at-home resources for sacramental prep as part of their class homework. Families will receive simple feedback from the teachers and a check-in if the family meeting is missed or delayed. This way, we are all working together, parish, school, parent, and family, to prepare our students to not just encounter Jesus Christ in the Sacraments, but to continue to practice the Catholic faith into adulthood.

Finally, remember that we are available to support your family. Please never hesitate to reach out for help to your child's teacher, myself, or any of the priests and deacons for help when you need it. We are happy to accompany and accommodate you as you do your family meetings and share meaningful moments as families.

Below, you will find a bullet-pointed plan for each sacramental preparation year. These are subject to change but reflect the most up-to-date information. If you have questions, please reach out to me at jdoran@stbrendans.net. I am more than happy to take time to meet with you in person, by phone, or virtually. May Our Lady of Fatima pray for our children as they find moments to pray and do penance through their time of sacramental preparation.

Jacob Doran

Director of Youth Evangelization and Catechesis

Sacrament of Confirmation (8th grade)

- **At-School Component**
 - Confirmation Saint research project after research fair concludes
 - Ms. Nussman provides feedback to family meeting follow throughs on Google Classroom (homework submission)
 - Ms. Nussman checks in with students/families who miss timeline for family meetings
- **At-Home Component**
 - *Zeal* box
 - September-April
 - 7 family meetings (20-40 minutes), about once a month, assigned as homework
 - Family follow through for each meeting submitted on Google Classroom as homework
 - 1 Sponsor meeting (to be completed before Jan 1), assigned as homework
 - 6 service hours
 - Can be completed anytime prior to Confirmation
- **At-Church Component**
 - Optional *Seek* family sessions on Sundays in August from 12-1:30pm with lunch
 - These sessions teach how to do family meetings
 - You will be grouped with other school families for support and encouragement
 - Sacrament Prep Intro family session to replace fall information meeting (one hour)
 - September 6 OR 7 from 6:30pm-7:30pm
 - We will distribute *Zeal* boxes at this session
 - 3 optional at-church family sessions (one hour)
 - Jan 29 Noon-1pm
 - Feb 26 Noon-1pm
 - March 26 Noon-1pm
 - Damascus Retreat November 11-13
 - Practice April 17 6:30-7pm
 - Confirmation on April 21
 - 4pm or 7pm