

September 28th, 2011

Dear Parents of Students in Grade 2,

Our parish family of St. Monica is extending an invitation to you and your child towards their next step of initiation into the Christian life. This journey began several years ago, when you presented your child for Baptism and accepted the responsibility to teach them about God's love and to participate in the life of our Church. This journey will take a new and exciting step this year, when your child will receive two sacraments: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

The decision to continue now is, of course, yours and your child's. If you have been an active member of the parish, the decision to continue this involvement means that you are deepening your commitment. If you have not been closely involved in our parish family in the past few years, we ask you now to consider this privileged step in continuing the journey you began at your child's baptism. The Church tells us that parents are the most important influence on a child's spiritual development. This development is the parents' right, dignity, and responsibility. Quite simply, there is no one better suited for this task than you!

If, after speaking with your child, and praying together, you would like to accept this invitation, please do the following:

1. Go online to the Parish website (<http://www.st-monica.com/>) and follow the links to the Grade 2 Sacrament registration page. **Register** your child's information on the church website. Record your confirmation number, print off your registration information and bring this information to the MANDATORY registration night.
2. **Schedule and attend** a MANDATORY registration meeting for parents on either **Tuesday, October 11th at 6 pm** or **Wednesday, October 12th at 6 pm**. The meetings will be in the basement hall of St. Monica Church. (N.B. Failure to attend either meeting without a legitimate excuse will mean that your child will NOT be receiving the sacraments this year.)
3. Please come prepared to make a payment of \$35 to help cover the costs of items related to the celebration of the sacraments.
4. **Please bring a photo copy of your child's baptismal certificate** to the meeting. If you do not currently possess one, you will have to call the parish where your child was baptized to obtain a copy. Your child can not receive First Holy Communion without presenting proof of being baptised in the Catholic Church.

If your child is to receive First Holy Communion with your own parish community, please contact your parish to register with them.

More information, including dates and times for celebrations, will be provided at the registration meeting. I wish you God's blessing in your decision and you will be remembered in my prayers.

Yours fraternally in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Freely Muthukudarachchi

Parish Priest