



1st and 2nd Grade Coordinator:  
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# St. Matthew Catholic Church

## 1st & 2nd Grade Faith Formation

### Sacramental Preparation

These two years are required by the Diocese of Charlotte as part of the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

**The nurturing of a child's faith takes place within the family.** As the parents are the primary faith educator, during these early sacramental years it is our goal to enhance the child's learning by introducing the children to traditional Catholic prayer and worship. These years help to build the foundation which will allow the children to embrace and grow in the love of God, as they journey toward receiving the sacraments in second grade.

**We encourage you to attend Mass with your child and allow them to see your participation in the sacraments as much as possible.**



### Pflaum Gospel Weeklies

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

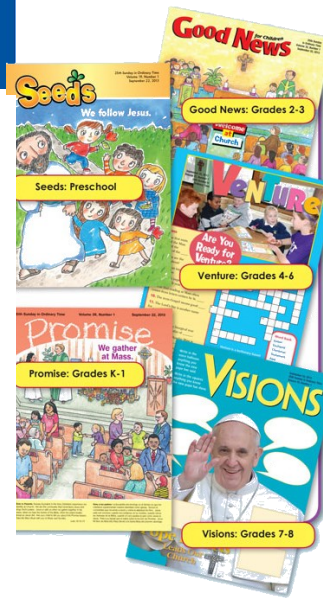
**Why?** The Sunday liturgy is the heart of the parish community. The weekly celebration is more meaningful to young people if they are familiar with the Gospel proclaimed each week. During class, the children hear the Gospel and participate in activities related to the Gospel. The message becomes familiar. They learn the Gospel. They love the Gospel. They live the Gospel.

**What?** This program takes the 'textbook' out of Faith Formation and instead immerses the children in the Gospel through hands-on activities, movement and real-life stories. PGW is written in 8-week editions, allowing the material to reflect current events, keeping it fresh and relevant for the children.

**1st Grade Series: Promise**

**2nd Grade Series: Good News**

We encourage you to subscribe to the Gospel at Home newsletter at [Pflaum Weeklies](http://PflaumWeeklies.com), and read the "Family Corner" within your child's weekly handout.



**Our Sunday Visitor** Bringing Your Catholic Faith to Life™



### Sacramental Preparation (2nd Grade)

"In the sacraments, we can hear, see, touch and taste the love of God given to us in His Son. We look into the eyes of Jesus and see His heart, and He looks into our eyes and sees our heart. In this *divine encounter*, we are offered an experience of intimacy that can change us forever." - EWC, CG4

As the children enter their second year of preparing for the sacrament, we have chosen this unique program which offers both parent-led and catechist-led lessons which allows children to come to understand the order the Rites, the signs and what they signify, and the meaning of the Sacraments in the larger context of our Catholic faith. We encourage families not only to prepare for the sacrament but to engage in full and active participation in parish life. For more information or for games and activities, visit [Encounter with Christ](http://EncounterwithChrist.com).

### Special Events 2016-2017

- ☺ 2nd Grade Parent Learning Opportunities for **First Reconciliation**:
  - Wed. Sept. 7 at 9:30am
  - Thu. Sept. 15 at 7pm
  - Sat. Sept 17 at 10am
- ☺ Faith Formation Classes Begin, Week of Sept.11
- ☺ 2nd Grade Parent-Child Retreat for First Reconciliation **Saturday, November 5**
- ☺ Sacrament of First Reconciliation **Thursday, December 1 and Friday, December 2**
- ☺ 2nd Grade Parent Learning Opportunities for **First Eucharist**:
  - Wed. Jan. 18 at 9:30am
  - Sat. Jan. 21 at 10am
  - Thu. Jan. 26 at 7pm
- ☺ 1st Grade **Tour of the Church**, Main Campus Classes during session Feb. 6 and 7
- ☺ 2nd Grade **Tour of the Sacristy**, during sessions March 27, 28 and 29
- ☺ 2nd Grade Parent-Child Retreat for First Eucharist **Saturday, April 1**
- ☺ 1st Grade **Parent-Child Rosary Making**, during sessions May 1, 2 and 3.