Notes from Dawn Johnson on 2nd Grade Sacramental Prep

2nd grade is our first Reconciliation and first Communion. Here is a brief outline of the year:

\*    We use Faith and Life Series as the main textbook (see linked handout for the outline I give the catechist)

\*    I hold a parent meeting to go over theology and practical items (see linked handout for those notes) early in the Fall

\*    We sometimes offer a supplemental book for the family to work on for First Reconciliation (depending on the families involved) We utilize the one from the Leaflet Missal Co., but there are many other options. If it is handed out we expect it to be returned by the Retreat date.

\*    We hold a Reconciliation Retreat in December followed by the Reconciliation Service the week after (see attachments)

\*    Then we have a little Rite of Enrollment in January (see linked handout)

\*    We have interviews with each first communicant, their parent/guardian, Fr. Matt and I (See linked handout for questions we ask)

\*    We sometimes offer the supplemental book on First Communion for the family to complete – again from Leaflet Missal Co. If it is handed out, it is due by the First Communion Retreat.

\*    In Spring we have a First Communion Retreat followed by a family potluck (see linked handout – we encourage grandparents, sponsors, siblings, etc. to attend the meal)

\*     We  plan the retreat 40 days ahead of their First communion and hand out a booklet called 40 Days Preparation for First Communion <https://www.leafletonline.com/40-days-of-preparation-for-first-communion>)

\*    I make bookmarks for the parish to begin praying for the First Communicants (see attachment)

\*    We have a monastery with Carmelite Sisters, who make the altar breads. We visit them around April.

\*    Then we have the rehearsal the Saturday before their First Communion. Before the rehearsal there is another opportunity for confession; this makes three confessions before their first communion.

\*    On the Day of their First Communion we have them process in, they sit up front with their family in assigned pews, they are told to receive on the tongue for their First communion, we enroll them in the brown scapular at the end of Mass, we make sure they stay for pictures afterwards- no processing out, they receive their banner that they made, there is a present, and their certificate. Much of this will vary with the preference of the priest.