

February 2026

Dear Parents,

The 2025-2026 school year is coming to an end within the next couple months. We have begun our planning and preparations for upcoming school year, 2026-2027.

As the first educator of your children in the Catholic faith, you know it is best for you and your children to be a part of some kind of Faith Formation from Kindergarten all the way through CYO (K-12). We encounter God in many ways throughout our entire lives, so having your children involved in Faith Formation is very important for all of us.

There are **some major changes** this upcoming school year for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist. With the bishop's announcement last August about restoring the reception of sacrament back to the intended order (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), the Hays parishes have decided to make this huge transition next year.

To begin, the Sacrament of Eucharist and Confirmation will now be received in the 3rd grade. So, this incoming 2nd grade class will only make their First Reconciliation next year. Then in 2027-28, they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist as 3rd graders.

Secondly, the incoming 3-8 graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. As the Catholic Schools and Hays parishes are working on preparations, all those that have already received the Sacrament of the Eucharist up to Spring 2026, will all be confirmed in Spring 2027.

Again, this year we would like to offer you the opportunity to pre-enroll for Faith Formation 2026-2027 to help all of us make the enrollment process easier, purchase workbooks, and planning for next year. **All families need to complete their Stewardship Renewal Forms before enrollment into Faith Formation is finalized.** Hence the reason to send you pre-enrollment information along with your Stewardship Renewal Forms; this will save you time by filling out both your Stewardship Renewal Forms and enrolling in Faith Formation at the same time. Enrollment for Faith Formation can be found online at ihm-church.com/spiritual/k-8th-faith-formation. If you prefer to fill out a paper form, please stop by the office to pick up an enrollment form. Once you pre-enroll, then there is no required enrollment later in August, unless you need to update information. If you are a part of the Catholic Schools, you will pre-enroll through the school and will still need to return your completed Stewardship Renewal Form to the parish office.

Your child has been blessed to have some wonderful catechists, who care for them and teach them the Catholic faith. Fortunately for our church, their children have grown up into fine young men and women, and they have stepped away from teaching. Therefore, I need some new parents who love children and are willing to teach. I know some may be thinking that you're not qualified, or you don't know much about the faith. I tell parents and other catechists; teaching is the best way for you to learn more about the faith alongside your child. Plus, you know more than you think, and since you are the first educator of your child in the faith, what better reason to know that your child is learning about the Catholic faith than from you. I have several grades needing teachers for next year. Please mark "**203 Catechist**" on your Stewardship Renewal Forms.

Classes for Faith Formation will begin on September 9, 2026.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Brown
Director of Religious Education