

# Trust in the Lord... With all Your Heart

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Dear 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families,

October 2017

Hello Again! It has been wonderful getting to know each of your children; thank you for sharing them with me on Sunday afternoons through our First Sacraments class! The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders here in the Athens Catholic Community are so much fun to work with! As you know, the theme of our classroom here at church this year is, "*Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart.*" We have done several activities that have talked about our heart and the place of Jesus inside all of us which we are building upon each week as we learn about the presence of Jesus in the Sacraments of: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion; we also talk a lot knowing, loving, and serving God as Catholic Christians.

Ask your child to discuss the hands we made the first week and the idea that even if we cannot touch Jesus with our hands here on Earth every day, he is in our heart. Also, ask your child about the hearts we made and hung off the red yarn around the Act of Contrition board hanging in our room. The yarn started out small and it got bigger and bigger and bigger which is what Jesus's love for us does when we pray every day and when we truly sorry for and confess our sins. They cut out hearts that are connected and get bigger and bigger too which we attached to the yarn. I am stressing the forgiveness we ALL receive and feel in our hearts from the Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Please start practicing every day for memory, just the first part (we are taking it slow) of the Act of Contrition alongside your child. We started it this week as written in the book for the class:

## Act of Contrition Part 1

My God, I am sorry for my sins. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things...

Nancy Denhart, Director of Religious Education set and shared important dates for our year together. I have compiled them in a table you can detach from this letter and keep in a safe place.

Please mark your calendars accordingly. I look forward to seeing you and your child as we celebrate such an important time in their lives!

What	When	Location
Parent Meeting	11/5/17 11:15- 12:30 PM	CTK Church
First Reconciliation: Family Retreat & Service	12/02/17 8:30- 10:00 AM & 10:00-11:30 AM	CTK Church
Parent Meeting	1/28/18 11:15 AM	CTK Church
First Holy Communion: Family Retreat	4/2/18 8:30-11:00 AM	St. Paul
First Holy Communion: Rehearsal	4/21/18 10:00 AM	St. Paul
First Holy Communion Day  There is a <i>very special reception</i> to follow Mass hosted by The Catholic Women's Club.	4/22/18 11:30 AM Mass  * Plan to arrive <b>20 minutes</b> before Mass*	St. Paul
May Crowning First Communicates lead the procession. The children are encouraged to wear their first communion attire.	5/6/18 Details forthcoming	TBD Details forthcoming

Last, thank you to the families who have come in to share a story as part of our class. The children have really enjoyed it, and I love for each child to have that special moment with their family. I have your selected months and will send your family home with the story to practice the week before when you pick up your child. Some of you won't read until after the Advent season, so stay tuned...

You are always welcome in our class. Please do not hesitate to get in touch. Have a wonderful week!

Most sincerely,  
Stephanie Paul