



St. James Parish Elementary School

A Neumann Leadership Academy

8306 Brookside Road

Elkins Park, PA 19027

Phone: 215-635-4673 Fax: 215-635-3521

www.stjamesparishschool.org

"Creating a Faith-filled Community through Service"

Important Notice

December 14, 2009

Dear Parents of Second Grade Students,

Attached is a letter received by Father Tom Heron from the Office for Worship of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In light of this notification, the dates for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation have been decided:

Reconciliation – Monday, March 15, 2010 – 7:00 pm

First Holy Communion – Saturday, May 8, 2010 – 5 pm

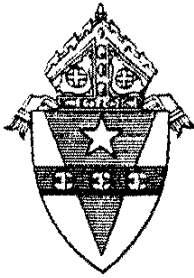
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy E. Peluso".

Nancy E. Peluso
Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanna Lane".

Jeanna Lane
CCD Principal



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Secretariat for Evangelization

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
Telephone (215) 587-3537 • Fax (215) 587-3561



OFFICE for WORSHIP

REC'd
12-8-09

December 4, 2009

Reverend J. Thomas Herron
St. James Rectory
8320 Brookside Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Dear Father,

Greetings in the Lord!

I appreciate your patience with me in responding to your very important and serious concern about the promotion of the communal celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

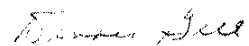
Each of the Sacraments celebrates the saving Mystery of Christ, his death and resurrection. Each of the Sacraments, in as much as they communicate this Mystery, is uniquely the action of Christ with his Church, Christ in the Priest and with the faithful. So, every celebration of the Sacraments, and especially those that introduce us and complete our membership in the Church, are by their nature communal and not personal rites. In fact, the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of the Second Vatican Council emphatically states:

Liturgical services are not private functions, but are celebrations belonging to the Church, which is the "sacrament of unity," namely, the holy people united and ordered under their bishops. Therefore liturgical services involve the whole Body of the Church; they manifest it and have effects upon it, but they also concern the individual members of the Church in different ways, according to their different orders, offices and actual participation. Whenever rites, according to their specific nature, make provisions for communal celebrations involving the presence and active participation of the faithful, it is to be stressed that this way of celebrating them is to be preferred, as far as possible, to a celebration that is individual and, so to speak, private. This applies with special force to the celebration of Mass and the administration of the sacraments, even though even Mass has of itself a public and social character (CSL, nos. 26-27).

The revised rites for Baptism and Confirmation as well as the current *Roman Missal*, in light of the directives of the Council, both in their instructions and order of celebration clearly call for and are arranged for communal sacramental celebrations. The liturgical emphasis on communal celebrations reinforces the theological dimension of the same celebration that the Mystery of Christ expresses and forms us as the Church, the one Body of Christ.

Father, I encourage you to resist a tendency that is counter indicative to sacramental celebrations and our Catholic Faith which suggests a more private and personal approach. This approach only impoverishes the richness of the ecclesial dimension of the celebration for both participants and all the members of the Church.

Sincerely in Christ the Priest,



Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Director