Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish 296 Cedar St. S. Timmins, ON P4N 3H3 705-268-3053 St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral 73 Spruce St. N. Timmins, ON P4N 6M9 705-264-0587

September 5, 2024

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

Greetings from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish. My name is Fr. John Lemire, the Pastor of both Parishes.

One of the ways our two Parishes are working together is through a shared sacramental preparation program for young people celebrating the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. All of the preparation will be done at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish Hall, but the celebration of the actual Sacrament will take place in the Parish you are registered.

This year marks a significant time in your child's religious life. Children in grade three and up are invited to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confession) this fall and the Sacrament of First Eucharist (Communion) during the Easter Season. Only children who have participated in the First Reconciliation preparation will be permitted to celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion.

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we believe that God forgives us of our sins and helps us live more and more according to His commandments and gospel values. Through the Sacrament of the Eucharist we believe that Jesus nourishes and strengthens us with His Body and Blood.

Like all of our sacramental preparation programs in the Parish, we believe that there must be a strong integrated approach. Therefore, our Parish program for preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion involves three essential components -- school, home, and parish.

To help you in the process, you and your child(ren) are invited to a Parish meeting on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish Hall (located across the street frome, and R par UR and

This meeting will be an opportunity to explain the process that you and your child(ren) will be involved in as he / she prepares for the celebration of the