

Dear parents,

I hope you had a safe and healthy summer break! We are happy to embark upon this special year with you and your family, as you grow deeper and stronger and ever more faithful in your duty and role as Catholic parents.

This year your child, with the help of our sacramental team, has the opportunity to prepare for two great sacraments; that of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. **Please remember that grade 2 is the first year but not the only year your child can receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.**

We invite your family to take a moment to review the information listed below, to help you decide if you would like to have your child receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year, and are able to wholeheartedly commit to all that it entails.

If you choose that your child receives the Sacraments, please **register** online at: www.stfrancis.ca.

We have designated two **mandatory information meetings** for all parents interested that their children receiving the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion during the 2024-2025 sacramental year. **Please ensure you have completed the online registration form before attending the information meeting. You must attend one** of these meetings. If you are unsure if this is the right year for the reception of the Sacraments, this meeting should prove useful in helping you with your decision. The meeting will provide you with detailed information regarding the sacramental program and celebration, as well as the opportunity to have answered any questions you may have. Please feel free to choose the meeting that best suits your family's schedule. All meetings will take place in the Church. The dates and times are as follows:

Thursday October 3 at 6:00 p.m.
or
Saturday October 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Please consider the following points:

- **Attending the Sunday Mass is ESSENTIAL for the sacramental preparation.**
- The child must be in Grade 2 to 6.
- **A completed online Registration, as well as a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate, is required to complete the sacramental registration process.** The copy of the Baptism certificate is to be presented at the information meeting in order to participate in the 2024-2025 sacramental preparation program. **We will not be accepting registrations after October 5, 2024.** If you have difficulty locating your child's Baptismal certificate, please contact the Church where they were Baptized to get another copy. **Please note that if your child was**

Baptized in the Catholic Church, and your family is currently practising another faith, this program is not suitable for your child at this time. If your child is in need of Baptism or being received into the Roman Catholic Church, please indicate this on the registration form.

- The cost to register for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is **\$60**, which covers the cost of the programme materials. Cash or Cheque is accepted as a form of payment. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to “St. Francis of Assisi Church”.
- Please note that our Parish policy in preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is that **all catechism classes are mandatory**. **Exceptions for sporting events or extra-curricular activities will not be considered as valid purposes for missing preparation classes. Accumulated time for being late or logging off early is not encouraged. It will be left up to the families to determine in good conscience which activity is more important to them.**

God bless you and we look forward to sharing this special time of preparation with you. See you at the meeting!

Sincerely,
Rev. Massimo Buttigieg
Pastor