

First Holy
Communion
2019



St. Paul the Apostle Church

190 King St. South, P.O. Box 789
Alliston ON L9R 1V9
Tel: 705-435-6325 Fax: 705-435-6859
Email: father.glass@gmail.com

**FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADE 2 IN SEPTEMBER 2018
DATES FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

Registration Meeting for Parents at St. Paul the Apostle Church

Parents only: Friday, 21 September, 7:00 p.m.

Teaching Sessions for Children and Parents: 6:00 pm (ends by 7:00 pm)

Children lesson in Church Hall; Parents video series in Church

Lesson	Group A Wednesday	Group B Friday
1	Oct. 10	Oct. 12
2	Oct. 24	Oct. 26
3	Nov. 7	Nov. 9
4	Nov. 21	Nov. 23
Christmas Break		
5	Jan. 9	Jan. 11
First Confession: Jan. 16 (subject to change)		
6	Feb. 6	Feb. 8
7	Feb. 20	Feb. 22
March Break		
8	Mar. 20	Mar. 22
9	Apr. 3	Apr. 5

Group A: Children born in the months January thru June.

Group B: Children born in the months July thru December.

First Holy Communion Masses (by sign-up; max. 40 children per Mass)

Mass 1: Sunday, 28 April, 1:00 p.m.

Mass 2: Sunday, 5 May, 1:00 p.m.

Preparation for the Sacrament

This year we are again blessed to have Mrs. Claudette Morrison as our Parish Sacramental Coordinator for First Holy Communion. Mrs. Morrison and her group of volunteers will prepare the children for the Sacrament. The religious education curriculum in our Catholic schools assumes that this preparation will be done in the parish rather than in the classroom.

What is First Holy Communion?

In Holy Communion we receive the Body of Christ. Holy Communion is not merely a symbol of Christ; it is Christ himself, "body and blood, soul and divinity." The appropriate age for receiving Holy Communion for the first time is the age when a child can understand the difference between receiving ordinary bread and receiving the Body of Christ. For most children this is when they are in Grade Two.

What is First Confession (Reconciliation)?

The teaching of the Church has not changed regarding the necessity of the Sacrament of Confession for all Catholics. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "Anyone who is aware of having committed a mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion, even if he experiences deep contrition, without having first received sacramental absolution... Children must go to the Sacrament of Confession before receiving Holy Communion for the first time."

What is the role of parents?

Parents have an obligation to raise their children in the Catholic faith. As the principal educators of their children, parents are expected to take the lead in preparing their children for the Sacraments. The Parish and the Catholic School help the parents fulfill this obligation. The Sacraments are not a service that the Church provides, but events in the life of the Church in which the children, their families and the whole Parish, as a community of faith, all participate.

Do we need to go to Mass?

Participation at Sunday Mass is a requirement for all Catholics. We are bound to keep the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." The manner of keeping this day is given to us in Jesus' words at the Last Supper: "Do this in memory of me." The Sunday Eucharist is what builds up our faith and sustains it through the rest of the week.

Video Presentations and Workbooks

For the parents, we are presenting a new video series produced by St. Augustine Institute. The video series for First Confession is called "Forgiven" and consists of five episodes; the video series for First Communion is called "Presence" and consists of four episodes. Each episode runs approximately 40 minutes. Parents will also guide their children in home study using the workbook which will be provided.

First Communion Mass

Parents will be asked to sign up for one of the two First Communion Masses. The capacity of the Church is limited, so the maximum number of guests per family must also be strictly limited. For safety reasons, once the Church is full we cannot admit more people into the Church.

Costs

The costs associated with the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion is \$50. We thank our many faithful parishioners who through their weekly offerings sustain the Parish and its sacramental ministry.

In Christ,
Fr. Glass