



**Our Lady Of
The Assumption Church**
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St. BERNARD'S PARISH

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October 4, 2019

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Parents:

I am writing to you as pastor of St Bernard's and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish to share good news for your child and family. It is time again this year (very soon!) to begin preparation for your child's reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Your child in Grade 2 at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Elementary School is a welcome candidate for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Two years ago, our local bishop, Bishop William McGrattan, decreed that children are now to be prepared for and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist. Therefore, as second grade is the typical time to receive First Holy Communion, they will be part of preparation for both sacraments in a single year. Children in older grades who have not celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation are also welcome to be part of these preparation sessions.

A Sacramental Preparation Program has been designed and implemented in the whole diocese so that each Catholic parish in the city will host the same program. This initiative is designed to assist you as parents, supported by the school and this parish community, in nurturing the faith of your child as you prepare them for receiving the sacraments.

There will be a Parent Information Session to further explain the Preparation Program and how you can continue to support your child's faith development. **This Information Session is meant (as best as possible) for parents alone; it will be held on Sunday October 20 at 3:30 pm at Our Lady of the Assumption Church (7624 39 Ave. NW).**

There will be 4 sessions for each sacrament, plus a retreat for each, making 5 events before the celebration of each sacrament. Each session will run ninety minutes in length. Each event will be for both your child and you as parents. There will be some shared time to start each session, and then individual groups where children and adults will do separate activities.

The Sacramental Preparation Program is required for your child to understand the significance of the sacraments and to receive these sacraments this year.

Dates for these sessions can be found in the chart below to support your family's schedule planning. As a reminder, all preparation sessions will take place at Our Lady of the Assumption Church (7624 39 Ave. NW).



SESSION	PARISH DATE
Parent Information Session	October 20, 2019 at 3:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 1	October 27, 2019 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 2	November 17, 2019 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 3	December 8, 2019 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 4	January 19, 2020 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Retreat	January 26, 2020 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Celebration of First Reconciliation	January 31, 2020 – 6:30 pm (Friday)
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 1	February 9, 2020 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 2	March 15, 2020 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 3	March 29, 2020 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 4	May 3, 2020 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Retreat	May 24, 2020 – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Celebration / Reception of First Eucharist	May 30, 2020 – 10:00 am (Saturday)

There is a fee of \$25 for each Sacramental Preparation Program totaling \$50 over the year to help offset the cost of the materials.¹ Your child will receive two books, *Celebrate and Remember Reconciliation* and *Celebrate and Remember Eucharist*. Kindly email a completed copy of the registration form to the parish office, at office@stbernardsparish.ca, or feel free to bring the completed registration form with you to the Information Session. Please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, along with your registration fee, to the parish for the Parent Information Session. **If you did not receive enough notice ahead, don't worry – come anyway and register at the Information Session.**

As Pastor, it is my responsibility to make sure that, as best as possible, requirements are completed and that your child is truly prepared for the celebration of these sacraments before receiving them. **If your child has not been baptized yet, please feel welcome to contact me at your earliest convenience.**

The parish community is looking forward to continuing to support your child and your family in the life of faith that we share. Let us together give these young people an experience of the gifts God has prepared for them through the sacraments.

I take this opportunity to assure you of my prayers and a very warm welcome at St. Bernard's and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Emmelkamp
Pastor

¹ If there is a concern about this expense, please do not let it stop you. Phone Fr. Matthew and continue your registration.