



Our Lady Of
The Assumption Church
7624 – 39 Avenue NW.
T3B 1X3

Calgary, Alberta
Ph. (403) 283 3746
www.stbernardsparish.ca

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St. BERNARD'S PARISH

SAINT
BERNARD'S CHURCH
711 – 37 Street NW.
T2N 3B9

Calgary, Alberta
Fax (403) 283 3481
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“To Serve and Love God’s Church and His Holy People with Compassion, Joy and Truth”

October 6, 2020

*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 to begin a new year of preparation for your child's reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

We welcome your child in Grade 2 to join us in preparing them to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. In 2017 Bishop William McGrattan decided that the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) would precede the celebration of First Holy Communion. Since then, children in second grade (typically) are being prepared to receive both sacraments in a single year.

Our parish has run this new sacramental preparation program for 2 years, and because of the significant challenges that 2020 has brought us, this year’s program will see some adjustments to suit current needs and protocols. We are committed to supporting you, through guidance and instruction, in nurturing the faith of your child as you take the lead in preparing your child (children) to receive their sacraments.

There will be a Parent Information Session to further explain the Preparation Program to help anticipate the schedule and expectations of this year’s program of preparation. This Information Session is meant (as best as possible) for parents alone; it will be **held on Sunday, October 18, at 3:00 pm at Our Lady of the Assumption Church (7624 39 Ave. NW).**

There will be 4 sessions for each sacrament, 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, to participate in together. Full participation in this Sacramental Preparation Program is required for your child to understand the significance of the sacraments and to receive these sacraments confidently and well in the coming 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).





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SESSION	PARISH DATE
Parent Information Session	October 18, 2020 at 3:00 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 1	October 25, 2020 - 3:00- 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 2	November 22, 2020 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 3	December 13, 2020 - 3:00- 4:30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 4	January 17, 2021 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Retreat Celebration of First Reconciliation	* more detail to follow
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 1	February 7, 2021 - 3:00- 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 2	March 14, 2021 - 3:00- 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 3	April 18, 2021 - 3:00- 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 4	May 16, 2021 - 3:00- 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Retreat Celebration / Reception of First Eucharist	* more detail to follow May 29, 2021 - 11:00 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*. You should find an attached PDF registration form, that can be filled out in the computer, or you can find the form on our parish website (www.stbernardsparish.ca). 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 of our parish, I look forward to supporting your family in preparing for the sacraments, and to help experience God's grace and blessing through encounters with Jesus Christ. Also, it is a great joy and a sign of hope for the whole parish community to support your family and encourage you in our shared life of faith. 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 Parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Emmelkamp
Pastor

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