



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

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“To Serve and Love God’s Church and His Holy People with Compassion, Joy and Truth”

October 27, 2021

*SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION
FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION*

Dear Parents:

I am writing to you as the Pastor of St Bernard's Parish to share good and important news for your family. It is time to begin a new year of sacramental preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

We welcome your child in Grade 2 or 3, to join us in a program of preparation to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. For your knowledge, it was in 2017 that Bishop William McGrattan decided that both sacraments are to be received as a pair in the same year, with Reconciliation first, leading as preparation into First Holy Communion.

Our parish has run this revised sacramental preparation program for the past 3 years. In spite of the significant challenges that 2020/21, we are committed to supporting your children in their preparation as best as possible. At this stage in the year, we have the ability (given sufficient space) to meet in person for our sessions, and plan to do so. Rather than independent sessions for parents and children, we will conduct in-person shared sessions where parents and children will participate together, spaced appropriately about the worship space of the church. This was a technique we began using in the fall of 2020 to great effect until the protocols changed, discontinuing in-person meetings.

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, November 14, at 3:00 pm at Our Lady of the Assumption Church (7624 39 Ave. NW).**

There will be 4 teaching sessions for each sacrament, making 8 in total throughout the coming year, plus up to 2 special events, and the celebration of the sacraments themselves. Each session will be held on Sunday afternoons from 3-4:30 pm (with a short break midway). 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 receive all they can in preparation, and to be able 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)**. There is a fee of \$25 for the materials of each sacrament, totaling \$50 for the full year's formation, and this simply for the cost of the materials.

Your child will receive two books—one for each sacrament. You should find a registration form included with this letter, 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 (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.

SESSION	DATE / TIME
Parent Information Session	November 14, 2021 at 3:00 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 1	November 21, 2021 - 3:00- 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 2	December 12, 2021 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 3	January 9, 2022 - 3:00- 4:30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 4	January 30, 2022 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation RETREAT	* more detail to follow
Celebration of First Reconciliation	
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 1	February 27, 2022 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 2	March 27, 2022 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 3	May 1, 2022 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist Session 4	May 29, 2022 - 3:00-4:30 pm
Sacrament of Eucharist RETREAT	June 5, 2022 * more detail to follow
Celebration of the Sacrament of First Eucharist	June 11/12 at special Masses for your families

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. 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
St. Bernard's Parish