

St. Ann's Parish, Ancaster

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians of our Grade One Students:

During their grade two school year your children will have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist for the first time. While both the parish and the school will take an active role in the sacramental preparation, the main preparation for reception of the sacraments rests with you as parents. By good example, active interest in your child's faith life, and praying and worshipping together, you help your child to experience God at this special time. In this letter please find all of the dates for the sacraments during the 2016-2017 school year. You will also find some important information for you and your family.

Catholic Baptism

In order to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church it is necessary to have been baptized in the Catholic Church, or to have been received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Any of our non-Catholic students will take part in all of the preparation done during school time, and are welcome to take part in the celebrations of the sacraments. They would ask for the Priest's blessing at the actual time of Holy Communion.

If you would like your child to receive Holy Communion, and he/she is not already a baptized Catholic, please call me at the Parish Office immediately to arrange for baptism before the new school year begins. Please note that in order to baptize a child in the Catholic Church, or receive a child into the Catholic Church at least one parent must be a Roman Catholic.

Eastern Rite Catholics and Orthodox Students

Children baptized into the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church, and the Orthodox Churches ordinarily receive Eucharist for the first time at Baptism. They will take part in all of the school preparation, and are most welcome to take part in all the celebrations of the sacraments, it is just important for you parents to know that the First Communion celebration in 2017, will not actually be the first time that they will have received the Eucharist.

Registration Form and Baptismal Certificate

Early in the school year you will receive the Reconciliation-First Eucharist Registration Form from your child's teacher. *Please bring this form, fully completed, to the Grade Two Parent Meeting.* It is important to note that no-one will be admitted as a candidate for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist until this form has been returned fully completed, with a photo-copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate, unless your child was baptized at St. Ann's, Ancaster. Forms with incomplete information will be returned to you.

Children from other Parishes

We know that there are children in our schools who belong to parishes other than St. Ann's. Your child is welcome to receive First Holy Communion here at St. Ann's or you may choose to have your child receive this sacrament in your own parish. If you are from another parish please have a conversation with your own parish priest as soon as possible.

Family Resources for Parents of children not in our Parish schools

You have a part to play at home, and can enhance the good teaching done during the catechism sessions that your child will be attending two Family Resources. The Reconciliation Booklet and Eucharist Booklet each present several themes to help families deepen their knowledge of these sacraments. Parents and children can grow in faith together. Books will be available at the Parent Meeting in the Fall. The books are sold as a set for \$20.00. These books will be the text and main resource for the children in our Parish Catechism Class.

Please mark your calendars with the following important dates

Parent Meetings

St. Ann's & St. Joachim's	Wednesday, October 19	7:00pm
Immaculate Conception & Holy Name	Thursday, October 20	7:30pm
Private, Public and Home Schools	Tuesday, October 11	7:30pm

These meetings are mandatory, and are the only venue at which all of the information for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist will be disseminated. Further information from the parish will not be sent home through the schools. If you are unable to attend your scheduled time, please arrange with your child's grade two teacher to attend another meeting. At least one parent or guardian of every candidate must be in attendance. All meetings take place at St. Ann's Church. Parents of children who will be attending the Parish catechism Class please bring \$20.00 cash, or a cheque made out to St. Ann's Parish for the Reconciliation and Eucharist Books.

Celebration of First Reconciliation

St. Ann's & St. Joachim's	Tuesday, February 21	7:00pm
Immaculate Conception & Catechism Class	Wednesday, February 22	7:00pm
Holy Name of Mary	Thursday, February 23	7:00pm

All celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place in St. Ann's Church.

First Communion Retreat and Church Tour

This year we will have a retreat day for First Communion classes in the Parish Hall. Children should arrive by 10:00am, and leave by 2:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

St. Ann's	Tuesday, April 4
St. Joachim's	Wednesday, April 5
Immaculate Conception & Catechism Class	Thursday, April 6
Holy Name of Mary	Friday, April 7

Celebration of First Holy Communion

St. Ann's	Saturday, April 29	2:00pm
Immaculate Conception	Saturday, April 29	10:30am
Holy Name of Mary	Saturday, April 22	2:00pm
St. Joachim's	Saturday, April 22	10:30am
Parish Catechism Class	Sunday, April 30	12:00pm

All celebrations of First Holy Communion will take place in St. Ann's Church.

Children are asked to be in the Parish Hall forty-five minutes prior to the First Communion Mass.

This is a precious time in your child's young faith life and we wish you all of God's blessings as you prepare for these sacraments as a family. Once again, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or another member of the parish team or your child's teacher. We pray that your child's experience of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist will be a time of blessing for your entire family.

I am faithfully yours in Christ:

The Very Reverend Ian R. Duffy, VF, PP,