

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - FORMING FAITHFUL DISCIPLES

Dear parents and guardians of our 2019/2020 First Reconciliation & First Communion candidates,

INVOLVING PARENTS MORE & SHARING OUR FAITH EXPERIENCE – A GREAT GIFT FOR ALL!!

I am writing this letter to you as the school year comes to a close, letting you know that we as a parish family are getting ready for sacramental preparation now. Two years ago, we made a major shift in our sacramental preparation and it has been truly a great gift for everyone involved. This year will be even better!! Here are some things you need to know:

1. All ministries and programs, especially sacramental preparation, will focus on **forming disciples** who will follow Christ every day **reaching out to all**.
2. All our sacramental preparation programs will use a small faith sharing group model that encourages everyone to share their experience of faith together, supporting one another.
3. Since the primary faith educators of children are their parents, we as a parish, support parents in forming these young disciples. **This will require the attendance and participation of at least one of the candidate's parents or grandparents at each of the preparation sessions.**
4. The three basic foundations of sacramental preparation will focus on **sharing one's own faith experience** (seeing how faith connects with real life), building a greater sense of **community** and **catechesis** (understanding the teachings of faith).



This is definitely a change from past years, but it is one that we hope will have a strong, positive impact on candidates, families and the parish. We are taking a more intentional approach supporting not only the candidate, but parents, grandparents and family members together and hoping to further integrate everyone into the life of Christ through the parish.

I know that change can cause some frustration and difficulty, but we all realize that there needs to be a better and more impactful way to prepare our candidates and their families for the sacraments. With the change in focus and method, we are also changing the schedule. The last two years have gone very well, and I have learned a lot to make this third year even better.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

I understand the busy lives families lead today. I really think that they are too busy!!! Children are involved in so many amazing programs, sports and activities. We at the parish want to be as flexible as possible making things manageable for families that are constantly on the go. With this in mind, we are offering First Reconciliation & First Communion preparation twice in the upcoming year. Families will be able to choose the cycle that best meets their schedule. This change will also mean the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments throughout the year when the candidates are ready and when families can truly rejoice together.

The two cycles of preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion will take place Saturday nights prior to the 5:00 PM Mass (4:10 to 4:50 pm) and in between the 9 and 11 AM Masses on Sundays (10:10 to 10:50 am). Each sacrament will have 3 weekends of mandatory preparation. Families will be able to choose from the Saturday night or Sunday morning gatherings each of those weekends. With this schedule, families will be able to attend Mass together as part of the preparation for the sacrament. There will also be one MAKE-UP Saturday morning for each round just in case to once again be as flexible and adaptable to the needs and schedules of busy families.

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING

(for parents only – we will also offer babysitting for the meetings)

(parents only need to attend ONE of the Parent Information Meetings)

Tuesday September 17, 2019 – 7:00 PM **OR** Saturday September 28, 2019 – 10:00 AM

CYCLE A

First Reconciliation Preparation:

ROUND #1

Meeting #1: October 5/6, 2019

Meeting #2: October 19/20, 2019

Meeting #3: October 26/27, 2019

Make Up Morning – Saturday November 9, 2019

First Communion Preparation:

ROUND #1

Meeting #1: November 9/10, 2019

Meeting #2: November 16/17, 2019

Meeting #3: November 23/24, 2019

Make Up Morning – Saturday November 30, 2019

CYCLE B

First Reconciliation Preparation:

ROUND #2

Meeting #1: January 11/12, 2020

Meeting #2: January 18/19, 2019

Meeting #3: January 25/26, 2019

Make Up Morning – Saturday February 1, 2020

First Communion Preparation:

ROUND #2

Meeting #1: February 1/2, 2020

Meeting #2: February 8/9, 2020

Meeting #3: February 22/23, 2020

Make Up Morning – Saturday March 7, 2020



(once a candidate completes preparation, they can schedule the celebration of the sacrament at a convenient time that will work for them and their family. Registration to celebrate will be via the website)

*****For more information please check out the parish website.**

You will see a link on the front page or look under the SACRAMENTS tab.***

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION?

Step #1 – Go to the parish website at www.stgeorgelondon.ca and look for the FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST COMMUNION REGISTRATION quick link icon or go to the SACRAMENTS tab.

Step #2 – Fill out the online registration form by answering all the questions and all the contact information required. You will be asked which cycles of preparation for each sacrament you will attend. You can prepare in whichever order is easier for you and your family.

Step #3 - We ask for a donation of \$25 to help with materials and other communication expenses.

- You can pay via the PAYPAL link at the end of the online form (via Paypal account or credit card)
- in person at the parish office via our Square kiosk/cash/cheque anytime
- at the one of the Parent Information Sessions in September 2019

Step #4 – You will receive a confirmation email to let you know that your child has been registered. Further information will be sent to you in preparation for the parent meeting and the sessions in the fall.

**REGISTRATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION IS NOW
LIVE ONLINE AT THE PARISH WEBSITE. (www.stgeorgelondon.ca)**

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at the parish office. We are all here to help!!

Fr. John Jasica - Pastor