

First Reconciliation and First Communion Information 2023 - 2024

Revised October 2023

Dear Parents,

It is a joy for St. Anthony's Parish to be part of your child's sacramental preparation.

We will be using the "Received your Journey to First Reconciliation and Received your Journey to First Communion" program from Ascension Press Catholic. We will journey together with an open heart, encounter God's love in the Eucharist, and experience a joyful witness to His mercy. We hope that your children grow in their love for God and his church and discover the "genius of Catholicism and become inspired to become life-long Catholics."

A good start is to read bible stories to your child. Say simple prayers often so the children will learn that they can speak to God anytime and that He is loving and approachable. Bringing children to Sunday mass helps the children to feel a part of our Faith Community.

We are optimistic that this program will help bring the faith to life for your child and that your family will grow in love for and knowledge of their Catholic Faith. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's sacramental journey. ☺

Sincerely,

Gigi Hernandez

During First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion class the children are learning more about their Catholic Faith with the end result being that after receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion they will more actively participate in the mass and live their Catholic Faith more fully.

PLEASE NOTE:

Classes will be held Wednesday afternoon, there will be Thursday only if students numbers warrant . Please indicate on the application which day. Note Minimum class 15, maximum 25.

Most classes will be held in the Church Hall (occasionally in the church sanctuary). Snacks and Only water allowed in the hall – please clean up after yourself – only water allowed in the church sanctuary.

PLEASE ARRIVE at least 10 min early for class. And please ensure you can stay the whole length of the class

***PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE – Being late disrupts the class and continuously being late tells your child that you yourself do not value the classes.**

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To ensure that I get your email correct

PLEASE EMAIL GIGI at gigi.hernando@caedm.ca with your name and your child's name

Parent's Responsibilities

- *Take your child weekly to Sunday mass. ***
- Have a good attitude
- Turn off cell phone and put it away
- Be early for class
- **Have a parent of the child at each class ******
- Encourage your child, talk about the lessons
- Help your child learn their prayers
- Have your child(ren) see you go to reconciliation
- Help your child clean up your spot.
- Bring your child to activities at the church eg: Parish mission etc.
- Pray for your child and all the children
- Make sure your child has all their supplies. We arrange the books and a bag. You bring a pencil/eraser
- Check out the program at <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/sacramental-preparation> watch the videos
- **Go to the St. Anthony's Lloydminster Facebook page request to join the 2023 - 2024 First Reconciliation First Holy Communion Group. Information will be posted there.**
- **Sign up for [formed.org](https://www.formed.org) and watch programs as a family and also watch adult programs to help grow your faith.**

Student's responsibilities

- *Attend mass at least once a week
- Have a positive attitude - be ready to listen and to share
- Learn your prayers
- Be at each class and be on time (a little early is best)
- Do your homework
- Do not miss more than 1 class
- Attend activities at the church eg: Parish mission etc.

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PLEASE NOTE:

***PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE** – Being late disrupts the class and continuously being late tells your child that you yourself do not value the classes.

THE FIRST RECONCILIATION TIMES/DATES may change depending on numbers.

All children to receive First Reconciliation before they receive First Holy Communion.

You will sign up for a time slot. We will be asking other priests to help out.

A QUESTION HAS BEEN ASKED; Why do you often mention and encourage families to join in all the activities here at the church? - The answer is that the children are receiving the Body of Christ and will become the Body of Christ - What better way to nourish that body than at Sunday Mass and activities here at the church. The more one feels as if they belong the more you want to return. I would also encourage you to stay after Sunday mass for coffee and juice. Better yet be one of the families that greets and/or serves coffee and juice.

Tips to help you prepare your children for these sacraments:

- Pray often as a family. Morning, evening and meal prayers can become wonderful family traditions, and really help your child to become familiar with common Catholic prayers.
- Attending regular mass, helps your child feel comfortable in the church, builds bonds and friendships in our faith community, and is necessary in spiritual growth. Even if it doesn't seem that they are "getting anything out of it".
- Read your children bible stories at their level.
- Receive the sacrament of reconciliation yourself. Your actions are your greatest witness.
- Learn yourself, or refresh your memory about what the church teaches about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Have easy access to and read often from the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Insert a little bit of daily "faith sharing" into the life of your family, sharing your own experiences with your children can be a great way for them to learn
- Attend the classes with your child. Ask questions and find opportunities in everyday life to discuss what you've learned that week and work it into real life.
- You as parents read good Catholic Books, watch Movies, or listen to CD's that challenge you to live your Catholic faith more fully.
- Participate fully in the mass. Learn the responses, sing the songs, listen to the readings, homily and discuss it with your child.

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Parents need to be able to answer yes to all questions before they bring their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (Know by Easter)

- Do I bring my child weekly to Sunday mass?
- Does my child know how to make the sign of the cross (using right hand) and know how to genuflect (go down on right knee)?
- Can my child sit quietly, pay attention and show reverence during mass?
- Does my child understand what a sin is?
- Does my child understand how to go to Reconciliation?
- Does my child understand that by receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation sins are forgiven?
- Does my child understand that during mass bread and wine are changed into Jesus' body and blood? Does he/she know when this happens?
- Does my child understand that when we receive Holy Communion we receive Jesus?
- Does my child understand 'how' to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?
- Does my child understand that we all need to confess mortal sins before receiving Holy Communion?
- Does my child know the prayers from the prayer book?
- Could my child sit quietly while waiting in line for reconciliation?
- Has my child attended a minimum of 11/12 classes and have they (maybe with parents help) completed the homework?

*****Bring completed Application form along with a copy of the child's baptism certificate and the payment to the registration. September 9,10 and 17, 2023 - after masses***

FEEES

- \$50.00 if paid September 9,10 or 17, 2023

- \$65.00 after this date

© PLEASE NOTE children are not considered registered till the application form, Baptism certificate and payment are received.

NO DATES have been planned for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2024.

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Tentative Schedule		Green Group Wednesday 5:00 pm	Blue Group Wednesday 5:00 pm	Date (if numbers warrant) Thursday 5:00 pm
Session #	Lessons	ARRIVE BY: 4:45	ARRIVE BY: 4:45 pm	ARRIVE BY: 4:45
1	R – 1	Wednesday, September 27, 2023	Wednesday, October 4, 2023	Thursday, January 11, 2024
2	R – 2	Wednesday, October 11, 2023	Wednesday, November 1, 2023	Thursday, January 18, 2024
3	R – 3	Wednesday, November 8, 2023	Wednesday, November 22, 2023	Thursday, January 25, 2024
4	R – 4	Wednesday, November 29, 2023	Wednesday, November 29, 2023	Thursday, February 1, 2024
5	R – 5	Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Thursday, February 8, 2024
6	R – 6	Wednesday, December 20, 2023	Wednesday, December 20, 2023	Thursday, February 15, 2024
7	E – 1	Wednesday, January 10, 2024	Wednesday, January 20, 2024	Thursday, February 29, 2024
8	E – 2	Wednesday, January 17, 2024	Wednesday, January 24, 2024	Thursday, March 7, 2024
9	E-3	Wednesday, February 28, 2024	Wednesday, February 28, 2024	Thursday, March 14, 2024
10	E-4	Wednesday, March 6, 2024	Wednesday, March 13, 2024	Thursday, April 11, 2024
11	E-5	Wednesday, April 10, 2024	Wednesday, April 17, 2024	Thursday, April 18, 2024
12	E-6	Wednesday, April 24, 2024	Wednesday, April 24, 2024	Thursday, April 25, 2024

If First Holy Communion Arrive Buy. TBD	Review class is Please arrive a few minutes before.	First Reconciliation is You will book a time for your child. Please arrive 15 minutes before your time to prepare
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