
Dear Parents/Guardians

We are happy to offer First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation at St. John's Parish once again for the Fall 2023 through to Spring 2024 on Sundays beginning 10 am to 11 am on October 15th.

PLACE OF THE SACRAMENT

Sacraments are essentially celebrations of a parish, not academic programs. It is important that your parish connection be established at this time. Catholic school catchment areas and parish boundaries are different.

Attendance at a particular school does not determine the location of sacramental preparation. The parish connection is so important that if you live within the boundaries of one of the neighbouring parishes of St. John's (such as **Corpus Christi, St. Dunstan's, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Brigid's**), it is very important that you contact the parish to begin your sacramental preparation registration.

This emphasis on parish celebration has been promoted in the Archdiocese of Toronto for some years, but we realize that change can be difficult. Perhaps your child made his or her First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St. John's, but as time goes on, the connection with the parish where you worship and live needs to be emphasized more and more, as we promote the celebration of the sacraments as an essential part of parish life. The sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is most fittingly celebrated in the church community you are associated with by residence and attendance.

DATES OF PREPARATION

This program will run Sunday mornings with our First Holy Communion Coordinator Iris Savage, along with her catechist partner Carolyn Chesley-Jewell. This schedule runs for 14 Weeks of classes with in person catechism program developed by Formed.org called Signs of Grace "You Are Forgiven" and "You Are Loved". These student workbooks will be provided to you so that Students can read and write in their own books.

- Students will be receiving their Sacrament of Reconciliation on either Tuesday, November 28th or Saturday, December 2nd, at St. John's Church. A sign up for either day will be provided closer to the date.
- Your child's First Holy Communion will be celebrated at your regular Sunday Mass time (Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 9 am or 11 am on successive weekends of the Easter Season (dates to be announced)

REGISTRATION:

- Registration for St. John's Parish Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is open to Registered Members of St. John's Parish living within parish boundaries. If you are not aware if you live within the parish boundaries please refer to our parish boundaries on this link

<https://stjohnsto.archtoronto.org/encontact-us/parish-information/>. If your address is outside the parish boundaries, please contact your parish of residence for information on their First Holy Communion program.

- Families who live outside the boundaries but are registered members of the parish and attending Sunday Mass on a regular basis will be eligible.
- Unfortunately other exceptions may not be permitted due to the anticipated high enrolment numbers.
- Registration is only open to Children who are Baptized Roman Catholic.
- If your child is not baptized and attending a Catholic school or public school, or lives within the parish boundaries and wishes to receive the Sacraments, they will require a Catholic baptism to attend this program.

Parents/Guardian will be required to contact the parish office at stjohnstosacraments@archtoronto.org to begin the registration process.

- Parents/Guardians will receive a confirmation email, which will include:
- The Registration Form for First Holy Communion
- Schedule of in person classes and special dates
- List of requirements

To begin the process please email us at stjohnstosacraments@archtoronto.org.

Yours in Christ

Fr. John- Mark Missio
Pastor