

## St. Aidan's Roman Catholic Church

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November 5, 2020

Dear Parents of Children in Grade 2 (and possibly Grade 3),

Regarding your Child's First Reconciliation and First Communion:

Most children receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time in Grade 2. Due to the pandemic situation we cannot hold sacramental preparation classes at the church as we have done in previous years. This school year (2020/2021) the parents will have to be more involved in preparing their children to receive the sacraments.

You will need to register your child with St. Aidan's Church for the sacramental preparation program. We will make available the books you will need to use. There will be a cost of \$30 for the student guide books for First Reconciliation (and later another \$30 for their First Holy Communion books). If any family is having financial difficulties, please inform us of your situation.

There are 8 lessons in preparation for your child's first Reconciliation. Each lesson should take about an hour to an hour and a half to complete. We suggest you schedule time for this every Sunday or some other day of the week, which you should stick to faithfully. Once you feel your child is ready to make his or her first Reconciliation, you will need to schedule an appointment with Fr. Steven, and your child can do his or her individual confession. At that time, you will be able to purchase the books for First Holy Communion and begin preparation for that. Preparation for First Holy Communion is also 8 lessons, each lesson taking about an hour to an hour and a half.

How much progress a child can make, or how much they can learn depends on many factors. Some children may need to repeat lessons if they do not grasp the concepts. It will be up to the parents to work on this with their children. We suggest you aim to have your child ready for first Reconciliation no later than January 31, 2021 (which is 12 weeks from today).

Preparing your child for First Holy Communion may require a bit more work since the concepts may be a bit more confusing for your children. You should aim to have your child ready for their First Holy Communion sometime in May. Once again you will need to make an appointment with Fr. Steven. I will determine whether your child is sufficiently prepared or not, and then we can schedule a day for your child to make his or first Holy Communion. Instead of having one First Holy Communion Mass for all the children at once, the children will make their First Holy Communions individually at one of the Sunday Masses. This is on account of the Corona Virus precautions. If the situation improves by next May, we may consider having one Mass for all the First Holy Communion children together.

Please be sure to pray regularly with your child and to teach them the importance of daily prayer.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Steven Szakaczki