



St. Mary of the Visitation Parish

16 Cooper Street, Cambridge, ON, N3C 2N2

519-658-4443 www.stmaryhospeler.ca

September 11, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the Parish Community of St. Mary of the Visitation, it is my pleasure to invite you and your child to celebrate the Sacrament of First Holy Communion during this fall season. This letter is to all parents of children who have already prepared for the Sacrament in the 2019-2020 school year.

It was unfortunate that the children could not celebrate their First Holy Communion last May. I am sure this was a disappointment for the parents as well as the children. Due to limited seating and an increased number of parishioners attending weekend Masses, we will not have room in the church to safely accommodate both our parishioners and our First Communicant's families at a Sunday Mass. Therefore, children are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of First Holy Communion with their families at one of the following special Masses:

- **Saturday, September 26 at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Friday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 3 at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Friday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Friday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m.**

Beginning Monday, September 14th, please go to our parish website, www.stmaryhospeler.ca and sign up to reserve a place at one of these Masses. **There is a maximum of 16 families per Mass.** Once your date has been selected, please wait for an email confirmation from the parish before proceeding with your plans.

Due to the pandemic, new directives regarding the celebration of First Communion have been passed on the from our Chancery. **Please carefully review these directives.**

Reserved and Limited Seating

First Holy Communion is often a time for relatives to come and celebrate with their family. Unfortunately, we can only accommodate a limited number of relatives due to government restrictions. Our seating in the church is extremely limited with 2/3 of our seating closed. **Each family will be assigned one pew.** Each pew holds 2 adults and 3 children. We have 16 pews available in the main church which will be reserved for parents and siblings of children making their First Holy Communion. There will be a few smaller pews on the sides that can be used for larger families. Limited seating is also available in the narthex and parish centre for Grandparents, Godparents, etc. Please limit your extended family members to 4 people.

Children's Participation in the Mass:

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, there will be no participation by the children in activities such as reading, presenting the gifts or singing a prepared hymn.

Marking the Occasion:

No gathering may occur in the church before or after the Mass. This includes taking photographs or bringing items into the church such as flowers or gifts. Photos may be taken outside the church or at home.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. I look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the parish office at 519-658-4443.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Robert Love

Pastor