

## **2021 FIRST RECONCILIATION/ FIRST COMMUNION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

*February 15, 2021*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Greetings from the St. Bernard Parish Sacramental team. This letter is to inform you about the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion which will be held in St. Bernard Parish in 2021. As some of you may know, the Grade 2 kids generally receive their Sacraments in the spring, however because of the lockdown, last year's ceremony (2020) was rescheduled for this past November.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and safety requirements, we do not have a date or season when your child will be able to receive their sacraments in 2021. However, we do ask that if you want your child to receive Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, please fill out the registration form so that we have all of your contact information.

We normally hold an information meeting for all parents to discuss these sacraments, however because of the restrictions on the number of attendees at meetings, all information will have to be sent out via the schools or by email.

As Catholics, we know that the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith: it is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Pope Francis has called it the "Sacrament of Love": The Eucharist is at the heart of "Christian initiation", together with Baptism and Confirmation, and it constitutes the source of the Church's life itself. From this Sacrament of love, in fact, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness."

For children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion, this is a big deal. And for all of us, no matter how many times we have received Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, it should always be a big deal. What makes it so special the first time is the same thing that makes it special every time! Jesus comes to us in a unique way in the Eucharist. When He comes, we receive Him into our body and our soul. This is very beautiful, personal, and intimate. We should not take it for granted! This is why the first time a family member makes their Holy Communion; it is an exciting event for the whole family. The boy or girl preparing for this sacrament is going to be profoundly united with Jesus in a way that they never have before!

### **REGISTRATION:**

Your child must be registered in order to make his or her sacraments in 2021. Registration is done by completing the First Communion Registration Form which is attached to this letter. All information must be filled in and photocopies of your child's Certificate of Baptism must be attached to the registration form and returned to your child's teacher or the parish office by **March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

**FEE:** A **\$25.00** fee will be charged to cover these sacraments. To help you prepare your child a copy of, "We Share the Eucharist", an age-appropriate workbook will be provided.

**BAPTISM:**

If your child has not been baptised but you would like him/her to receive these sacraments in 2021, we want to advise you that baptisms are generally held the last Sunday of every month, with the exception of during the Lenten season. To register your child for Baptism, please call the parish office, 613-738-1943.

All information regarding the sacraments can be found at [www.saintbernardparish.com](http://www.saintbernardparish.com) Finally, we would like to welcome you to St. Bernard Parish and we look forward to a great Sacramental Celebration. God bless you all.

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