



# ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## 2021 FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

*Then He took some bread and when He had given thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, "THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU; DO THIS AS A MEMORIAL OF ME." He did the same with the cup after supper and said, "THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU."*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With these words Jesus established the great gift of the Eucharist. This year your child will be preparing to receive for the first time the Body of Christ. What a joy and privilege! The remote preparation has indeed been since the day of your child's Baptism when you promised to be the first teachers in the ways of faith. Now the family, parish and school join together in prayer for this day. Throughout the uncertainty of this time, it is truly with great joy and excitement to partake in this journey with and for your child and your family. We are praying for you!

Attached in this package are details to register, a description and outline of the preparation program, and a list of important dates.

Expectations for registration are:

- Be registered, practicing members of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish.
- Complete the Sacramental Preparation Form via Google Forms. The following is the link to access the form: <https://forms.gle/s5GVXTJnTLJCoHxT8>
  - Note: the link to the Google Form can also be found on our parish website
- In the Google Form, please upload a copy of your child's baptismal certificate
- There is a registration fee of **\$50**. Upon completion of the form and submission of the baptismal certificate, please place the registration fee in a sealed envelope addressed to "First Reconciliation/First Communion" and drop it in the mail slot at the parish office. In the envelope please include your child's name.

If you prefer to submit a hardcopy of the registration form and your child's baptismal certificate to the parish office, please let Adriene know at [aadona@archtoronto.org](mailto:aadona@archtoronto.org).

**The completed registration package (Google form, baptismal certificate, and the registration fee) must be submitted by Tuesday, January 12, 2021 in order for your child to be registered.**

## HOPESTONE'S "THE WAY" FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ONLINE PREPARATION

HopeStone Catholic Formation offers Catholic retreats to elementary and high school students. This year they have created a First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion program offered completely online in video sessions for students preparing to receive these Sacraments. They have also included video sessions for parents to learn alongside their child. Both the session for the child and the parent should take between 10-20 minutes.

"The Way" has a total of 6 sessions. The first 3 sessions are to prepare your child for their First Reconciliation. The next 3 sessions are focused on preparing your child for their First Holy Communion. Because this program is online, you and your child will be able to work through them at your own pace based on the timeline we have created. We have designed the timeline so that you will have at least one week to complete each session. After 3 sessions, there will be a virtual follow up meeting with Adriene to unpack and discuss how the sessions went. The virtual follow up meetings are meant for the parents and their children to also check in and connect with each other. One half of the follow up will be for the children while the other half of the follow up will be for the parents. The follow up meeting should take between 30-40 minutes. The link and the time for these follow up sessions will be sent out closer to the assigned dates.

Attached below is a flyer that HopeStone has put together which outlines the basis of their online program and how each video session is broken down for the child's session and the parent's session. To access the program, you will create an account that will allow you to login to the sessions. The email that you use to register your child will be the same email you will use to login to the program. Once you have received your login information, you will be able to begin the program right away.

Please note that reminders for meetings and deadlines will be posted on our parish website and posted in the parish newsletter. We have also recently started to use Flocknote, an alternative communications platform for emailing. Upon registration, Adriene will be adding your email into the Flocknote group specifically for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2021. Adriene will be in frequent contact with you to remind you about these dates through these emails.

In Christ and His People,

Fr Michael Simoes  
Pastor  
MSimoes@archtoronto.org

Adriene Adona  
Lay Pastoral Associate  
aadona@archtoronto.org



# The Way

1<sup>ST</sup> Reconciliation  
Communion Preparation

## A Journey for the Family.

A preparation program meant to bring the whole family into the experience. Dedicating 6 sessions for the child preparing for their Sacraments and 6 separate but complementary sessions for parents and caregivers. Each session can be completed in 10-20 minutes.

### CHILD TRACK INCLUDES:

**The Prayer :** An opening prayer from a priest, welcoming children to the topic of the session.

**The Talk :** Taking children on a journey towards their Sacraments. Sharing all foundational teachings.

**The Activity :** A fun activity, discussion or craft that the children complete per session.

### PARENT TRACK INCLUDES:

**The Talk :** Reflecting and going deeper into the catechesis done for the child.

**The Testimony :** A variety of personal testimonies & words of encouragement for parents/caregivers.

**The Time :** An activity that we are recommending that the family does with their child.

### SESSIONS:

- 1 - The Journey :** God's creation, our gifts, our journey.
- 2 - The Climb :** Our sin, His Grace, our Saviour.
- 3 - The Refresh :** Reconciliation, forgiveness, mercy.
- 4 - The Campsite :** Our hunger, nourishment, refueling.
- 5 - The Trial :** The supper, the sacrifice, the rising.
- 6 - The Summit :** The celebration, the Eucharist, the joy.

### ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS:

- Mock First Reconciliation
- Mock First Communion
- Examination of Conscience
- Church Tour

**CONTACT US FOR DETAILS OR TO BRING TO YOUR PARISH!**

INFO@HOPESTONE.CA

WWW.HOPESTONE.CA



## Important Dates for First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion 2021

Below is the timeline of the preparation as well as important dates of when each follow up session is scheduled and when your child's First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be.

Date	Event	Place
Tuesday, December 8, 2020	Registration Opens	
Tuesday, December, 8 2020	Virtual Parents Information Session	Zoom
Tuesday, January 12, 2021	Registration Closes	
Monday, February 8, 2021 to Friday, February 26, 2021	Program login will be distributed. Sessions 1-3 Work Period	Hopestone online modules
Saturday, February 27, 2021	Virtual Follow Up #1	Zoom/Teams
Monday, March 1, 2021 to Friday, March 5, 2021	Watch First Reconciliation Preparation Videos: - Reconciliation Walk-Through - Examination of Conscience	Hopestone online modules
<b>*Saturday, March 6, 2021</b>	<b>First Reconciliation</b>	<b>St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish</b>
Monday, March 22, 2021 - Friday, April 16, 2021	Sessions 4-6 Work Period	Hopestone online modules
Saturday, April 17, 2021	Virtual Follow Up #2	Zoom/Teams
Monday, April 19, 2021 - Friday, April 23, 2021	Watch First Holy Communion Preparation Videos: - First Holy Communion Walk-Through	Hopestone online modules
<b>*Saturday, April 24, 2021</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Mass</b>	<b>St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish</b>

***\*Please note that the dates of these celebrations may change depending on the pandemic restrictions.***