



Holy Cross School

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October 15, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Holy Cross School is once again offering sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

The normal place to prepare for sacraments is in the context of one's own parish; however, we understand that work and activity schedules as well as family situations do not always allow for parents and children to enrol in evening and weekend Sacramental Preparation Classes. For that reason, His Grace Archbishop LeGatt has authorized us to do this preparation through the school.

Preparation for Confirmation is not available through the school; families are requested to seek this out at your home parish or at Holy Cross Parish (<http://holycrossparish.ca/programs/childrens-programs/the-sacraments-baptism-reconciliation-first-communion-confirmation/>).

Most of the preparation takes place in the grade 1-4 religion classes, and so children in other grades should contact Mrs. Lampman and may need to prepare through their home parish. Both sacraments will be received in the same year.

Catholic children in grades 2 and above are eligible to receive the sacraments. In religion class, preparation happens all along, and in January there will be a moment of invitation for children who wish to receive the sacraments this year to put their own names forward. There should be discernment about this within the family as well, as there is often a big difference in the level of impact it has if families are open to waiting and following the child's readiness, which has no fixed age. Your participation in your own parish's life will also have an impact on your child's desire to receive.

Parents and their children will be required to attend weekly Sunday Mass, as well as five evening sessions (April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13). Children will attend a 3-day retreat (including First Reconciliation) on May 22, 23 and 24. The First Communion date is May 25, 2024.

To cover the costs of books, materials and retreat, there will be a \$60 charge per child, which will be collected only after the child has put his/her name forward in January.

All interested families are required to attend an information meeting, which will be held on **Monday, November 6 at 5:15 pm** at the school. Please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. Enrolment is limited.

Sincerely,

Heather Lampman
Liturgical coordinator