

St. Jane Frances de Chantal

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



2747 Jane Street, North York, ON. M3L 2E8

Phone: 416.741.1463 • Email: office@stjanefranceschurch.ca

Website: www.stjanefranceschurch.ca

July 2022

FIRST RECONCILIATION and FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

Students beginning Grade 3 or higher in September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Congratulations! This year your child is eligible to enter a program of preparation for the Sacraments of **Reconciliation** (Confession) and **Eucharist** (Communion). What an exciting and blessed time for you and your child! During this time of spiritual growth and preparation, parents, *as the primary educators of their children*, are asked to participate on this Sacramental Journey with their child.

Parents/guardians who have children in **Grade 3 or higher**, and who wish them to receive the sacrament of **FIRST COMMUNION** in our Parish in Spring 2023, are asked to review and complete all required forms in the Confirmation Registration Package.

If you wish your child to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Communion in St. Jane Frances Parish in the spring of 2022, you are asked to print and **complete the registration package, and return it, in person, to the parish office no later than August 26, 2022.**

If you are unable to print the package, you may contact the parish office by telephone (**416-741-1463**) or via email (firstcommunion@stjanefranceschurch.ca) to arrange pickup.

Students beginning grade 3 or higher in September 2022 will begin their preparation in September 2022 and will receive First Communion in Spring 2023.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Parents of children who wish to receive the sacrament of First Communion should be **registered and practicing members of our Parish**. **If you are not registered in the parish, you must do so before registering your child for First Communion.**
2. **Parents who are registered and practicing members of another Parish**, but wish their child to receive First Communion in our Parish, will have to include a **LETTER OF PERMISSION from the Pastor of their parish**, and submit the same to us at the time of Confirmation registration. **Registration WILL NOT be done without the Pastor's Letter of Permission.**
3. **Your child's ORIGINAL Baptism Certificate (plus one photocopy) will have to be provided at the time of registration. Registration WILL NOT be done without your child's proof of Baptism.**
4. **If your child is NOT baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, please speak with Fr. Charles before submitting a completed registration package.**

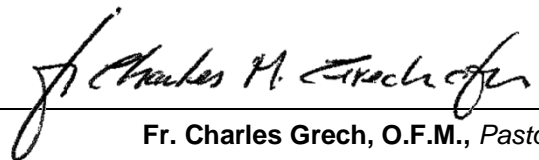
5. **IF YOUR FAMILY ATTENDS A PROTESTANT CHURCH, please note:**

- If your child was baptized Catholic but your family attends a Protestant Church on Sundays, **please speak with Fr. Charles before submitting a completed registration package.**
- Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion.
- First Eucharist is not a 'step' but a commitment to regular participation in the Eucharistic life of the church and a sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church. It is not possible to attend another form of worship and to remain in communion with the Catholic Church. ***However, we invite you and your family to return to your Catholic roots and reconsider the promises you made for your child at his/her baptism.*** **Please speak with Fr. Charles before submitting a completed registration package.**

We pray and encourage you to see this task of preparation with your child as an opportunity to experience God's action in your family. Your participation at home in helping work through the provided resource materials with your child is critical in the preparation of your child to receive these sacraments. The parish and the schools will support you in the instruction of the sacraments, but for this to be truly meaningful, your child must experience how the faith they are learning about is lived. This is something **only YOU the parents, and your family, can provide.**

I promise you that if you take this task to heart, you and your family will experience that **God is close to you and loves you.**

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Charles Grech, O.F.M., Pastor

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CHILDREN BAPTIZED IN THE
ORTHODOX CHURCH OR IN AN EASTERN RITE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Roman Rite is one of twenty-two rites in the universal Catholic Church. Many Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto were baptized in one of the various Eastern Rites that constitute the Catholic Church. It is the tradition of most of the Eastern Rites that those being initiated *are confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the time of Baptism. Please check your child's baptism certificate to verify if your child received the Eucharist at Baptism.*

When the parish in the usual conjunction with the Catholic schools are preparing the candidates for First Eucharist, those who are members of the Eastern Rite will be expected to take an active part in all aspects of the program at the parish and school. If your child was baptized in an Eastern Rite Catholic Church and you are unsure if your child received First Communion, please contact a priest of the same tradition in which your child was baptized. Orthodox students are also welcome to participate in the lessons and retreats but *may not* be part of First Eucharist celebration masses.



ST. JANE FRANCES PARISH

2747 Jane Street, Toronto, ON M3L 2E8
Telephone: (416) 741-1463

First Reconciliation & First Communion Preparation REGISTRATION FORM (Grades 3-6)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

(☒ when received)

☐ Child's Baptism Certificate

☐ \$30 Registration Fee

☐ Child is to be Baptized

☐ Child is to be Received

Date:

Celebrant:

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s): Please complete all sections.

A copy of your child's **BAPTISM CERTIFICATE** must be presented in order for registration to be complete.

Registration Forms and Certificates are due by Friday, August 26, 2022.

Section 1: CHILD'S INFORMATION (Please PRINT clearly)

Child's **LAST** Name:

FIRST Name:

() Male () Female

DATE of Birth:

PLACE of Birth:

Child's **Complete HOME** Address:

Street

City

Postal Code

Home **TELEPHONE**: ()

Name of **SCHOOL**:

Grade starting in September 2022:

CHILD'S BAPTISM INFORMATION (to be completed with Baptism certificate attached):

• Child's **DATE OF BAPTISM**:

• Name of **ROMAN CATHOLIC** Church of **BAPTISM**:

• Complete Address of Church of Baptism:

Section 2: PARENT INFORMATION (Please PRINT clearly)

MOTHER'S NAME:

FIRST Name

LAST Name

MAIDEN Name

Religion: ☐ Roman Catholic

☐ Other: _____

☐ None

Present Address: ☐ Same as child's

* If NOT the same as child's please complete below.

Street

City

Postal Code

TELEPHONE:

Email:

☐ I am a parent of, or have legal custody of the child.

FATHER'S NAME:

FIRST Name

LAST Name

Religion: ☐ Roman Catholic

☐ Other: _____

☐ None

Present Address: ☐ Same as child's

* If NOT the same as child's please complete below.

Street

City

Postal Code

TELEPHONE:

Email:

☐ I am a parent of, or have legal custody of the child.

Turn page over ➡

Section 3: FAMILY INFORMATION (Please PRINT clearly)

Is your family **a registered member** of St. Jane Frances Parish?

- ☐ **Yes** (if **Yes**, please provide your **current Envelope/Parish #** _____)
- ☐ **No** (if **NO**, please have the **Letter of Permission (below)** completed by the Pastor of the Roman Catholic Church your family attends.)

PASTOR'S LETTER OF PERMISSION

I, the undersigned, _____,
(Name of Pastor)

hereby attest that _____ and _____
(Mother's Name) (Father's Name)

are registered and practicing members of _____
(Name of Parish)

and I grant permission for their child _____
(Name of Child)

to receive **First Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion** at **St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish** in
Spring 2023.

Signature of Pastor Date

Parish Seal

Minimum Requirements to be met in order for child to be eligible for First Communion:

1. **Must** be a Baptized Roman Catholic.
2. **Must attend** class sessions and scheduled learning events.
3. **Must attend** Sunday Mass regularly **with parents**.
4. **Must show** a cooperative attitude toward class work, homework, memory work and others in the class.
5. **Must show** satisfactory completion of assigned work.

PARENTS: Do you agree to help your children meet the minimum requirements as outlined above? Please ☒ box:

- ☐ Yes - "I agree to help my child fulfill the First Communion requirements to the very best of my ability."
- ☐ No - "I do not agree." – **Please contact the Pastor.**

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION



2022 – 2023

Grades 3-6 Registration Package

St. Jane Frances Roman Catholic Church

2747 Jane Street, Toronto, ON. M3L 2E8

Telephone: **416.741.1463** Fax: **416.741.1469**

**First Reconciliation & First Communion
REQUIREMENTS 2022 – 2023**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to St. Jane Frances Church!

**The Registration Deadline for First Reconciliation and First Communion
is FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 2022.**

This deadline is needed to allow us time to properly plan the First Reconciliation/First Communion Preparation Program with the large number of students we are expecting. The completed and requested Registration package must be dropped off in the parish office **NO LATER THAN** Friday, August 26th, 2022.

**The following three (3) items MUST be included to complete registration by
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26th, 2022:**

1. Completed “**Registration Form**”
2. The **ORIGINAL** COPY of your child’s Baptism Certificate. *A copy will be made and the original will be returned to you.*
3. The Fee of **\$30.00** to cover the cost of the **preparation materials**; *please note, we will only accept payment made in cash.* Thank you.

First Reconciliation & First Communion REQUIREMENTS 2022 – 2023

1. For children to be eligible to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Communion, **they MUST ALREADY be baptized Roman Catholic, or have been formally received into the Catholic Church.**

<p>If YOU are a baptized Roman Catholic parent and you want your child to be baptized, please <u>DO NOT FILL OUT THIS REGISTRATION PACKAGE.</u> Instead, please contact the parish office immediately.</p>

2. We recognize that not every student that attends our parish schools worships at St. Jane Frances Church. ***If you are worshipping at another Catholic parish on Sundays***, such as St. Augustine of Canterbury, St. Jude, St. Philip Neri, St. Wilfrid or Our Lady of Guadalupe, ***your child should receive First Reconciliation/First Communion at that parish.*** Because this program is parish-based and not taught in the schools, **your child should be prepared by the church that you worship at each Sunday.** Please contact your church for their registration information.

IF YOUR FAMILY ATTENDS A PROTESTANT CHURCH

3. If your child was baptized Catholic but your family attends a Protestant Church on Sundays, ***you should not be preparing your child for Holy Communion.*** Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion.

First Eucharist is not a 'step' but a commitment to regular participation in the Eucharistic life of the church and a sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church. It is not possible to attend another form of worship and to remain in communion with the Catholic Church. ***However, we invite you and your family to return to your Catholic roots and reconsider the promises you made for your child at their baptism.***

Welcome to this most wonderful year in your child's life!

Celebrating a sacrament for the first time is an important step in the life of a child as a Catholic Christian.

In the past, most Catholics have taken it for granted that preparing children for First Communion is the sole responsibility of the Catholic Schools and Parish Catechism programs.

What does this assumption tell us about our faith? We are so used to handing our children over to an “expert” for their education – a teacher, a coach, a priest, etc. And yet, the Catholic Church teaches very clearly that PARENTS, not the school, not the parish, but **PARENTS are the primary religious educators of their children.**

When it comes to your child – YOU are the EXPERT!

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents are the PRIMARY educators of their children. You teach them not only by what you **SAY**, but also by what you **DO**. And not only on special occasions, but what you do in everyday life.

Being actively involved in your child's preparation for the Sacraments of **First Reconciliation** and **First Communion** tells him/her that you are taking seriously the special event that will be taking place in their lives. By your commitment to that preparation, you are communicating your own faith to your child.

What's involved??

1. Children will receive a workbook to be completed at school under the direction of their First Communion Catechists.
2. There will be **WEEKLY catechism classes** for the children held on Saturdays, from 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the parish hall.
3. **The dates for all catechism classes** will be provided AFTER the registration period is complete. At this time, classes are scheduled to begin on September 24, 2022.
The dates for First Reconciliation and First Communion celebrations will also be confirmed AFTER the Registration period ends.
Parents will ONLY be contacted via email.

THE ROLE OF THE PARISH

You and your children are a FAMILY.

Your family is part of a larger family... the members of this parish and, ultimately, the community of believers that make up the entire church.

To help you prepare your child prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion the parish will offer the following support and resources:

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Through weekly faith formation gatherings in the parish, children will learn about God's compassionate love, Jesus' warm forgiveness, and His gift of peace to His friends.



Reinforcing each week's lesson at home, will give you an opportunity to anticipate some questions your child might ask, and to share some of your insights about reconciliation and forgiveness.

These weeks of preparation can lead to many years of comfortable discussions as your child continues to grow and learn from God, from YOU, and from the Parish faith community. During Mass, parents should help their child recognize the parts of the Mass in which we regularly ask *forgiveness* and *make peace* as a regular part of worship.

FIRST COMMUNION

Celebrating this sacrament for the first time children must have **"sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity"** (*Code of Canon Law 913*).

Through weekly faith formation gatherings in the



parish, children will be encouraged to explore some of the many "gifts" that God has given them, for example *peace, forgiveness, and friendship*.

The children will be asked to think about what Jesus (through scripture) is teaching us about each gift, and what they can do in their lives to share and use each gift well. **We reflect on God's greatest gift - that of JESUS.**

The children will be encouraged to think about what receiving Jesus in Holy Communion means for them, and what changes it should make in their own lives.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

The Catholic School is unique in that, in addition to teach academic subjects (*reading, writing, arithmetic, etc.*) it also offers a religious education curriculum.

The role of the school is to help your child gain a basic knowledge and understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Celebration of the Eucharist. Naturally, this cannot be done in one year. As children grow up, they continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of the sacraments.

The school's main role is in the INITIAL instruction and preparation of your child's journey toward the reception of the sacraments.



ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO NORMS for Sacramental Preparation

INTRODUCTION

2. Sacraments are for people. The Christian faithful have the right to receive the spiritual good of the Church, especially the word of God and the sacraments (*Canon 213*)
3. Sacramental Preparation in the Archdiocese of Toronto is rooted in three principles:
 - All sacraments are ecclesial celebrations, i.e. celebrations of the Church;
 - Parents are the primary educators of their children in the way of faith;
 - Catholic schools are an integral part of ongoing Religious Education, including *initial* (ongoing Religious Education) preparation for the sacraments.
4. There are two types of preparation for sacraments, *initial* and *immediate*.
5. **INITIAL preparation** encompasses:
 - Sunday worship.
 - Prayer in the family.
 - **Education in a Catholic school system (or equivalent formation in the parish in Catholic doctrine and life-style).**
 - Daily living of a Catholic life-style appropriate to one's age and spiritual development.
6. **IMMEDIATE preparation** encompasses:
 - Sunday worship.
 - Prayer in the family.
 - **Specific sacramental catechesis on the sacrament being anticipated.**
 - Daily living of a Catholic life-style appropriate to one's age and spiritual development

The *immediate preparation* for all candidates for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation is the responsibility of parents and of the parish.
8. The Second Vatican Council teaches that parents, "by word and example, are the first heralds of the

faith with regard to their children" (*Lumen Gentium, II*). It is, therefore, the right and duty of parents to take an active part in the child's spiritual formation.

It is the responsibility of the parish, however, to encourage and support parents in the faith formation of their child. This frequently involves providing specific catechesis on the sacraments for parents and/or children.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

12. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are intimately related as three distinct sacramental moments which together form the total process of sacramental initiation into the Church (*Canon 842*).
15. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, the normal time for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is between 7 and 8 years of age.
16. Special needs children have a right to the sacraments. They are to be catechized according to their capacity, utilizing the expertise of catechists with training in this ministry (*Canon 777*).
Special needs children will receive catechesis suitable to their abilities. What is expected of the child is adapted individually to suit his/her development.
17. Liturgical actions are primarily actions of Christ and celebrations of His Church, not private devotions. Since sacraments are liturgical celebrations, their very nature calls for a communal celebration. The source and place for their celebration is the local worshipping community, i.e. the parish (*Canon 837*)
18. When a child is enrolled in a Catholic school and the family worships in a parish *other than* that in which the school is located, **immediate preparation and the celebration of the sacraments is the responsibility of the parish of worship, i.e.** the one the family attends *most regularly*.
20. Children who belong to Orthodox Churches and attend school within the Catholic Boards may receive initial and ongoing catechesis, as taught in the school's curriculum.

21. Orthodox children remaining Orthodox must not be included in a Catholic parish's immediate preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation.
24. Any decision to delay First Eucharist to a child who has completed the parish preparation process and is baptized in the Roman Catholic Church is to be made only after the parish priest has consulted the child's parents to decide whether or not the child is ready (*Canon 843*).

PHASES OF IMMEDIATE SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Enrolment and Spiritual Accompaniment

28. The main function of enrolment is to provide an opportunity for parents to present their children to the community, inviting the congregation as a whole to share in the responsibility of providing prayerful support for Christian formation.
32. Parish gatherings for the children and their families, including a prayer service, are to be held before First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. These are the responsibility of the parish.

PARTICULAR NORMS

First Reconciliation:

49. *Immediate* preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation precedes *immediate* preparation for First Eucharist (*Canons 914, 916*).
50. It is understood that First Reconciliation is celebrated in the church.
51. Parish priests, catechists and parents should cooperate to employ the Second Rite (communal celebration with individual confessions) as the form for the celebration of this sacrament and to schedule the celebration in such a way that parents may attend and join their children is the group is not too large and time permits.

First Eucharist:

56. When a child has reached the age of reason, is able to distinguish ordinary bread and the Bread of the Eucharist, and has been adequately prepared (canons 913, 914), he/she is to be admitted to First Eucharist at a **regularly scheduled** Sunday Mass. Thereafter, the child should be encouraged

to receive Communion on the Lord's Day and, indeed, whenever he/she is present at Mass.

57. Parents introduce and nurture in their children a Catholic way of life by praying with them, worshipping with them at the weekly Sunday Eucharist and forming them in practical ways of loving their neighbours.
53. Adequate preparation is to be understood as the successful completion of the initial preparation (either in a Catholic school or in a parish) and of the *immediate* preparation provided by the parish of worship.
54. Participation in the weekly celebration of Sunday Eucharist is a hallmark of a Catholic way of life.
55. The decision concerning an individual child's readiness to receive First Communion rests with the child's parents in consultation with the parish priest. This is particularly true for parents of children with special (developmental) needs.

Archdiocese of Toronto, 2009.