



First Reconciliation & Holy Communion

Immaculate Conception Church



Child's Name _____
First Middle Last

Age: _____ Date of Birth _____
Month Day Year

Baptism information:

Parish of Baptism _____ Year of Baptism _____

Parish Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Please attach a copy of your child's baptism certificate.

Family Information

Parish our family is currently registered at: _____

Father's Name _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Name _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Parent Agreement

I have read and I support the attached diocesan guidelines regarding sacramental preparation.

Parent Signature

Diocese of Nelson
Catholic Pastoral Centre
3665 Benvoulin Road
Kelowna, BC V1W 4M7

September 19, 2017

Re: Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation

Dear Pastors, Principals, Religious Education Co-ordinators, Catechists, Teachers and Parents,
Sacramental Preparation of the children requires collaboration between home, school and parish. It is important that the various roles be understood and followed by all. **Receiving sacraments is a Parish event not a School event.**

Parents are the first educators of their children and as such choose whether their child will receive religious education, which includes sacramental preparation, in the parish or school program. In order to best meet the needs of the children please refer to the roles listed below.

PARENTS

- Are recognized as the first educators of their children
- Seek support from others in the faith formation of their children
- Choose the venue where their child will receive religious education/sacramental preparation (school or parish)
- Take direction from the church on faith issues
- Guide, teach and support the children in their faith formation
- Are expected to **actively** practice the Faith
- Should be formally registered in the parish
- Are required to contact the parish to register their children to receive a sacrament
- Are required to attend all the meetings called by the parish for sacramental preparation.

PARISH (Pastors, Coordinators, and Catechists):

- Recognize there are two religious education programs, school and parish.
- Recognize that some schools cater to multiple parishes where each parish has their own expectations for sacramental prep.
- If the school is used for after school parish catechism classes, ensure that the classrooms are left in the same condition in which they were found (teacher and student items left untouched)
- Recognize that school and parish catechistic have separate budgets for supplies
- **Coordinators are to contact the school to inquire about which students from the school are registered in their parish**
- **Contact parents (both school and parish) who are registered in the parish regarding sacramental requirements and meeting dates**
- Host parent and/or children sacramental preparation meetings for the families in their parish
- Send to the parents "home preparation" materials for sacramental prep if there are any

- Set the date for the sacramental celebration; ensure that all parents as well as school are aware of these dates
- Organize the sacramental celebration involving school staff who are responsible for sacramental preparation (for schools catering to multiple parishes recognize this is not feasible)
- Hand out any special gifts to all children (both school and parish)
- Celebrate sacraments as a church community

SCHOOL (Principals and Teachers):

- Recognize there are two religious education programs, school and parish.
- Give to each parish a list of which students from the school are registered in that parish; this should include home contact information.
- Inquire about sacramental prep meeting and sacramental dates from the parish and have children prepared as necessary by the dates set
- Forward parish communication letters as requested.
- Support parents in the faith formation of their children.
- Remind parents about receiving the sacraments is a parish event not a school event
- Teach children about the sacrament (what it is, why, symbols, knowledge, faith, etc.).
- Receive direction from each parish regarding what is expected for sacramental prep (i.e. meeting dates, student retreats).
- Recognize and be joyous as a school community when the students have received a sacrament
- Recognize that school and parish catechetics have separate budgets for supplies.

Please retain this letter as a guide for understanding the shared roles and responsibilities for sacramental preparation. As a diocese, our goal is to establish an effective partnership between parishes, families and schools. By supporting the concept of shared responsibility, we further ensure a strong faith formation for the children.

Together in Christ,

Fr. Sylvester Ibekwe
Office of Faith Formation

Arthur Therrien
Superintendent of Schools