

St. Monica's Parish Grade 2 Sacraments 2011-2012

Welcome to the Parent Information/Registration night for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

St. Monica's Parish is getting ready for another exciting year of helping to prepare our grade 2 students for their sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Students from St. Monica School and St. Andrew School will all be celebrating the sacraments together at St. Monica Parish. If you belong to another parish community and wish to have your child celebrate their sacraments in their own church community, contact your parish office as soon as possible.

These sacraments are important steps in your child's spiritual journey which began at her/his baptism. This is a time to learn about the traditions, values, and teachings of the Catholic Church, and a time of reflection about our relationship with God. We can all experience spiritual growth as we help prepare our children for their sacrament if we are willing to learn more, reflect, and take steps closer to God. We hope as you prepare your child at home to be part of this community in Christ and watch your child develop a relationship with God, your lives will be enriched.

The following are brief explanations to help you understand the year ahead:

Preparation for the Grade 2 Sacraments

It is the responsibility of the church, the school, and most importantly, the parents to prepare their children for their sacraments. The teachers do a wonderful job in preparing our children at school, but it is important that the parents/families continue to teach about God and the church, model good Christian lifestyles and behaviours and pray and learn together at home. Attending mass regularly, participating in church community events, praying together, and using available resources to learn together are a few suggestions.

Sacramental Intentions and Registration Form, Baptismal Certificate/\$35

Tonight, please submit the available registration form, which you should have printed off the computer, completed with a photo copy of your child's baptismal certificate, and the registration fee at the end of this session. The \$35 will cover the cost of the two books and administration expenses (photocopying, certificates, and gifts). If you already have the books at home from a previous child, please submit a \$10 registration fee. Outstanding registration fees should be submitted to the school or Parish Office with an envelope addressed to "Joanne Frolek, Grade 2 Sacraments" by October 31st.

Enrolment Masses and Craft

The enrolment mass gives a chance for your child to be welcomed into the church and introduced into the church community as a candidate for the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. You do not need to sign up for the enrolment mass. Please see the "Schedule for Grade 2 Sacraments" for the date and times of the enrolment masses. Your child will bring his/her craft to the enrolment mass.

The week before the Enrolment Mass, your child will bring home a craft kit (with instruction and materials), which is to be done at home with you. Please take the time to help your child with the craft. If your child does not attend St. Andrew's or St. Monica's school, the craft kit will be available for pick-up in the vestibule of the church one week before the enrolment mass. Your child's name will be on it. It is also requested that your child attach (staple or paper clip) a photo (2"x3", or similar size) of them to the craft. This picture will be put on a banner that will be displayed in the church during the weeks prior to the First Communion Masses.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This sacrament is for children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this year. The family will introduce their child to the priest who represents the community. Your child will have the opportunity to make a confession. Father Freely will be assisted by other priests to hear your children's first confession. After the confession, your child will take a moment of prayer and penance. Please refer to the "Schedule for Grade 2 Sacraments" for the date and times. If there are enough priests, parents are invited to go to confession too.

Family Fun Night and "God's Gift to Us"

Come join us for a night of food, fun, music and more food (for thought). We will be having a potluck dinner, followed by short games and music with one of our great parish bands. This will happen on a Friday night in January. More information will be sent out in the New Year.

For 4 Sundays, one in each month of January, February, March and April, a volunteer from St. Monica's Youth Group will connect with your children during one of the Sunday morning masses in the Parish Hall. More information will follow.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

First Holy Communion celebrations will be taking place on **April 22nd** and **April 29th**. There will be two masses on April 22nd, a 1 p.m. mass for St. Monica Students and other children not attending St. Andrew School, and a 3:30 pm mass for students of St. Andrew School only. The mass on April 29th for St. Andrew School students will be a 2 pm. You must sign up for your preferred mass date on in the month of **February. The sign up sheets will be located in the basement of the church.** Your child must be registered to be able to sign up for a First Holy Communion Mass. Due to the size of the church and fire and safety regulations, we need to have a balanced number on each of the Sundays. This will also ensure a more pleasant experience for your child and your family and friends. There are **limited** spots for each Sunday, so if one Sunday appeals more to you than the other, **SIGN UP EARLY!!!!**

Resources

The two sacrament preparation books are good resources for preparing your child for each sacrament. Please read and do the activities in these books together with your child to help your child better understand the sacraments. These resources are colourful, easy to follow, and helpful. The teachers may also be referring to these books to help prepare your children. If your child does not attend Catholic School, please contact Deacon Ray Lamarche.

Volunteers

Please consider volunteering your skills and time. Lots of hands make light work.

Contact Information

Please check the parish website for information you may need: <http://www.st-monica.com/> If your child doesn't attend either school, please call Joanne Frolek. If you have any questions at any time, **please DO NOT CALL the parish office.** The parish secretary is NOT INVOLVED with preparations to the Grade 2 Sacraments. Please call one of the parish representatives for the Grade 2 Sacraments:

St. Monica School: Joanne Frolek 613-228-9770 jfrolek@gmail.com

St. Andrew School: vacant

God Bless you and your families.