

## **First Communion and First Reconciliation – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the dates for First Communion and First Reconciliation?**

Families will be able to choose from a variety of different dates for First Communion and First Reconciliation.

Here are the available dates for First Reconciliation:

- (a) Mon. Oct. 25, 2021 at 7:30 pm;
- (b) Tues. Oct. 26, 2021 at 6:30 pm;
- (c) Wed. Oct. 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm;
- (d) Mon. Nov. 1, 2021 at 7:30 pm;
- (e) Tues. Nov. 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm;
- (f) Wed. Nov. 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm;
- (g) Mon. Nov. 8, 2021 at 7:30 pm;
- (h) Tues. Nov. 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm; and
- (i) Wed. Nov. 10, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Please note that First Reconciliation on Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8 begins at 7:30 pm because we have evening Masses on those dates which begin at 7 pm.

Here are the available dates for First Communion:

- (a) Mon. Nov. 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm;
- (b) Fri. Nov. 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm;
- (c) Mon. Nov. 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm; and
- (d) Fri. Nov. 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

All of the First Communion dates will coincide with the regularly scheduled evening Masses at St. James Parish in Colgan.

Both First Reconciliation and First Communion will be held at St. James Parish.

### **How do I register for First Communion and First Reconciliation?**

Whether or not your child completed the sacramental prep program beforehand, please do the following to register to receive these sacraments:

- (a) complete the registration form on the HopeStone website for our parish;
- (b) register for a specific date for First Reconciliation through Eventbrite;
- (c) register for a specific date for First Communion through Eventbrite;

- (d) submit a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate; and
- (e) pay the registration fee (see later).

If your child was baptized at St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier, please advise the parish office as to when approximately you were baptized to assist us in looking up your information in our parish records.

### **Do I still need to register and/or pay a fee if I have already done so?**

If you have already completed your sacramental prep through the parish, we still require you to do the following:

- (a) complete the registration form on the HopeStone website for our parish;
- (b) register for a specific date for First Reconciliation through Eventbrite;
- (c) register for a specific date for First Communion through Eventbrite;
- (d) provide a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to the parish office.

However, you will not be required to pay an additional registration fee.

### **What is the registration fee?**

The registration fee is \$25. Again, if your child has already completed sacramental prep, there is no need to pay an additional registration fee.

### **How do I register for First Communion and First Reconciliation?**

You can register for both events through Eventbrite. Please note that you must register for both First Reconciliation and First Communion as they are two separate events.

### **What is the registration deadline?**

The registration deadline is Tues. Oct. 5, 2021.

### **How do I pay the registration fee?**

You can leave the money or cheque in a sealed envelope with your full name and what it is for in the drop box located on the side of the parish office at St. James in Colgan. You can also drop off your payment in person during office hours.

If you cannot afford the registration fee, please contact the parish office at [stjamesco@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjamesco@archtoronto.org) or 905-936-4266.

### **By what time should my child have completed the online prep course?**

Once you have registered and after the registration deadline, HopeStone will send you a link allowing your child to begin sacramental prep. Please contact the parish office at [stjamesco@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjamesco@archtoronto.org) or 905-936-4266 if you don't receive this link in a timely manner after the registration deadline on Tues. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>.

The online sacramental program offered by HopeStone is unique in the sense that each video must be played in its entirety before moving onto the next video. Please ensure that your child finishes all of the videos before moving onto First Reconciliation.

### **How should I assist my child in preparing for First Reconciliation?**

Besides the preparation that will take place through the online prep course, please review with your child the Examination of Conscience on the HopeStone website for our parish.

### **If our family regularly attends another parish besides St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier, can my child still receive the sacraments here?**

Yes. You only need to complete a parish registration form and return it to the parish office. You will not need a letter of permission from the parish that you attend.

There is no need to complete the parish registration form if St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier is your closest parish.

### **If I don't attend any of the elementary schools attached to the parish, can I still receive the sacraments at the parish?**

Yes. However, if St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier is not your closest parish, you will need to complete a parish registration form.

### **Is there a limit to the number of people who can attend the First Reconciliation and First Communion ceremonies?**

Each family can invite a total of ten people, including the candidate. When you register on Eventbrite, please include the candidate amongst the people for whom you are reserving spots.

Each First Reconciliation night will be limited to 25 candidates and an overall limit of 350 people due to limits in terms of social distancing.

Each First Communion night will be limited to 50 candidates and an overall limit of 350 people due to limits in terms of social distancing.

**Will we need to bring our Eventbrite tickets to the First Reconciliation and First Communion events?**

Please bring your Eventbrite ticket to the actual First Reconciliation and First Communion ceremonies, whether in printed form or on your mobile device.

**Will there be reserved seating?**

There will be designated seating only for First Communion candidates and their parents. Other attendees will be guaranteed a place in the church, although not in a specific spot.

**How will my child come up for First Communion?**

When it is time to receive Holy Communion, the priest will ask the candidates and their parents to come up together to receive Communion before the rest of the congregation.

**What should my child wear to their First Communion?**

There is no set requirement for a specific dress code.

**What if I have further questions or concerns?**

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the parish office at [stjamesco@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjamesco@archtoronto.org) or 905-936-4266.