

Sacramental Preparation Program Outline

First Communion and Reconciliation

Assumption and Resurrection Parishes

March 2021

Dearest parents and children, welcome to the Assumption and Resurrection First Communion and First Reconciliation Sacramental Preparation Program for 2021. With the current gathering restrictions in place, we have created a *home-based family faith formation model*.

In this new model there are three distinct components:

1. **Parent Directed:** Now, more than ever, we need to rely on parents to assist in a critical way with the instruction of their children. Two resource workbooks are provided: ***We Share in the Eucharist*** and ***We Prepare for Reconciliation***. In the center of each workbook you will find a *Family Guide* which provides you specific direction. The *Family Guide* also provides you with morning and evening prayers and scripture references. Supplementary resources are also provided for you: a special Catholic resource with numerous links to videos, songs and activities, ideas for YouTube links and two small supplemental packages for each Sacrament. Even though we have provided a general timeline we encourage each family to work at their own pace within the timeframe provided.
2. **Catechist Directed:** A lead teacher will instruct three on-line teaching sessions. In this new model, the role of this catechist will shift from being the primary instructor of the program to primarily a coach and support for the parents. Janet Campbell is the lead catechist and can be contacted at her home phone 780-990-0462 and email at campbelljr@shaw.ca. Janet will be contacting each parent a few days prior to each Zoom session to remind them of the date and time of the meeting, as well as the homework to be done prior to each session.
3. **Time with Father Philip:** Time has been built into the program so that the children and parents can connect directly with Father Philip. He will be available in these Zoom meetings to answer questions and address specific topics.

Since all on-line sessions will be done via Zoom, the parish office will be organizing your Zoom link directly with you. If you have any issues regarding the Zoom process, please contact the parish office for Assumption and Resurrection Parishes at 780-468-4071 and 780-468-4081 or email: ar.edm@caedm.ca.

For every on-line Zoom session, we ask each parent:

To attend every session with their child. At least one parent is asked to attend each Zoom meeting.

To do the assigned homework with your child. NOTE: *there is **NO** homework prior to our first session.* We ask you to just bring yourself, your child and the **entire** Parent Information Package with you to the first Zoom meeting. Attached to this letter are the dates and times of the Zoom sessions, as well as program expectations for each session. The program is divided into 6 two-week chunks and in order to maximize the use of our on-line time, we ask that you read the program outline carefully and have your child prepared for each session. Being prepared for each Zoom session will enhance the learning for your child.

To bring the large name plate. We will use this card to take attendance and call each child by name, if there is a question. This name card can be found in your Parent Information Package.

To be ready, as each Zoom session will commence promptly at 2:30 pm on the days specified. NOTE: each session will be approximately 30 minutes in duration.

DATES FOR ZOOM MEETINGS

Saturday, March 13 at 2:30: Zoom session directed by lead catechist (Janet)

Saturday, March 27 at 2:30: Zoom session with Father Philip

Saturday, April 10 at 2:30: Zoom session with Father Philip

Saturday, April 24 at 2:30: Zoom session directed by lead catechist

Saturday, May 8 at 2:30: Zoom session with Father Philip

Saturday, May 29 at 2:30: Zoom session directed by lead catechist

After May 29, parents can organize directly with the office the date and time for your child to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation followed by setting up the Mass time for receiving the Sacrament of First Communion.

DETAILED SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM OUTLINE AND HOMEWORK 2021

1. **SESSION ONE** – Saturday, March 13 at 2:30 (for 30 minutes)

Zoom meeting – please bring the *entire* Parent Information Package to this meeting. The package was supplied to you at the time of registration. Also, please bring your child's name plate.

Goals:

- To overview the home program and resources found in the Parent Information Package
- To define the role of parent, parish, school and child
- To explain the timelines, homework and communication process
- To provide an overview of the Sacraments

Major supplementary Resource: accessed through Google

1) Google: **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ Pearson School Canada.ca**

2) At the top login to **Resource Websites**

3) Link to **PARISH**

4) **User Name:** ecsd_parish **Password:** Religion1

5) Go to **Grade 2**

6) Tap icon named: **Sacramental Content in the Program**

7) Then go to: **Eucharist and Reconciliation – under each sacrament is a list of video links that will be part of the homework expectations**

Under each sacrament there are numerous videos, songs and activities

Some other YouTube suggestions: Catholic Minute – Catholic speaker Ken Yasinski, Treasures of Faith – Lenten Journey for Kids – catchatforkids, Lent in 3 minutes – Busted Halo, Bishop Barron on Lent – Bishop Robert Barron, The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Bishop Robert Barron, Sacraments 101: Penance (why we confess) – Busted Halo, The Sacrament of Confession – BrotherFrancisOnline.com, Blessed First Communion – Dynamic Catholic.

NOTE and CAUTION: NOT all YouTube sites are created equal. Some of the best Catholic child-based sites are produced by Brother FrancisOnLine.com, Busted Halo, Dynamic Catholic, catchatforkids and a good site for adults is Father Robert Barron Word on Fire. Please avoid the ads. Also, another excellent resource is the Edmonton Archdiocese website.

HOMEWORK FOR March 13 – March 27

- **We Share In the Eucharist booklet: Chapter One**
 - To understand the importance of family meals and celebrations.
 - To understand that attending Mass is an invitation and joy.

- To understand the meaning of Sunday Mass for the Christian community.
- We Prepare for Reconciliation: Chapter One
 - To understand that life is a gift from God.
 - To develop a sense of gratitude for the gift of life.
 - To encourage us to share our gifts and talents with others.
- Using the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** links, review the following videos:
 - a) The Mass
 - b) The Seven Sacraments: Reconciliation
 - c) God Shows Mercy
- Link for 40 Family Ideas for 40 Days ... a Journey through Lent and Easter:
catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com
- Use morning and evening prayers and scripture readings found in the Family Guide
- Find out the date and place of your Baptism. Who was there? Was it a special family celebration?

2. SESSION TWO – Saturday, March 27 at 2:30 (for 30 minutes)

Zoom visit with Father Philip. He will address questions you and your child may have regarding the content studied over the previous two weeks. Reminder: we ask one parent to attend this Zoom meeting (with your child) and bring the name plate.

HOMEWORK FOR March 27 – April 10

- We Share in the Eucharist booklet: Chapter Two
 - To understand the different parts of the Mass and the objects used.
 - To focus on our need to participate fully in the Mass.
 - To understand that in order to better participate in Mass we need to be prepared.
- We Prepare for Reconciliation: Chapter Two
 - To understand the message to “Love one another” is at the heart of Christian living.
 - To understand that Christian living requires forgiveness, sacrifice and service to others.
- Using the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** review the following video links:
 - a) The Introductory Rite
 - b) Jesus Feeds Us with the Eucharist
 - c) Being a Peacemaker
 - d) Understanding True Friendship
- YouTube links for parents: Bishop Barron on the Mass – Bishop Robert Barron, Love One Another – Dakota Pyle
- Use morning and evening prayers and scripture readings found in the Family Guide
- Use handout in the supplementary package for First Communion “items found in the Mass”.

3. SESSION THREE – Saturday, April 10 at 2:30 (for 30 minutes)

Zoom visit with Father Philip. He will address questions you and your child may have regarding the content studied over the previous two weeks. Reminder: we ask one parent to attend this Zoom meeting with your child and bring the name plate.

HOMEWORK FOR April 10 – April 24

- We Share in the Eucharist: Chapter Three
 - To understand that the Bible is the story of God’s great love for all creation.
 - To awaken our hearts to a love for scripture.
 - To reveal how God’s Word speaks to us in the liturgy.
- We Prepare for Reconciliation: Chapter Three
 - To understand that God lives within each of us.
 - To awaken the desire to pray.
- Using the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** video links:
 - a) The Liturgy of the Word
 - b) Nourishing the Body and the Soul
 - c) The Meaning of the Lord’s Prayer
 - d) God has Rules for us to Follow
- YouTube links for kids: God’s Story: The Bible – Crossroads Kids’ Club
- Use morning and evening prayers found in the Family Guide
- Use the Prayer Book found after page 56 in the Eucharist Booklet and the handout of common Catholic prayers
- Review the Mass Booklet (outlining the different parts of the Mass)

4. SESSION FOUR – Saturday, April 24 at 2:30 (for 30 minutes)

Zoom session led by Janet. Please bring the Mass booklet provided in the Information Package.

Goals:

- To explain the four parts of the Mass. Review booklet.
- To explain what we see at church ... what does it mean?
- To explain the liturgical seasons and colors.

HOMEWORK FOR April 24 – May 8

- We Share in the Eucharist: Chapter Four
 - To gain a deeper understanding for the meaning of sharing bread and wine.
 - To consider the importance of the Consecration and the Body and Blood of Christ.
- We Prepare for Reconciliation: Chapter Four
 - To understand that in life we may try to do our best but we often fall short of our good intentions.

To live in the confidence that God will always love us and always forgive us of our shortcomings and failings.

- Using the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** video links:
 - a) The Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - b) The Eucharist at Mass
 - c) The Eucharist as Nourishment of the Soul
 - d) The Prodigal Son
 - e) Reconciliation Making Amends
- YouTube link for children and parents: The Consecration: Kid Catholic (to about the 4 minute point of the video)

5. SESSION FIVE – Saturday, May 8 at 2:30 (for 30 minutes)

Zoom visit with Father Philip. He will address questions you and your child may have regarding the content studied over the previous two weeks. Reminder: we ask one parent to attend this Zoom meeting with your child and bring the name plate.

HOMEWORK FOR May 8 – May 29 (note: we will meet again in three weeks)

- We Share in the Eucharist: Chapter Five and Six
 - To remember Jesus in our daily life and at Mass.
 - To become more familiar with the Eucharistic Prayer, the great prayer of thanksgiving.
 - To understand the sacrament of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation ... to imitate Jesus
- We Prepare for Reconciliation: Chapter Five
 - To understand that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who seeks us out, loves us and forgives us.
 - To encourage prayer to God for guidance and support.
- Using the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** video links:
 - a) The Concluding Rite
 - b) Connecting the Last Supper and the Eucharist
 - c) Responses to the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass
 - d) Jesus Appears to Thomas
 - e) Holy Thursday
 - f) The Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
- All handouts in the package related to the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- All handouts in the package related to the Sacrament of First Communion

6. FINAL SESSION SIX – Saturday, May 29 at 2:30 (for 30 minutes)

Final Zoom session led by Janet. Please bring the entire Parent Information Package to this last meeting.

Goals:

- To tidy up any loose ends for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.
- To focus on the Consecration and Eucharistic prayers.
- To communicate the process for parents to organize with the parish office the reception of First Reconciliation and then their First Communion.
- Specific suggestions: clothing suggestions, practicing the receiving of the host during the time of COVID and after, avoiding nervousness at the time of receiving each sacrament.
- The role of the family and modelling.
- Questions?????

HOMEWORK

Before your child receives each sacrament please ensure that you review with your child the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** video links:

- a) The Importance of the Mass
- b) Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- c) Reconciliation: Form of the Sacrament

Suggested YouTube video links for children and parents:

First Communion:

- Sacraments 101: Eucharist – Busted Halo (**NOTE: during COVID there is no receiving the Body of Christ on the tongue and there will be no receiving of the Precious Blood**). Practice at home with a small piece of bread.

First Reconciliation:

- How do I go to Confession: ODB films
- Practice of Confession – St. Rose Relig Ed
- Review the Examinations of Conscience in your First Reconciliation Supplementary package.
- **NOTE:** various Acts of Contrition are provided in the First Reconciliation Supplementary package and your child can choose the one that they are most comfortable with. Copies of the prayer will be provided so that your child does not need to memorize this prayer.

After May 29, parents can organize directly with the office the date and time for your child to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation followed by setting up the Mass time for receiving the Sacrament of First Communion.