



THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH of *St. Bonaventure*

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**Roman Catholic Parents:
Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist
St. Bonaventure Church in 2021 - Winter and Spring**

February 8, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Peace and all good to you.

One of the areas of parish life impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic is the sacramental preparation of our children. Normally, baptized Roman Catholic children aged 7 years or older (Grade 2 +) may begin to prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Eucharist (Holy Communion).

The rollout of our annual registration process and program was significantly delayed, providing space for families to get used to new realities last autumn, adapt to on-line learning since early January, and for the catechetical team to think through the implications of the pandemic upon sacramental preparation. The end-of-year spike in local COVID-19 cases has also restricted public worship in church.

This is a challenging time for many. The catechetical team has made significant changes to sacramental preparation to reflect the situation. We want to give you options.

If you are a parishioner of St. Bonaventure Church with a child who is in grade 2, please go to: www.st-bonaventure.ca where you will be able to learn about the revised sacramental preparation program. Once you have read the information, you can make an informed decision WHETHER to start preparing your child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Eucharist (Holy Communion) this Winter-Spring 2021 OR to wait until next autumn for the 2021-22 season. You know what is best for your family at this time. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

If you and your family belong to another Catholic church (for example, you live closer to another church, worship regularly elsewhere, or you belong to a parish that serves your ethnic/national community), then please check your own church's sacramental preparation program, registration process and register there. Families with children who are not Roman Catholic should seek the pastoral care of their own ministers.

If you have questions after reviewing the information about the program, then please contact me at: gregb [at] st-bonaventure [dot] ca

Sincerely,

Mr. Gregory Beath
Lay Pastoral Associate
St. Bonaventure Church