

St. Leonard's Parish
5332 Long Island Road
Manotick, Ontario
K4M 1E8

Office: (613) 692-4254
Fax: (613) 692-3562

office@stleonardsparish.ca
www.stleonardsparish.ca

Nov. 17, 2020

Dear Grade 2 Parents,

Re: St. Leonard Parish - First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2021

We would like to invite your child **to prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St. Leonard Parish this year.** This is a major step in your son's or daughter's journey of faith. It is important to remember that should you decide to accept our invitation, you are choosing to make a commitment to your child and the Church. We want to see families, schools and parish working together to support our parish's children as they take on this commitment. Hopefully by working together we can provide many opportunities for your child to become more familiar with prayer, worship and service.

- Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this year's First Communion preparation will all be done via email and by accessing workbooks online. As such there is **no fee** this year. We would however, **still require you to register with us online.** Please see the St. Leonard Parish website for the registration form www.stleonardsparish.ca **A Baptismal Certificate must be submitted** at time of registration or by email office@stleonardsparish.ca or fax: 613-692-3562. If your child has not been baptized, you may go ahead and register your child for First Communion. Indicate on the form that your child has not been baptized. The parish office will contact you to arrange your child's Baptism.

We strongly encourage you to familiarize your child with the order of the Mass by attending Sunday Mass. There is simply no substitute for regular active participation in the Mass. Public Mass is back at St. Leonard, but you do need to register ahead of time in order to attend. If you wish to attend Mass with your child, please register online at <http://stleonardsparish.ca/mass>

- You may also attend Mass virtually. The Livestream link to watch Mass from your own home is located on the parish website. Please tune in with your child if you are not able to attend mass in person during the pandemic. <https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintLeonardParish/live>
- **Children will be required to attend Mass 12 times.** This may be done in person or via the online link. At some point during the Mass, Father Gerard will address the First Communion children and give them a special word or phrase to remember. **Please have your child write down the word, draw a picture and send to Elisabeth Murphy, along with the date of the Mass to firstholycommunion.slp@gmail.com** This will indicate to Father Gerard that your child was present at Mass.
- As stated above, this year sheets will be sent via email. We will still require at least **12 sheets to be submitted.** These must be sent to Elisabeth at firstholycommunion.slp@gmail.com. Elisabeth will be marking the sheets and keeping track of how many sheets are submitted. Please do not drop off sheets at the church or parish office.
- The church tells us that parents are the most important influence on a child's spiritual development. This development is the parents' right, dignity, and responsibility. Quite simply, there is no one better suited for this task than you! There are **2 Workbooks** to help you prepare your child for these sacraments - one for First Reconciliation and one for First Communion. These Workbooks can be accessed via the Dynamic Catholic website.

Link for First Reconciliation Workbook:

<https://files.dynamiccatholic.com/home/blessed/first-reconciliation/Blessed FirstReconciliation Workbook.pdf>

Link for First Communion Workbook:

<https://files.dynamiccatholic.com/home/blessed/first-communion/downloads/Blessed FirstCommunion Workbook.pdf>

Link for videos:

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/blessed/blessed-program-view.html>

<p>First Reconciliation and First Communion Dates - To Be Announced</p>
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Our Sacramental Preparation Ministry is sustained by volunteers who pass on the faith to our children. I thank them for performing this most important task of helping to guide our young people towards Jesus and the teachings of the

Catholic Faith. We are constantly in need of more parents who are willing to assist. If you feel a calling toward this important ministry, please let us know. We will gladly accept your help.

If you have any questions, please email us at firstholycommunion.slp@gmail.com or call the parish office at (613) 692-4254.

We look forward to supporting your children in their journey to the table of the Lord.

Blessings to you and your family,

Rev. Gerard Plant and the Sacramental Preparation Team