

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families had a safe, restful, and blessed summer.

As we begin this new pastoral year, I encourage you to grow ever deeper in your faith and stronger in your vocation as Catholic parents. Parents are the first educators of their children in the faith. You have the beautiful and sacred responsibility of helping your children know, love, and follow Jesus Christ—through prayer, participation in Sunday Mass, the Sacraments, and the witness of your own lives.

We are preparing children for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. These Sacraments are not simply milestones in a child's religious education; they are encounters with Jesus Christ and important steps in a lifelong journey of faith. They are also a blessing for the entire family and our parish community.

Children may ordinarily begin this preparation in Grade 2 through Grade 6. We ask you to prayerfully discern whether this is the right time for your child and whether your family is ready to make the commitment this preparation requires. If you wish to proceed, please complete the online registration at [www.stfrancis.ca](http://www.stfrancis.ca).

**A parent must attend one of the following mandatory information meetings:**

- **Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m.**

Please complete the online registration before attending the meeting. You must also bring your child's Baptismal Certificate. If you do not have a copy, please contact the parish where your child was baptized. Registrations cannot be accepted after October 17.

If your child still needs to be baptized, please indicate this on the registration form.

The registration fee is \$70, covering program materials. Payment may be made in cash at the meeting or by cheque payable to St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

#### A Commitment of Faith

Please remember that all catechism classes for preparation for these Sacraments are mandatory. Sporting events, extracurricular activities, and similar commitments will not be accepted as reasons for absence. We ask families to prayerfully consider the priority these Sacraments should have in their child's life.

Our desire is not simply for your child to receive First Communion, but to help your child begin a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and a deeper love for His Church. This preparation requires commitment from both the child and the family.

We look forward to accompanying you during this beautiful time of grace. May God bless you as you fulfill your vocation as parents and help your children draw ever closer to Jesus through Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ricardo Mendoza, FM

