



ST JOSEPH CHURCH

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stjosephkitchener.org

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January 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

In our Catholic faith, grade two (around age seven) is commonly when a person is eligible to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist for the first time. It is with great joy and anticipation that St Joseph Church extends an invitation to you and your children to receive these sacraments.

As parents, you know that *you are your child's first and most important teachers of the faith*. Our goal as a parish is to walk with you and provide tools and information needed to help your child prepare to receive Christ in the Eucharist, and to experience his mercy in Reconciliation. We will be partnering with you by providing at-home resources and running virtual Zoom sessions for parents/ guardians and children together. On the next pages, you will find a schedule and more information about how we are approaching the sacraments during this time of Pandemic.

To begin this journey, we ask that you and your child attend our **virtual information session for children, parents, and guardians**. You have two options to attend: Sunday, January 10 at 6:30 pm or Wednesday, January 13, 6:30 pm. At this session we will present an overview of our preparation process, introduce the pastoral team, and walk through some of the family resources we will use. To access the Zoom calls, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83619116382> (January 10) or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86135780752> (January 13). These links are also available on our website at stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html.

While these sacraments are often celebrated in grade two, we also welcome any children above grade 2 who are interested. If your child has not been baptized, or was baptized into another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, please contact the parish so we can assist you.

If you have any questions or concerns we would be more than happy to speak with you. Please call the parish office to speak with Father Brian or with Mary, or email us at the addresses below.

Yours in faith,
St Joseph Pastoral Team

Father Brian Quigley
brianquigley@gmail.com

Father Tom Vermiglio
frtom@combonimissionaries.ca

Father Mussie Keflezghi
mussiemccj@gmail.com

Mary Forcier, Youth Minister
stjosephkitcheneryouth@gmail.com

"Each time we receive Communion, we resemble Jesus more; we transform ourselves more fully into Jesus. As the bread and the wine are changed into the Body and Blood of the Lord, so too those who receive it with faith are transformed into a living Eucharist." – Pope Francis

St Joseph Church

Preparation information for 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic

- All formation will be available online and through at-home resource books.
 - The resource books provided from several Catholic publishers (Novalis, Loyola Press, and Our Sunday Visitor) cost the parish \$27 per child. To help offset these costs, we request that families provide a \$25 donation per child. However, if this is not possible for your family assistance is available. Donations may be dropped off at the church, or brought when you pick up your materials.
- Online sessions will be offered on Sundays and Wednesdays and families may choose which group to join for the year. Depending on the Pandemic protocols in future some sessions may have an in-person *option*, but online will always be available.
- Our Diocese continues to work with Public Health to ensure we are following all safety measures for gathering size, cleaning, distancing and contact tracing. These will likely continue to evolve throughout the winter and spring.

The Sunday Eucharist

The Sunday Eucharist is at the very centre of Catholic Christian life. It is the “heartbeat” of the Christian life. Every aspect of our Catholic life – everything else we do – is rooted in our celebration of Sunday Mass. Without our participation in the Sunday Eucharist, our Christian lives are incomplete. The most important way to prepare your child is by participating regularly with him/her in the Sunday Mass.

In person (when permitted):

Saturday evening at 5:00 pm

Sunday morning at 11 am

Online:

Sunday mornings at [youtube.com/stastj](https://www.youtube.com/stastj)

St Joseph Church Information

Parish Priests:	Father Brian Quigley, MCCJ	Deacon:	Rev. Mr. John Andrade
	Father Mussie Keflezghi MCCJ	Secretary:	Renata Kochanowska
	Father Tom Vermiglio, MCCJ	Youth Minister:	Mary Forcier

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 12:30-4:00 pm

Saturday-Monday – Office closed (The office is also closed during any mandatory shutdown/lockdown, though staff can still be reached by phone or email)

Contact Information

Parish Phone:	519-745-9302
Parish Email:	stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com
Parish Website:	www.stjosephkitchener.org
Facebook:	facebook.com/stjosephkitchener
YouTube:	youtube.com/stastj
Youth Ministry Twitter:	@stjosephkyouth
Youth Ministry IG:	@stjosephkitcheneryouth
Mary's Email:	stjosephkitcheneryouth@gmail.com

St Joseph Church
FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 2021
Important Dates

All online dates are for children and parents/caregivers to attend together.

Sunday, January 10 6:30 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83619116382 OR Wednesday, January 13, 6:30 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86135780752	Online Information evening on Zoom. Please click the link to join a few minutes before 6:30.
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Registration is online, and is due Friday January 31 at stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html to allow time to pick up materials. In addition to your online registration form, we need a copy of the Baptism Certificate for anyone who was not baptized at St Joseph. Please send a legible picture or scan to stjosephkitcheneryouth@gmail.com, or bring a copy when you pick up your materials.

Sundays	Wednesdays	
February 7, 6:30 pm	February 10, 6:30 pm	Reconciliation Catechetical (learning) Session
February 28, 6:30 pm	March 2, 6:30 pm	Reconciliation Catechetical (learning) Session
Early March		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions and activities for a hands-on at-home mini retreat provided • An online prayer and examination of conscience evening. • Rehearsal Video distributed
Week of March 22-26		Sacrament of Reconciliation (multiple evening celebrations to allow for distancing and safe numbers)
April 11, 6:30 pm	April 14, 6:30 pm	Eucharist Catechetical (learning) Session
April 25, 6:30 pm	April 28, 6:30 pm	Eucharist Catechetical (learning) Session
Early May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions and activities for a hands-on at-home 'mini retreat' provided • An online prayer evening in preparation • Rehearsal Video distributed
Saturday, May 15		First Eucharist Mass

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to shift and change, we are making every effort to adapt and adjust our Sacramental preparation process. We were able to successfully and safely celebrate First Communion and Confirmation in October and November of 2020, following all protocols carefully. We ask for your patience, and welcome your feedback on how we can best journey with you in faith during this time.