



St Anne Parish
268 East Ave, Kitchener
519-745-5302

St Joseph Church
148 Madison Ave S., Kitchener
519-745-9302



September 2023

Dear parents and caregivers,

In our Roman Catholic faith, children in grade two and above are eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Eucharist for the first time. It is with great joy that St Anne and St Joseph Parishes invite your family to join this year's Sacramental Preparation.

As parents and caregivers, you know that *you are your child's first and most important teachers of faith*. Our goal is to walk with you this year, providing tools and information to help you prepare your child for these two Sacraments. We do this through take-home resources, monthly preparation sessions with children and parents/caregivers, and class visits at St Anne and St Bernadette.

To begin this process, families are asked to attend one of two Information Sessions:

Sunday October 1
6 pm, St Joseph Parish
148 Madison Ave. S.

OR

Wednesday October 4
6 pm, St Anne Parish
268 East Ave.

This and all dates are for the child and parent/caregiver(s) together.

The St Anne and St Joseph faith communities work closely together, with a single pastoral team. Therefore, you may choose between Sunday evenings at St Joseph or Wednesday evenings at St Anne for preparation sessions. All dates are on the back of this sheet. No matter where you prepare, your child will receive First Eucharist at your own parish.

We would like to extend a particular invitation to those children and families who need extra support during this process. We are happy to work with you to offer any accommodations or adaptations needed. If your child has not been baptized, or was baptized into another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, please contact our youth minister Mary so we can make appropriate arrangements for your child to join us this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your parish office, email us, or speak to us at Mass.

Yours in faith,

The Pastoral Team of St Anne and St Joseph

Father Brian Quigley
brianquigley@gmail.com

Father Mussie Keflezghi
mussiemccj@gmail.com

Mary Forcier, Youth Minister
mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com

"Each time we receive Communion, we resemble Jesus more... as the bread and the wine are converted 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 Anne Parish and St Joseph Church
FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 2024: DATES

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

Our preparation sessions are offered from 6-7 pm at St Joseph on Sundays, and St Anne on Wednesdays. Choose the location and date that best suits you for the year, no matter which church or school you attend.

Sundays (at St Joseph)	Wednesdays (at St Anne)	
October 1 6-7 pm	October 4 6-7 pm	Information Meeting for Children and Parents/Caregivers
Wednesday October 25		Online Registration Due
November 5 6-7 pm	November 8 6-7 pm	Reconciliation Session Resource Packages Distributed
December 3 6-7 pm	December 6 6-7 pm	Reconciliation Session
<u>Saturday</u> January 13 1 pm-3:30 pm	<u>Saturday</u> January 20 1 pm-3:30 pm	Reconciliation Retreat
January 14 6-7 pm	January 24 6-7 pm	Celebration of First Reconciliation
February 4 6-7 pm	February 7 6-7 pm	First Communion Session
March 3 6-7 pm	March 6 6-7 pm	First Communion Session
April 7 6-7 pm	April 10 6-7 pm	First Communion Session

First Eucharist Date: St Joseph Families

First Eucharist

Sunday April 14, 11 am at St Joseph Parish

Retreat

Saturday April 13 12:30-3:30 pm, St Joseph Parish Hall

First Eucharist Dates: St Anne Families

Due to the larger number of families at St Anne, we have 3 dates with 16 families each. During registration, please indicate your first and second choice of date. Each date has a corresponding retreat.

If you choose this First Eucharist date:

1) Sunday April 21, 9:30 am at St Anne Parish

2) Saturday April 27, 4 pm at St Anne Parish

3) Sunday April 28, 9:30 am St Anne Parish

You choose this Retreat:

Saturday April 13, 12:30-3:30 pm, St Joseph Parish Hall

Saturday April 20, 12:30-3:30 pm, St Anne Parish Hall

Saturday April 20, 12:30-3:30 pm, St Anne Parish Hall

Questions or concerns? Contact Mary Forcier: mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com