



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

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



September 2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

It is with great joy and anticipation that St Anne Parish and St Joseph Church extend an invitation to you and your children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist for the first time. We anticipate that this year our preparation group will be a mix of mostly grade 2 and 3 students, but the process is open to all in grade 2 and above.

As parents and caregivers, you know that *you are your child's first and most important teachers of the faith*. In partnership with our Catholic Schools, our goal is to work with you to prepare your child to receive Christ in the Eucharist and experience his mercy in Reconciliation. Through a mix of monthly family preparation sessions and at-home resources, we look forward to journeying with you.

The St Anne and St Joseph faith communities work closely together, with a single pastoral team. For 2021-2022, we are able to offer sacramental preparation together to give families more flexibility. You may choose between Sunday evenings at St Anne Parish or Monday evenings at St Joseph Church for preparation sessions. Our hope is to hold these in person, with a virtual option as needed. Please see the back of this sheet for more details.

To begin this process, families are asked to attend an **Online Information Session from 6-7 pm on Sunday October 3, OR 6-7 pm on Monday October 4**. Please register for one of these two dates at stanneskitchener.ca/first-eucharist or stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html. Children and parents/caregivers should attend the information meeting together.

We would like to extend a particular invitation to those families who need extra support during this process. Children with special needs are welcomed and valued, and we are happy to work with you to offer any accommodations or adaptations needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the parish office, email us at the addresses below, or speak to us at Mass.

The pandemic has been tough on families. Through the Sacraments, God comes close to us in our joys, sorrows, successes, and frustrations. Our prayer is that as your family prepares for Reconciliation and the Eucharist, you continue to experience more of his loving presence in the midst of life.

Yours in faith,

The Pastoral Team of St Anne and St Joseph

Father Brian Quigley
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Father Mussie Keflezghi
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Mary Forcier, Youth Minister
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St Anne Parish and St Joseph Church

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 2022: Important Dates

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

This year, families can choose between monthly sessions at St Anne on Sunday evenings or St Joseph on Monday evenings from 6-7 pm. You may choose the location and date that best suits you, regardless of which church or school you attend. *Your First Eucharist Mass will be at your own parish.*

Until the end of 2021, sessions are online. Our hope is to meet in person starting in January, with a virtual option for those who need it. Plan to attend the same preparation evening (Sunday or Monday) all year.

Sundays (at St Anne)	Mondays (at St Joseph)	If COVID conditions do not allow an in-person meeting, sessions will move online.
October 3 6-7 pm online	October 4 6-7 pm online	Online Information meeting Register online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stanneskitchener.ca/first-eucharist or stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html.
November 1		Online Registration forms due
Saturday November 6 & Sunday November 7		Pick up physical materials from Parish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details emailed to registered families
November 7 – ONLINE 6-7 pm	November 8 - ONLINE 6-7 pm	First Session for Reconciliation
December 5 - ONLINE 6-7 pm	December 6 - ONLINE 6-7 pm	Reconciliation session
Saturday January 15 1 pm-3:30 pm	Saturday January 29 1 pm-3:30 pm	Reconciliation retreat
January 30 6-7 pm	January 31 6-7 pm	Reconciliation Liturgy
February 6 6-7 pm	February 7 6-7 pm	First Communion Session
March 6 6-7 pm	March 7 6-7 pm	First Communion Session
April 3 6-7 pm	April 4 6-7 pm	First Communion Session
Saturday April 23 1-4pm	Saturday April 30 1-4 pm	First Communion Retreat
3:30 pm Sunday May 8 (Mother's Day) 3:30 pm Sunday May 15 3:30 pm Sunday May 29		First Communion Masses for St Anne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please select your first choice of date on your registration form
11:00 am Sunday May 15		First Communion Mass for St Joseph