

To the Parents/Guardians of Children Preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation
2020-2021:

Partnership of Parents – (Catholic) School - Church

Children are prepared for the sacraments by the family, the school and the church. **Parents and guardians** are first educators: they form their children at home, and witness the Christian way of life to them. The **schools** provide catechetical formation so that children come to know the Christian way of life. **Church** is the place where parents/guardians practice their faith and request that the initiation sacraments be celebrated.

Our vision is to form parents and children to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation is but a step towards that goal.

We look upon this period as not only a time to prepare the children for the sacraments, but also a time to reach out to the parents and welcome them into our parish community. We do want to encourage parents to worship here and to have a real connection with us. The church is where inter-generational Christian Community is built, and relationship with Christ is fostered within this community of faith. This is the basis upon which the Sacraments of Initiation should be celebrated.



In order to establish and nurture an on-going relationship between the families and the parish parents are usually required to attend a Registration/Information Night. This is considered the starting point for the preparation period, as it helps parents understand their role in nurturing the faith of their child. At that meeting we have an opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns parents may have, and we explain procedures for those whose child is not yet baptized or who was baptized in a church other than Catholic.

In this time of the COVID19 pandemic we will not meet together in person, rather we will recommend e-resources which parents and children can work on together as part of the preparation for the Sacraments. We will provide updated information to parents who have registered and invite you to send your questions to Fr Bosco Wong at 613-722-7661x3 or pastor@fatimaparish.ca.

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Details are posted on our website. While the child might be receiving catechesis in their appropriate grade, this does not complete the picture: the church also needs to have established a connection with the parent/guardian. When we receive the completed Registration Form with attached copy of baptismal certificate and payment, then registration is complete and you will receive a confirmation e-mail. Lists are compiled the week following the **Registration Date (October 15, 2020)** so that we know who has registered.

If you miss the Registration deadline of October 15, 2020 please be assured that there is no requirement that your child complete the sacraments by a specific age. You are invited to connect with the parish community as part of your child's on-going preparation and to register to celebrate the Sacrament the following year. You are most welcome to attend our Masses in person: Monday-Friday 9am, Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am. If you are unable to attend in person with your child please check our homepage for the link to the livestream Mass (Saturday 4:30pm and Sunday 10:00am when possible).

We feel that educating and evangelizing the parents is an important step which cannot be ignored. Our most sincere wish is that the parents find a happy home here in our parish community, enabling them to grow and mature in their faith. If they can develop their relationship with Christ, they will model a way of living the Christian faith in a community of believers to their child. We believe this is the best possible outcome for all concerned.

