



St. Mary's Parish Community

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

133 Murray St. Brantford, ON N3S 5P8
(519) 753 7316, marybrantford@gmail.com
www.marybrantford.com

March 1, 2024

Welcome to the Sacraments of Initiation for Children 2024 Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion!

****Parent/Guardian Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00pm at St. Mary's Church.
Registration Forms are available on our website www.marybrantford.com.**

WHO CAN RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS?

The Sacraments are available to children in Grade 2 or older who have been baptised Catholic. The registration form and a copy of their baptismal certificate is required. The registration form is attached to this letter, it is also available from our website, and/or from the parish or school office.

We invite children from the Catholic Elementary Schools associated with St. Mary's Parish to the program: Madonna della Libera, Holy Cross, St. Peter and children who attend St. Mary's church but are from other schools. Children from other schools please contact the office.

WHY IS FIRST COMMUNION IMPORTANT?

WHAT IF MY CHILD HASN'T BEEN BAPTISED YET?

On the day of Baptism parents and godparents made a promise to bring the child up in the Catholic Faith. The reception of the Eucharist - the First Holy Communion is an important step on this journey of faith. After Baptism the Eucharist is considered as the second Sacrament of Initiation with the Confirmation to follow. If your child is not baptised we can arrange for this, you need to contact our church office. You can find some information on our website: <http://www.marybrantford.com/downloads.html>

WHY DO I NEED TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS?

There is no better way to prepare your child for the First Holy Communion than bringing him/her to church for Sunday Eucharist. Sunday Mass is an obligation for every Catholic and it is the best way to introduce your child to this most sacred of all our faith celebrations. We have 3 Sunday Masses at our church with one on Saturday Evening at 5:00 p.m. and two on Sunday morning 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The full schedule and some current updates are also on our website: www.marybrantford.com

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRST CONFESSION DAY?

The First Confessions are scheduled on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 6:00pm. We strongly advise parents and teachers to make with the child examination of conscience, and practice what to say to the priest. We attached some aids we usually use before school confessions. It is important that the child is not stressed about confession. There is full confidentiality about every confession and the child needs to know it. If your child has problems concentrating, the child can write down some points about sins and read it to the priest during confession. There is no special dress code, just as always when attending church for the Holy Mass.

WHO WILL BRING CHILDREN TO THE REHEARSAL?

We will meet for a rehearsal on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 10:00 am at the church.

WHAT IS THE FIRST COMMUNION DRESS CODE?

Traditionally girls wear a white dress for the First Communion Mass, which is a symbol of purity and a reminder of their Baptism. However we do not require a white dress or a veil. We accept other colours of the dress, and also flowers, ribbons or a tiara instead of the veil, or nothing on the head.

In regard to boys' outfit we do not require you to purchase a suit, but boys are free to wear it. Make your boy look elegant. Try to dress him in a shirt with a collar. A tie is good, but not required. Dress pants, or nice Dockers are fine. No specific colour of pant, shirt or tie is required however the usual colour is white for shirt and black for pants. If your child doesn't have "dress shoes" that is ok but then let them wear the best shoes they have.

WHEN WE NEED TO COME TO CHURCH ON FIRST COMMUNION DAY?

On the day of First Communion, Sunday, June 2, 2024, we expect you to arrive at 12:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. The children will be seated in their school groupings during the Mass. Children will be seated in the first pews reserved for them. We ask the families to take the pews behind them.

WHO AND WHEN CAN TAKE PICTURES?

You are welcome to take your individual pictures in the parish hall before the mass and after the Mass in the church. However, we **strongly ask** you not to use any digital device (camera, cell phone) during the Mass. We have to respect the sacredness of this moment.

HOW CAN YOU EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE?

There will be monetary collection taken during the Mass as it is usually done on Sunday. We will greatly appreciate your gift for our church. This collection will be presented in the offertory procession to the altar. If you are a registered parishioner, please use your donation envelope or if you would like an income tax receipt at the end of the year please write your name and address on an envelope with your donation inside it.

God Bless you!

Fr. Laszlo Amaszka, Pastor



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Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Events Schedule 2024

Parent/Guardian Meeting (at St. Mary's Church)

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:00pm

****Registration Forms Due**

-Available on our website www.marybrantford.com**

First Confessions (at St. Mary's Church)

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00pm

Rehearsal (at St. Mary's Church)

Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 10:00am

First Holy Communion Mass (at St. Mary's Church)

Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 1:00pm

Please arrive at 12:30pm

Church opens at 12:00pm