

THE ORILLIA FAMILY OF CATHOLIC CHURCHES



St. Francis



St. Andrew's




Guardian Angels



Sacred Heart



St. Columbkille

Office/Mailing Address: 115 West Street North, Orillia, ON, L3V 5C4  **705-326-2849 Ext. 212**

January 2025

Dear Grade Two Students and Parents,

On behalf of the Orillia Family of Catholic Churches we are inviting you to the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation this year.

The Sacraments are Important to our Catholic Faith and practice, as they are a tangible way to connect with God and grow in holiness. The Sacraments are considered channels of divine grace and are gifts from God to sanctify the people and build up the Catholic Church. Through the Sacraments, and our active and ongoing participation, we grow in holiness and strengthen our relationship with God.

The Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation, lay the foundation of every Christian Life. As a Catholic, we usually receive our first Initiation Sacrament: Baptism, as an infant, which is the gateway to life in the Holy Spirit and our life in the Catholic Church. The next Sacrament of Initiation is Holy Communion, which a child will receive generally, in grade two. First Reconciliation, which is one of the Healing Sacraments, and is received in preparation to receive the First Holy Communion. As they receive the First Holy Communion they are receiving Jesus, fully human and fully divine, for the First Time in its totality: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

The mandatory parent meeting is **Saturday, February 1, 2025, 4:00 - 4:45** p.m. at Guardian Angels Parish Hall. Parents, please plan to attend without fail.

What is Needed

- 1) Registration Information:** In our Orillia Family of Catholic Churches, the Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is completed through Guardian Angels and St. Columbkille's, starting in February. This year Registration Forms, available on Parish Website or at the Office, must be completed and submitted, with a copy of the Baptism Certificate, to the Parish Office by January 31, 2025. Please provide \$50 with the completed registration form or at the parent meeting to cover the expenses. Payment via Cheque or Cash is appreciated.
- 2) Attendance:** regular attendance at weekly Mass as well as at the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation program is an expectation for successful preparation for these amazing Sacraments. By helping you fulfill your duty as parents, the Pastor can fulfill the Church's duty to ensure that the Candidates have been sufficiently prepared for these Sacraments.

If you have any questions regarding sacramental preparations, please contact the Parish Office.

Looking forward to seeing you!

May God bless you,

Fr. Prasanth George CMI

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation Team