

St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral

411 Reid St. Box 175 · Peterborough, ON · K9J 6Y8 · p: 705.745.4681
email: office@st-peter-in-chains.ca · website: www.st-peter-in-chains.ca



The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are very important steps in your child's faith journey. In Holy Communion, Jesus Himself comes to us. He is present body, blood, soul and divinity under the appearance of bread and wine - what a mystery! In this great Sacrament we experience union with God and with our brothers and sisters more closely than anywhere else on earth. Reconciliation gives us the opportunity to be freed from the burden of any sins we may have committed and to prepare our hearts for Holy Communion. We are assured of the forgiveness of Jesus Himself, who works through His minister, the priest. At St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral Parish, those Catholics who are in grade two or older are invited to celebrate the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

This information Package is meant to be informative and to assist Candidates and their parents in the preparation for these Sacraments.

Celebration of First Reconciliation:	Thursday Nov. 27th at 6:00PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains
Celebration of First Holy Communion:	Sunday, June 7th 2015 at the 11:30 Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains

Preparation:

In preparing your child for these important Sacraments, the parish and school work together to educate candidates on particular matters of faith. For students at St. Teresa, Fathers Luis and John will work together with your child's teacher to ensure that candidates are properly instructed on the meaning of the Sacraments they will be receiving and how they are to be celebrated. Candidates not enrolled at St. Teresa will receive instruction at parish sessions that will be held at the stone school opposite the Cathedral. A team of volunteers from the Cathedral parish have been assembled and prepared to assist in preparing students for their Sacraments. As parents, you play the most important role in preparing your child for these Sacraments - if there is any way that the Cathedral parish can assist you in your task, do not hesitate to give us a call!

Enrolment Ceremony:

As part of our preparation for these Sacraments, we will have an enrolment ceremony during which the children will be asked to stand and be recognized as candidates for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St. Peter-in-Chains. This will allow the entire parish to share your family's joy and to pray for our candidates. Every candidate must attend **Enrolment Sunday Mass**. Please refer to the schedule below for the date and time of this Mass. If a candidate cannot come on that date, please speak with Father John or Father Luis to make other arrangements.

Sacramental Application Forms and Baptism Certificates:

Families living within the boundaries of, and registered and worshiping at, the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains are welcome to fill out the enrolment form (Registration) online at www.st-peter-in-chains.ca and complete it by **October 15th**. A copy of each candidate's baptismal certificate is also required. Copies of your child's baptismal certificate can be obtained from the parish where he/she was baptized. These can then be given to Father John or Father Luis at Mass, dropped off at the Cathedral office (411 Reid Street) or mailed to the Cathedral. Please do not send copies of your child's baptismal certificate to St. Teresa Elementary School. Those baptized at St. Peter-in-Chains do not need to provide a copy of their certificates. On a final note, if it is not a financial burden, we would greatly appreciate a donation to help cover the cost of materials and snacks associated with Sacramental preparation. A donation of \$10 is suggested, but any amount is appreciated and can be dropped off at the parish office or sent to school for students of St. Teresa.

Candidates from other Parishes:

Ordinarily, a candidate for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion should receive these Sacraments in his/her own parish. For a serious reason, the candidate, with the permission of his/her proper pastor, may receive these Sacraments in another parish. If a candidate attends a parish other than this one, we ask him or her to obtain permission from the proper pastor by having him fill in the permission form which is available upon request.

Mass Attendance:

At baptism, parents took the responsibility of raising their children in the practice of the faith. With the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, candidates are being strengthened in their Christian commitment and beginning the process of taking personal responsibility for their faith. In order to encourage this, candidates and their families are strongly encouraged to attend Mass regularly.

Candidates not Enrolled at St. Teresa Catholic School:

For candidates not enrolled at St. Teresa, instructional sessions will be held at the 'Stone School,' across the street from the Cathedral. Classes will take place once a month on Monday evenings for one hour and a half (from 6:00 to 7:30). Sessions will begin in mid-October. See the attached schedule.

Dress:

Proper dress for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is "Sunday Best." This means that clothes should be neat, clean, modest, and appropriate for church. New, elaborate, and expensive clothes are not necessary.

Promptness and Seating:

All candidates should assemble at the back of the Cathedral **10 minutes prior to First Holy Communion**. There will be no reserved seating except for candidates and their immediate families. This is also a regular parish Mass, so extended family and guests should arrive early to ensure a seat.

This is a grace filled time for candidates and family members alike. The best spiritual preparation for the candidates and the best example by the parents involves faithful Catholic practice. God bless you as you continue on your journey of faith. If we can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to call us at the parish office. The entire parish community shares your excitement as you prepare for these beautiful Sacraments!

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Program Schedule

Note: Items in Bold Apply to All Candidates

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Inaugural Meeting	Thursday, September 25 6PM	Cathedral Church
Application Deadline	Wednesday, October 15	Cathedral Church
Catechetical Lesson 1 (for students not at St. Teresa)	Monday October 20th 6PM - 7.30PM	Stone School
Catechetical Lesson 2	Monday November 17 6PM - 7.30PM	Stone School
Enrolment Sunday	Sunday, November 23 10AM Mass	Cathedral Church
First Reconciliation	Thursday, November 27 6PM	Cathedral Church
Catechetical Lesson 3	Monday, January 19 6PM - 7.30PM	Stone School
Catechetical Lesson 4	Monday, February 23 6PM - 7.30PM	Stone School
Catechetical Lesson 5	Monday, March 23 6PM - 7.30PM	Stone School
Catechetical Lesson 6	Monday, April 20 6PM - 7.30PM	Stone School
Catechetical Lesson 7	Monday, May 18 6PM - 7.30PM	Stone School
First Holy Communion (reception to follow)	Sunday, June 7 11:30AM	Cathedral Church