



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE. Matthew 19:14

September 29, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are delighted to introduce an exciting new initiative by the Diocese of Calgary to prepare your child(ren) for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Our guiding theme for this sacramental preparation journey is inspired by Matthew 19:14 *“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”* This verse beautifully captures the essence of our pastoral renewal, affirming that **our children are called by God, they matter to Him, and they belong to the Body of Christ** – our Church and parish community.

We deeply value your family and are committed not only to preparing your child(ren) for these important sacraments but also to supporting your family’s ongoing relationship with Christ and integrating faith into daily life.

To this end, we are introducing several new elements in our sacramental preparation process. Notably, instead of traditional classroom settings, each family will be part of a small group that will journey through the preparation together. During our “Family Gatherings,” you and your child will engage in prayer, listen to the Word of God, participate in conversations and discussions, and enjoy fun, interactive activities and games that will deepen your child(ren)’s understanding of the faith and the sacraments.

The preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will include 16 gatherings, totalling 24 hours, from September through June.

FIRST RECONCILIATION
• Parents-Only Gathering (September 27 at 9:30 am)
• Family Gathering 1 (October 18 at 8:30 am) * *Confirmation session @ 10:30 am
• Family Gathering 2 (November 8 at 8:30 am) * *Confirmation session @ 10:30 am
• Family Gathering 3 (November 15 at 8:30 am)
• Family Gathering 4 (December 6 at 8:30 am) * *Confirmation session @ 10:30 am
• Family Gathering 5 (December 13 at 8:30 am)
• Family Gathering 6 (January 10, 2026, at 8:30 am)
• Retreat (January 17, 2026, at 9:00 am - 1:00 pm *Lunch TBD from 12:00 -1:00 pm Fellowship to follow and sign up prior to date, please advise any allergies.
• Celebration (January 17, 2026, at 11:00 am – 12:00 pm)

FIRST EUCHARIST
• Parents-Only Gathering (February 7 at 10:00 am)
• Family Gathering 1 (February 14 at 8:30 am)
• Family Gathering 2 (February 21 at 8:30 am) * *Confirmation session @ 10:30 am
• Family Gathering 3 (March 7 at 8:30 am)
• Family Gathering 4 (March 14 at 8:30 am)
• Family Gathering 5 (April 18 at 8:30 am)
• Family Gathering 6 (Apr 25 at 8:30 am)
• Retreat (May 2 at 9:00 am – 1:00 pm)
• Celebration (May 9 at 5:00 pm)

On-line registration is **EXTENDED** to all **Grades 2 and up** until **October 6**. Visit [www.stgerards.ca](http://www.stgerards.ca) under Children’s sacraments tab for more information or visit Sacrament Registration for Children. visit <https://stgerards.ca/sacrament-registration-for-children>;

Please **submit a copy of your child’s Baptismal Certificate** to [pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca](mailto:pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca); if baptized at St. Gerard’s please indicate in registration, no copy needed.

**Registration fee is \$50 per sacrament per person (First Reconciliation & First Eucharist)**. E-transfer accepted to [Frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca](mailto:Frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca); Candidates must complete First Reconciliation prior to registering for First Eucharist. **All sessions are mandatory attendance for candidate and one parent.** If unable to attend any sessions, please email: [pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca](mailto:pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca); As parents/guardians you are your child’s primary educators. Home Study guide will be available upon request; a session is missed.

We warmly invite your family to join us on this sacred journey and look forward to supporting your children as they grow closer to Christ.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you, and we look forward to journeying with your family!

Yours in Christ,

*Gay Abuan-Summers*

Mrs. Gay Abuan-Summers

St. Gerard’s Pastoral Program Coordinator

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