



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

September 12th, 2024

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 at St. Martha's Parish.

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. Dates for First Eucharist, which will start in the new year, will be published at a later time. All gatherings will occur at St. Martha's Parish.

FIRST RECONCILIATION
• Parents-Only Gathering (Monday, October 7, 6:00 PM)
• Family Gathering 1 (Monday, October 21, 6:00 PM)
• Family Gathering 2 (Monday, October 28, 6:00 PM)
• Family Gathering 3 (Monday, November 4, 6:00 PM)
• Family Gathering 4 (Monday, November 18, 6:00 PM)
• Family Gathering 5 (Monday, November 25, 6:00 PM)
• Family Gathering 6 (Monday, December 2, 6:00 PM)
• Retreat (Saturday, December 7, 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM)
• Celebration (To Be Announced)

The registration cost is \$50 for both sacraments and the registration deadline is **4:00 PM on October 4, 2024**. Please return the registration form and your child's baptismal certificate to St. Martha's Parish or scan them to sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca. If your child is unbaptized and you wish to catch them up on their sacraments, please return the form anyways and we can make alternative arrangements. Should you have any other questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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!

Yours in Christ,

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