



First Reconciliation & Holy Communion

Immaculate Conception Church



Child's Name _____
First Middle Last

Gender: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth _____
Month Day Year

Baptism information:

Parish of Baptism* _____ Year of Baptism _____

Parish Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Please attach a copy of your child's baptism certificate

Family Information

Parish our family is currently registered at: _____

Father's Name _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Name _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Parents are

Married in the Catholic Church Civilly Married Common Law Other: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Parent Agreement

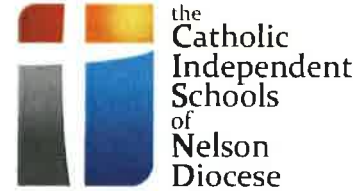
I have read and I support the attached diocesan guidelines regarding sacramental preparation.

Parent Signature



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF NELSON

Catholic Pastoral Centre
3665 Benvoulin Road
Kelowna, BC V1W 4M7



October 2024

Re: Sacraments Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation

Dear Pastors, Principals, Religious Education Coordinators, Catechists, Teachers, and Parents,

Parents are the first educators of their children and choose where their child receives religious education - in a parish or school program. Preparation for sacraments, including religious education, requires collaboration between home, school, and parish. In order to meet every child's needs and better support this collaboration of each in their essential roles, please read all of the following.

Clearly, **sacraments are celebrated by the Church**. Reception of sacraments is not a school event. Sacraments are celebrated within the faith community of each family's parish.

PARENTS (Mothers, Fathers, Guardians and Caregivers):

- Receive recognition and support for their vocation as **first educators** of their children in the faith
- Seek support from others in the faith formation of their children and take direction from the Church in matters of faith
- Choose where their child will receive religious education - school or parish
- Guide, teach and form their children in the Catholic faith at home, at church, and in the world
- Model the Catholic faith through their own **active** practice
- Ensure their family is registered with their home parish
- Regardless of where religious education occurs, **contact their parish** by early September to enroll their child for each sacrament, and attend all meetings and events provided by the parish for sacraments preparation.

PARISHES (Pastors, Coordinators, and Catechists):

- Recognize there are two religious education programs, **school and parish**, which support the vocation of parents as first educators of their children in the faith
- Acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of schools who may be accommodating multiple parishes, each with their own expectations for sacraments preparation
- If the school is used for after-school parish catechism classes, ensure classrooms are left in the same condition in which they were found (teacher and student items untouched)
- Understand schools and parish catechism programs have separate budgets for supplies; assume all resources and classroom supplies must be provided by each program separately
- **Coordinators: contact the school secretary** to request names and contact information (parent phone and email) of students registered to your parish; note: PIPA (Privacy Act) compliance is now ensured through a release contained in every school's registration form

- In September or early October, provide information regarding sacraments requirements and a calendar of meetings and events to school staff and all registered families (parish and school)
- Set the date for celebrating each sacrament and communicate to all parents and school staff (*coordinators are encouraged to contact schools for their calendars to better avoid conflicts between school and parish events when creating sacraments preparation and event schedules*)
- Host retreats, parent formation/information gatherings, preparatory rites, masses, sacraments, community celebrations, or other events for all families in their parish preparing for sacraments
- Provide families with materials specific to preparation at home
- When organizing celebration of the rite, understand the special bond of student and teacher, and invite and integrate school staff responsible for sacraments preparation whenever possible
- Offer any special gifts to all children, both school and parish
- Celebrate sacraments as a church community.

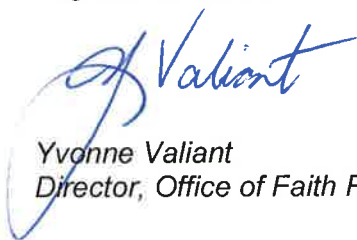
SCHOOLS (Principals, Teachers and Staff):

- Recognize there are two religious education programs, school and parish, which support the vocation of parents as first educators of their children in the faith
- On request, provide each parish with a list of students registered to that parish, and their home contact information, as per the release included on each school's registration
- Understand schools and parishes have separate budgets; most parish catechists are volunteers and often make do with less (time with students, resources, teaching tools), transport all they use, and appreciate any reasonable accommodation when sharing school facilities
- Inquire about parish dates for sacraments meetings and celebrations, and plan to prepare children accordingly (*consider sharing a school calendar to help parishes better avoid conflicts with other school events*)
- Receive direction from each parish with requirements for sacraments, and forward parish communication letters and emails as requested
- Teach children about faith and sacrament per diocesan curriculum and prepare them to encounter Christ sacramentally
- Remind parents celebration of sacraments is a parish event, not a school event
- As a school community, recognize and celebrate with particular joy when students receive a sacrament.

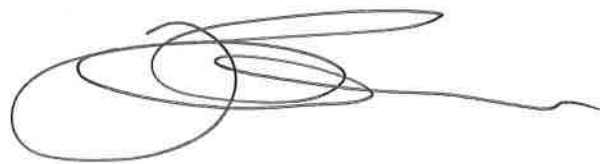
Please retain this letter as a guide for understanding the shared roles and responsibilities for sacraments preparation.

As a diocese, our goal is to encourage an effective collaboration of parishes, families, and schools, and a positive and transformational experience for the children.

Together in Christ,



Yvonne Valiant
Director, Office of Faith Formation



Pamela Guilbault
Superintendent of Catholic Schools