



St. Mark's Catholic Church

345 Glad Park Ave.
Stouffville, ON L4A 1E4

Tel. no. 905-640-6954 Fax no. 905-640-0642
Email: stmarksoffice@bellnet.ca

****IMPORTANT FIRST RECONCILIATION / FIRST COMMUNION REGISTRATION INFORMATION****

September 6, 2023

Dear Parent(s):

This letter is an important reminder of upcoming dates and registration information for this year's **First Reconciliation/First Communion program**. Please read through this entire letter carefully.

How to Complete the Registration Process

Step 1: Online Preliminary Registration

Beginning **Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 9 am through Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at midnight.**

The Registration Form will be available on the parish website at <https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/en/sacraments/first-communion/> in the First Communion section which is under the Sacraments heading. Please complete and submit this form (enter the information as it appears on your child's Baptismal Certificate). Once you click submit at the end of the online registration form, a message should appear on your screen indicating you have successfully registered your child.

Reminder: Acceptance into the program will not be secured until all required documents are submitted, the in-person registration night is attended by one parent, and payment is made for the materials. If these steps are not completed, you will forfeit your spot secured during online registration.

Step 2: In-person First Reconciliation/First Communion Parent Registration

Only one parent or legal guardian needs to attend the Parent Registration Night on **Wednesday, September 20th, 2023, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm (approximately) in the church.** This evening is intended for parents only.

Please ensure you **bring the following:**

- A **photocopy** of your child's official **Baptismal Certificate**.
- Registration fee of \$130 for the First Reconciliation and First Communion Programs**, cheque preferred (payable to St. Mark's Church) to cover materials and administrative costs. Let us know if the payment is an issue.

The **first workbook** for First Reconciliation will be distributed on this date and parents will also receive an instruction package outlining the program and instructions on accessing the online videos. The **second workbook** for First Communion will be distributed at the November 18th class.

Step 3: Enrolment Ceremony

The ceremony will take place at each of the Masses (Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 9 am or 11 am) on the following weekends:

September 30 or October 1

October 7 or 8

Please choose one of the Masses on either weekend for your child to take part in the Enrolment Ceremony.

Step 4: Volunteer Training

For those parents who are volunteering to lead a small group, information will be provided via email closer to the start of classes.

I look forward to sharing with you in this God-given mission of leading our children to the Father through His Son in the Holy Spirit.

Sincerely,

Fr. Tad Walczyk
Pastor, St. Mark's Parish

Schedule of Dates for First Reconciliation and First Communion Program 2023/2024

Date	Event	Explanation
Tuesday, September 12 to Tuesday, September 19	<u>Online registration</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registration link will be on our website stmarksst@archtoronto.org beginning September 12th. Please ensure the online registration form is completed before attending the Parent Registration Night on September 20th.
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:00-8:30 pm St. Mark's Church PARENTS ONLY	<u>Registration night</u> (St. Mark's Church) Attendance by at least one parent is <u>mandatory</u> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be providing you with the tools and training you will need to assist your child. (Please plan for babysitters for your children, if necessary, as your undivided attention will be required in order to most effectively prepare you during the session. Only one parent is required to attend, although all are welcome.) Bring registration fee (\$130) to cover First Reconciliation/First Communion program costs and a photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate.
Saturday or Sunday Sept. 30 or Oct. 1, 2023 October 7 or 8, 2023 St. Mark's Church	<u>Enrolment Ceremonies</u> <i>Children will be called to come to the front of the church during the Mass to hand in their "Please Pray for Me" prayer slips.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take place at each mass on the listed weekends. Parents can choose one of the masses they would like to attend on either weekend - Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 9 am or Sunday at 11 am.
Saturday, October 28, 2023 St. Mark's Church Hall Class Group A St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara <u>9 am until 10:30 am</u> Class Group B St. Brendan <u>11 am until 12:30 pm</u> Class Group C St. Mark <u>1:30 pm until 3 pm</u>	<u>First Reconciliation</u> Class #1 and Workbook Check Chapters 1, 2, 3 completed	First Reconciliation Class CHILDREN ONLY The children will attend class #1 in the First Reconciliation program (start time determined by the group they are in). Before the class, the child's workbook will be checked to ensure Chapters 1 to 3 are completed. Bring your child's workbook and passport to St. Mark's Church to have a coordinator sign off on the completed sections. <u>Please place sticky notes on completed pages to make checks quicker.</u>
Saturday, November 18, 2023 St. Mark's Church Hall Class Group A St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara <u>9 am until 10:30 am</u> Class Group B St. Brendan <u>11 am until 12:30 pm</u> Class Group C St. Mark <u>1:30 pm until 3 pm</u>	<u>First Reconciliation</u> Class #2 and Workbook Check Chapters 4, 5, 6 completed The second workbook for First Communion will be distributed to the children.	First Reconciliation Class CHILDREN ONLY The children will attend class #2 in the First Reconciliation program (start time determined by the group they are in). Before the class, the child's workbook will be checked to ensure Chapters 4 to 6 are completed. Bring your child's workbook and passport to St. Mark's Church to have a coordinator sign off on the completed sections. <u>Please place sticky notes on completed pages to make checks quicker.</u>
Wednesday at 7 pm November 22, 2023 November 29, 2023 December 6, 2023	<u>First Reconciliation Ceremonies</u> (St. Mark's Church) Group A St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara Group B St. Brendan Group C St. Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will make their First Reconciliation on the date assigned to their group.

Date	Event	Explanation
Saturday, January 20, 2024 St. Mark's Church Hall Class Group A St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara <u>9 am until 10:30 am</u> Class Group B St. Brendan <u>11 am until 12:30 pm</u> Class Group C St. Mark <u>1:30 pm until 3 pm</u>	<u>First Communion</u> Class #1 and Workbook Check Chapters 1, 2, 3 completed	First Communion Class CHILDREN ONLY The children will attend class #1 in the First Communion program (start time determined by the group they are in). Before the class, the child's workbook will be checked to ensure Chapters 1 to 3 are completed. Bring your child's workbook and passport to St. Mark's Church to have a coordinator sign off on the completed sections. <u>Please place sticky notes</u> on completed pages to make checks quicker.
Saturday, February 10, 2024 St. Mark's Church Hall Class Group A St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara <u>9 am until 10:30 am</u> Class Group B St. Brendan <u>11 am until 12:30 pm</u> Class Group C St. Mark <u>1:30 pm until 3 pm</u>	<u>First Communion</u> Class #2 and Workbook Check Chapters 4, 5, 6 completed	First Communion Class CHILDREN ONLY The children will attend class #2 in the First Communion program (start time determined by the group they are in). Before the class, the child's workbook will be checked to ensure chapters 4 to 6 are completed. Bring your child's workbook and passport to St. Mark's Church to have a coordinator sign off on the completed sections. <u>Please place sticky notes</u> on completed pages to make checks quicker.
Saturday, February 24, 2024 St. Mark's Church Hall	<u>Snow date/makeup session for Communion classes</u>	Classes will only be held on this date if regularly scheduled classes are cancelled due to inclement weather or if a makeup class is needed.
Saturday, April 6, 2024 St. Mark's Church Hall Retreat Group A St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara <u>9:30 am until 11 am</u> Retreat Group B St. Brendan <u>11:30 am until 1 pm</u> Retreat Group C St. Mark <u>1:30 pm until 3 pm</u>	<u>First Communion Retreat</u>	CHILDREN AND PARENTS <u>Please arrive 10 minutes before scheduled start time of the retreat.</u> There will be a catechetical session for parents upstairs in the church while the children have their retreat downstairs in the parish hall. The children will also have an opportunity to practice receiving an unconsecrated host.

First Communion Celebration Dates

Ceremony	School	First Communion Ceremony Date and Time
Ceremony 1	St. Brigid School	Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 2 pm
Ceremony 2	St. Mark School	Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 2 pm
Ceremony 3	Blessed Chiara & Public Schools	Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 2 pm
Ceremony 4	St. Brendan	Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 2 pm

Note:

Each child will attend the First Reconciliation and First Communion celebrations assigned to their school. Parents of children who attend public or private schools will be contacted by email with the class group after they have attended the in-person registration night on Sept. 20th.