



## St. Mark's Catholic Church

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

September 3, 2024

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 10, 2024, at 9 am through Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 21 or September 22

September 28 or September 29

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 2024/2025

| Date  | Event   | Explanation  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Tuesday, September 10<br/>to<br/>Tuesday, September 17</p>   | <p><u>Online registration</u></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The registration link will be on our website <a href="mailto:stmarksst@archtoronto.org">stmarksst@archtoronto.org</a> beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>Please ensure the online registration form is completed before attending the Parent Registration Night on September 18<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Wednesday,<br/>September 18, 2024<br/>7:00-8:30 pm<br/>St. Mark's Church<br/><b>PARENTS ONLY</b></p>   | <p><u>Registration night</u><br/>(St. Mark's Church)</p> <p>Attendance by at least one parent is <u>mandatory</u>.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will be providing you with the tools and training you will need to assist your child.</li> <li>(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.)</li> <li>Bring <b>registration fee (\$130)</b> to cover First Reconciliation/First Communion program costs and a <b>photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Saturday or Sunday<br/><b>Sept. 21 or Sept. 22, 2024</b><br/><b>Sept. 28 or Sept. 29, 2024</b><br/>St. Mark's Church</p>   | <p><u>Enrolment Ceremonies</u><br/><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></p>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To take place at each mass on the listed weekends.</li> <li>Parents can choose <b>one of the masses</b> they would like to attend on <b>either weekend</b> - Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 9 am or Sunday at 11 am.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Saturday,<br/><b>October 19, 2024</b><br/>St. Mark's Church Hall<br/>Class <b>Group A</b><br/>St. Mark<br/><b>9 am until 10:30 am</b><br/>Class <b>Group B</b><br/>St. Brigid &amp; Blessed Chiara<br/><b>11 am until 12:30 pm</b><br/>Class <b>Group C</b><br/>St. Brendan<br/><b>1:30 pm until 3 pm</b></p>  | <p><u>First Reconciliation</u><br/>Class #1 and<br/>Workbook Check<br/>Chapters 1, 2, 3 completed</p>   | <p><b>First Reconciliation Class</b><br/><b>CHILDREN ONLY</b><br/>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></p>  |
| <p>Saturday,<br/><b>November 16, 2024</b><br/>St. Mark's Church Hall<br/>Class <b>Group A</b><br/>St. Mark<br/><b>9 am until 10:30 am</b><br/>Class <b>Group B</b><br/>St. Brigid &amp; Blessed Chiara<br/><b>11 am until 12:30 pm</b><br/>Class <b>Group C</b><br/>St. Brendan<br/><b>1:30 pm until 3 pm</b></p> | <p><u>First Reconciliation</u><br/>Class #2 and<br/>Workbook Check<br/>Chapters 4, 5, 6 completed</p> <p>The second workbook for First Communion will be distributed to the children.</p> | <p><b>First Reconciliation Class</b><br/><b>CHILDREN ONLY</b><br/>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></p>  |
| <p>Wednesday at 7 pm<br/><b>November 20, 2024</b><br/><b>November 27, 2024</b><br/><b>December 4, 2024</b></p>  | <p><u>First Reconciliation Ceremonies</u><br/>(St. Mark's Church)</p> <p><b>Group A St. Mark</b><br/><b>Group B St. Brigid &amp; Blessed Chiara</b><br/><b>Group C St. Brendan</b></p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children will make their First Reconciliation on the date assigned to their group.</li> </ul>   |

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Event</b>  | <b>Explanation</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| Saturday,<br><b>January 18, 2025</b><br>St. Mark's Church Hall<br>Class <b>Group A</b><br>St. Mark<br><u><b>9 am until 10:30 am</b></u><br>Class <b>Group B</b><br>St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara<br><u><b>11 am until 12:30 pm</b></u><br>Class <b>Group C</b><br>St. Brendan<br><u><b>1:30 pm until 3 pm</b></u>    | <u><b>First Communion</b></u><br>Class #1 and<br>Workbook Check<br>Chapters 1, 2, 3 completed | <b>First Communion Class</b><br><b>CHILDREN ONLY</b><br>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,<br><b>February 22, 2025</b><br>St. Mark's Church Hall<br>Class <b>Group A</b><br>St. Mark<br><u><b>9 am until 10:30 am</b></u><br>Class <b>Group B</b><br>St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara<br><u><b>11 am until 12:30 pm</b></u><br>Class <b>Group C</b><br>St. Brendan<br><u><b>1:30 pm until 3 pm</b></u>   | <u><b>First Communion</b></u><br>Class #2 and<br>Workbook Check<br>Chapters 4, 5, 6 completed | <b>First Communion Class</b><br><b>CHILDREN ONLY</b><br>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,<br><b>March 1, 2025</b><br>St. Mark's Church Hall  | <u><b>Snow date/makeup session for Communion classes</b></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,<br><b>April 12, 2025</b><br>St. Mark's Church Hall<br>Retreat <b>Group A</b><br>St. Mark<br><u><b>9:30 am until 11 am</b></u><br>Retreat <b>Group B</b><br>St. Brigid & Blessed Chiara<br><u><b>11:30 am until 1 pm</b></u><br>Retreat <b>Group C</b><br>St. Brendan<br><u><b>1:30 pm until 3 pm</b></u> | <u><b>First Communion Retreat</b></u>   | <b>CHILDREN AND PARENTS</b><br><u>Please arrive 10 minutes before scheduled start time of the retreat.</u><br>There will be a catechetical session for parents upstairs in the church while the children have their retreat downstairs in the parish hall.<br>The children will also have an opportunity to practice receiving an unconsecrated host.  |

## **First Communion Celebration Dates**

| <b>Ceremony</b> | <b>School</b>                   | <b>First Communion Ceremony Date and Time</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Ceremony 1      | St. Mark School                 | Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 2 pm                   |
| Ceremony 2      | Blessed Chiara & Public Schools | Sunday, May 11, 2025 at 2 pm                  |
| Ceremony 3      | St. Brigid School               | Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 2 pm                  |
| Ceremony 4      | St. Brendan School              | Sunday, June 1, 2025 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. 18<sup>th</sup>.