

Dear Families,

Thank you for choosing Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes (St. John the Divine, and St. George) to journey with you in preparing your children to receive their First Reconciliation and First Communion!

### Whole Family Faith Formation

Parents have a unique and profound privilege of passing on the Christian faith to their children. At Baptism, you chose to raise your child in the Catholic faith. Day-to-day you witness the faith through awakening a sense of God, prayer, morals, and the Christian sense of human love (John Paul II, *On the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World*, November 22, 1981. No. 15).

The Christian community and the family are a unique point of reference for each other: the community receives from the family an understanding of the faith as connected to day-to-day life, and the family receives from the community the Gospel and practical faith applications (*Directory for Catechesis*, no. 229). Recognizing that faith is first learned, understood, and lived out in the Christian family, sacramental preparation sessions will include a combination of in-person sessions that candidates will attend with at least one of their parents or guardians; and the completion of at-home activities that will engage the entire family in the preparation process.

The resources selected for sacramental preparation this year continue our parishes' current practice of involving parents more in sharing their faith lives. We have received positive feedback from families who have completed this process that there has been a strong impact on candidates, families, and the parish.

### Support for Parent

Complimentary resources will be made available to parents, free of charge, for your support in journeying with your child/ren through this process, as well as for your own ongoing formation. These resources, though optional, are strongly recommended. These resources will equip you with additional information to respond to faith-based questions that your child may develop through their preparation process. We welcome feedback and requests for particular topics.

### Flexible Schedule

***A complete list of dates, times, and locations can be found at the end of this information package.***

Our sacramental preparation process offers a flexible schedule. Four cycles of sessions are available to choose from. Together, St. John the Divine Parish and St. George Parish form one Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes. Please select the cycle (rather than the location) that best fits your family's schedule:

- Fall Cycle A: Mondays, 6:15PM – 7:45PM, September 22 – November 3, St. George Parish)
- Fall Cycle B: Sundays, 11:15AM – 12:30PM, October 19 – November 23, St. John the Divine)
- Winter Cycle: Sundays, 11:15AM – 12:30PM, January 25 – March 8, St. John the Divine)
- Spring Cycle: Tuesdays, 6:15PM – 7:45PM, April 14 – May 19, St. George)

### Parent Meeting

Ahead of each sacramental preparation cycle, Parent Meetings will be facilitated to meet one another, to learn about the sacramental preparation materials and format, and to ask questions. Materials will be available for purchase at these gatherings. Parents only need to attend one Parent Meeting before their child/ren begin sacramental preparation sessions:

- Monday, September 15, 6PM – 7PM, St. George Parish
- Sunday, November 16, 1PM-2PM, St. John the Divine Parish
- Tuesday, March 24, 7PM – 8PM, St. George Parish

### Registration Form and Fee

Please visit [springbankcatholic.ca](http://springbankcatholic.ca) to register for First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation. Access the Form from the menu by selecting: 'Sacraments,' then 'Sacraments of Initiation.'

A Registration Fee of \$50 per candidate is due before candidates begin preparation sessions\*\*. This fee covers the cost of the candidate's sacramental preparation materials and is payable by cash or cheque during Parent Information Sessions, or our Parish Office (1164 Commissioners Road West). Please make cheques payable to either St. John the Divine Parish OR St. George Parish.

We also accept e-transfer. Please include with your payment the note: "First Reconciliation & Communion Preparation." Please e-transfer to: [stgeorge@dol.ca](mailto:stgeorge@dol.ca)

\*\*Please contact [sacramentsatspringbank@dol.ca](mailto:sacramentsatspringbank@dol.ca) if you require financial assistance. Or if you are able to support other children preparing for sacraments, please consider paying it forward by making a donation to Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes; please include: "Donation to Sacramental Preparation."

### First Reconciliation and First Communion Dates

Once sacramental preparation has begun, families will be informed of drop-in dates for the celebration of First Reconciliation. First Reconciliations are heard in the order that families arrive to those drop-in times. A certificate of completion will not be provided.

Also once sacramental preparation has begun, registered families will receive a list of dates to choose from for the celebration of First Communion. First Communions are celebrated during Saturday anticipatory Masses, or Sunday Masses, with the gathered assembly. Requested dates to celebrate First Communion are not confirmed until written confirmation is communicated from our Sacramental Preparation Team. Space is limited. We will do our best to accommodate requests.

Please do not hesitate to contact [sacramentsatspringbank@dol.ca](mailto:sacramentsatspringbank@dol.ca) with any questions or concerns.

Alexandria Fung,  
Pastoral Minister to Families & Youth | Sacraments



**First Reconciliation & First Communion Preparation Schedule (2025-2026)**

*Subject to change.*

**FALL CYCLE – A: Mondays from 6:15PM until 7:45PM, at St. George Parish Hall**

| <i>First Reconciliation Preparation</i> |                    | <i>First Communion Preparation</i> |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Session #1                              | September 22, 2025 | Session #1                         | October 20, 2025 |
| Session #2                              | September 29, 2025 | Session #2                         | October 27, 2025 |
| Session #3                              | October 6, 2025    | Session #3                         | November 3, 2025 |

**FALL CYCLE – B: Sundays from 11:15AM until 12:30PM, at St. John the Divine Parish Hall**

| <i>First Reconciliation Preparation</i> |                  | <i>First Communion Preparation</i> |                   |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Session #1                              | October 19, 2025 | Session #1                         | November 16, 2025 |
| Session #2                              | October 26, 2025 | Session #2                         | November 23, 2025 |
| Session #3                              | November 9, 2025 | Session #3                         | November 30, 2025 |

**WINTER CYCLE: Sundays from 11:15AM until 12:30PM, at St. John the Divine Parish Hall**

| <i>First Reconciliation Preparation</i> |                  | <i>First Communion Preparation</i> |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Session #1                              | January 18, 2026 | Session #1                         | February 8, 2026 |
| Session #2                              | January 25, 2026 | Session #2                         | March 22, 2026   |
| Session #3                              | February 1, 2026 | Session #3                         | March 1, 2026    |

**SPRING CYCLE: Tuesdays from 6:15PM until 7:45PM, at St. George Parish Hall**

| <i>First Reconciliation Preparation</i> |                | <i>First Communion Preparation</i> |              |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Session #1                              | April 14, 2026 | Session #1                         | May 5, 2026  |
| Session #2                              | April 21, 2026 | Session #2                         | May 12, 2026 |
| Session #3                              | April 28, 2026 | Session #3                         | May 19, 2026 |