200 Church Street Toronto, Ontario M5B 1Z2 T: 416-364-0234 F: 416-364-6029 www.stmichaelscathedral.com

First Reconciliation / Holy Communion 2025-26

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St Michael's Cathedral Basilica. It is a joy to journey with you as you prepare your child for First Reconciliation and First Communion-an important milestone in your child's faith formation. Thank you for your sacrifices and commitment that provides your child with a strong foundation.

At your child's baptism, you gladly accepted the responsibility to "train your child in the practice of the faith" and "bring your child up to keep God's commandments." Your dedication and example play an important role in preparing your child for the sacraments.

We approach sacramental preparation at St Michael's Cathedral Basilica as a collaborative effort between the parents and the Church. While the parents are the child's primary educators, the Church is here to support you in a focused way as your child approaches these sacraments.

In the gospel, Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me". (Matthew 19:14). To help you pass on the faith, we encourage you to attend the sessions with your child and work closely together as your child prepares for First Confession.

If you are unable to attend any of these sessions, please inform the Lay Pastoral Associate. Thank you again for your dedication. Please know that you and your child are in my prayers. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out at any time—we are here to support you.

In Christ,

Fr. Edwin Gonsalves

Rector

First Reconciliation / Holy Communion 2025-26 Atrium

SCHEDULE

| Week | Topic | Date: Sunday, |
|------|---|-------------------|
| | | 2 – 3:30 p.m. |
| 1 | Parent Session – Sunday, October 5 @1:15 p.m. | |
| 2 | Created by Love | October 26, 2025 |
| 3 | A Steadfast Love | November 2, 2025 |
| 4 | Unconditionally Loved | November 30, 2025 |
| 5 | Saved by Love | December 7, 2025 |
| 6 | A Universal Love | January 11, 2026 |
| 7 | The Sacrament of Baptism: Loved, | January 18, 2026 |
| | Renewed, Restored | |
| 8 | The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Love | February 8, 2026 |
| | Restored | |
| 9 | The Sacrament of the Eucharist: Sacrificial | February 22, 2026 |
| | Love | |
| 10 | The Liturgy of the Mass: Loving God Back | March 8, 2026 |
| 11 | Review: Called to Love | March 29, 2026 |
| 12 | First Reconciliation & Holy Communion | April 19, 2026 |
| | Rehearsal | |
| 13 | First Holy Communion – Sunday, April 26 @ 10:00 a.m. Mass | |

^{*}Please note that sessions are a bit more sporadic and to mark these dates in your calendar to stay on top of it*

REGISTRATION: To register for the First Communion program, you can:

- 1. Register online via the QR code, or to click the link below.
- 2. Come to the Parish Office to fill out the online form from LPA's computer.
- 3. Register in person, on **Sunday**, **October 5**th at 1:15 p.m. in the Atrium (to find the Atrium see the details below).





ADMINISTRATIVE FEE: All donations to the First Communion Preparation are covered in the initial payment of \$40.00/child

• If paying the \$40 is not feasible for you, please do not hesitate to contact the Lay Pastoral Associate to discuss options (information page 4).

MEETING SPACE INSTRUCTIONS:

Access to the Cathedral Atrium Meeting room is as follows:

- 1. Proceed to 65 Bond Street (Cathedral main entrance).
- 2. Rather than going inside the Cathedral, please find the <u>black gate on</u> the North side of the Cathedral courtyard (closest to the Choir school, by the accessibility ramp).
- 3. A security guard or volunteer will be there to open the gate and let you in through the Atrium Courtyard (otherwise please wait for someone to let you in).
- 4. Proceed straight through the gate and up the ramp to the double doors (again a volunteer will be present to let you into the Atrium meeting space).

If you have difficulty finding your way, do not hesitate to contact Chelsea at the number below.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

To ensure a safe and supportive learning environment, we ask parents to please contact Chelsea to make accommodations for students who request and need it.

Additionally, there will be a light snack provided at these sessions, so if your child has any allergies, please contact Chelsea with information about dietary restrictions.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chelsea Torregosa Lay Pastoral Associate <u>torregosa@stmichaelscathedral.com</u> 4163640234 ext. 2224