

# First Holy Communion – Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Through the Eucharist, which means “thanksgiving” in Greek, we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in His body and blood to form a single body. As a faith community during Mass, we continue to offer up the sacrifice of the cross and fulfill what Jesus had instructed the Apostles to “...do this in memory of me.” By fulfilling this, we offer to the Father what He Himself has given us: the gifts of His creation, bread and wine which by the power of the Holy Spirit and the words of Christ become the body and blood of Christ.

The essential signs of the Eucharistic sacrament, the wheat bread and grape wine, are consecrated by the priest at the point of the Mass when the words of consecration are spoken, **“This is my body which will be given up for you... This is the cup of my blood...”** It is at this point that transubstantiation occurs, the changing of the bread and wine into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ. Reception of the body and blood of Christ increases the recipients communion with Jesus, cleanses one of all venial sins and preserves one from grave sins.

Anyone who desires to receive Christ in the Eucharist must be in a state of grace. Those who are in a state of mortal sin must not receive communion without first receiving the sacrament of penance and reconciliation (confession).

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

### **When can I register my child to receive his/her first holy Communion.**

Official registrations typically take place at the beginning of each school year.

#### Catholic school students:

Students going into grade 2 in September and attending one of our local elementary schools (*St. Clement, St. Peter, San Marco and St. Angela Merici schools*) will receive their registration form at the end of their school year (end of grade 1). The forms will contain the necessary information to proceed to register for first holy Communion.

#### Public, private and out of boundary school students:

Parents are asked to download the registration form on this website and follow the instructions provided.  
**Please do not bring completed registration forms to the parish office.**

### **How often do First Communion celebrations take place at St. Peter’s church.**

Each year, grade 2 students from our local Catholic elementary schools together with students from public, private and out of boundary schools receive their first Communion within the Easter season.

### **What documents are to be submitted TOGETHER with the completed registration form?**

A copy of the child’s Baptismal certificate.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **My child has not received the Sacrament of Baptism. Can he/she receive first Holy Communion?**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** We ask that you make note of this on the registration form! The parish office will contact you to discuss arrangements to have your child Baptized **before** his/her first Holy Communion. You will be required to complete a Baptism registration form and choose a Godparent(s) for the Sacrament. Please refer to the link for Baptism on the website for further information.

### **What preparation will my child receive for his/her Communion?**

Catholic school students: St. Peter’s church works closely with our local catholic elementary schools to ensure the students are properly catechized and understand how important this Eucharistic sacrament is. This preparation takes place while your child is at school.

Public, private and out of boundary schools: A preparation program is provided at St. Peter’s church and typically takes place on Saturday mornings. The program runs from October to March/April, allowing the students to grasp the fundamental importance of the sacrament.

### **St. Peter’s church is not my home parish. Can my child receive first Communion at St. Peter’s church?**

If, for a good reason (for example, so extended family may attend), parents wish to have their child receive first Communion in another parish, they need to approach the Pastor of that parish to ask if he is willing to approve their request. A letter of permission to have the child receive first Communion elsewhere **must be obtained from the Pastor of the parish where the family usually worships.**