



*We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe*  
**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH**  
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September 1, 2021

Dear Parents:

**Welcome to a new year of Catholic education and faith formation for your child!**

Each year, in a Catholic school, your child will learn about many aspects of their Catholic faith—including learning about the seven sacraments. In our Archdiocese, preparing children for the celebration of their own sacraments always occurs in the parish, with the support of the school:

- preparing for First Reconciliation, and then First Eucharist, can begin when a child is 7 years of age and in Grade 2 or older
- preparing for Confirmation can begin when a child is about 12 years of age and in Grade 6 or older
- special preparation is also available for children of any age who are not yet baptized

Most children attending Catholic schools are ready to receive at the ages shown above, but there **is no such thing as too late**. Are you seeking for your child to celebrate a sacrament, such as Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation? Are you ready to help them live out their Baptismal promises? Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and Elk Island Catholic Schools are each involved in preparing your child for a Catholic sacrament along with you. It is a group effort, and everyone has a role:

- As a parent, the Church has always held that you are the primary teacher of the faith for your child. You teach them about God; set the example; talk about your own faith; and you bring them to Mass.
- The place where the sacraments are celebrated and lived is the Catholic parish. We the people of God in the Church are each part of the Body of Christ. Being in relationship with the parish community (with all its challenges and blessings) is essential for your life of faith and that of your child. The preparation for, and celebration of, the sacraments happens in the parish church.
- **You must sign your child up for preparation at the parish. The school doesn't do this part of the process for you.** Catholic schools are a special place for children to learn more about Jesus Christ, to practice living in a community of faith, and to develop and deepen a relationship with Christ. We (Catholic parish and Catholic school) are eager to walk beside you and your children during this very special time. **Please call OLPH parish office 780-467-5470, send an email to [sacraments@olph.ca](mailto:sacraments@olph.ca) or visit [www.olph.ca/sacraments](http://www.olph.ca/sacraments) to get started or learn more.**

As you prepare your child for their sacraments may this also be a special time for you - of deepening your own understanding and of growing in faith for the whole family!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Rev Jim Corrigan*

Rev. Jim Corrigan, Pastor  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

*A Roman Catholic Christian community.  
We come together at our Lord's invitation to worship God, celebrate the sacraments, and deepen our faith.  
We strive to be thankful, generous and welcoming, and are sent forth to help advance God's Kingdom on earth  
by proclaiming the Gospel and serving others.*