Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
296 Cedar St. S.
Timmins, ON P4N 2H3
705-268-3053

St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral
73 Spruce St. N.
Timmins, ON P4N 6M9
705-264-0587

September 8, 2026

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

Greetings from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish. My name is Fr. John Lemire, the Pastor of both Parishes.

One of the ways our two Parishes are working together is through a shared sacramental preparation program for young people celebrating the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. **All of the preparation will be done at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish Hall, but the celebration of the actual Sacrament will take place in the Parish you are registered.**

This year marks a significant time in your child's religious life. Children in grade three and up are invited to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confession) this fall and the Sacrament of First Eucharist (Communion) during the Easter Season. Only children who have participated in the First Reconciliation preparation will be permitted to celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion.

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we believe that God forgives us of our sins and helps us live more and more according to His commandments and gospel values. Through the Sacrament of the Eucharist we believe that Jesus nourishes and strengthens us with His Body and Blood.

Like all of our sacramental preparation programs in the Parish, we believe that there must be a strong integrated approach. Therefore, our Parish program for preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion involves three essential components -- school, home, and parish.

To help you in the process, you and your child(ren) are invited to a Parish meeting on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th at 6:30 P.M. at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish Hall** (located across the street from the 101 Mall.) **This meeting is for BOTH parents and candidates for BOTH Parishes.**

This meeting will be an opportunity to explain the process that you and your child(ren) will be involved in as he / she prepares for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. It is absolutely essential that you attend this meeting and receive an overview of the various stages of the preparation process. Please return the bottom portion of this letter to the school by **Friday, September 18th**.

Over the next months, we invite you to join us in praying in a special way for your child and his or her classmates as they prepare to receive these Sacraments of God's love and healing. Should you have any questions about the process or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish (705-268-3053 or frjohnlemire2@gmail.com) or St. Anthony's Cathedral (705-264-0587 or st.anthonys@fibreop.ca).

God Bless,

Fr. John Lemire

Father John Lemire
Pastor

❒ Yes, our son / daughter will be preparing this year to make his/her First Reconciliation and First Communion at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and we (parent & child) will attend the meeting on September 24th.

❒ Yes, our son / daughter will be preparing this year to make his/her First Reconciliation and First Communion at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral and we (parent & child) will attend the meeting on September 24th.

❒ No, our son / daughter will not be preparing this year to make his/her First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Please print clearly.

Child's Name: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please return to the school by Friday, September 18th.