St. Teresa of Avila Parish

19 Flamingo Drive, Elmira
stteresaelmira.ca • stteresaelmira@hamiltondiocese.com
(519) 669-3387

September 2026

Dear parents and caregivers,

In our Roman Catholic faith, children in grade two and above are eligible to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Eucharist (Communion) for the first time. It is with great joy that St. Teresa of Avila Parish invites your family to join this year's Sacramental Preparation.

As parents and caregivers, you know that *you are your child's first and most important teachers of faith*. Our goal is to walk with you, providing tools and information to help you prepare as a family. We do this through take-home resources, sessions for children and parents/caregivers, and class visits at St. Teresa school.

To begin this journey, we ask that interested families attend our **Information Session on Thursday, October 8, 2026, 6-7 pm at St. Teresa of Avila Church.** We will discuss the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation, give an overview of the preparation process, introduce our team, and explain registration. *This and all dates are for the child and parent/caregiver(s) together.* You will find a schedule on the back of this letter of our upcoming sessions and dates for the year.

All children in grade two and above are invited to prepare for these Sacraments. We extend a particular invitation to anyone who may need extra support during this process. We are happy to work with you to offer the accommodations or adaptations your child needs to follow Jesus and prepare for Reconciliation and Communion. If your child has not been baptized, or was baptized into another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, please contact the Parish as soon as possible so we can make appropriate arrangements for your child to join us this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Parish Office, email us, or speak to us at Mass.

Yours in faith,
The Pastoral Team of St. Teresa

Father Peter Meyer	Iris Miltenburg	Mary Forcier
Pastor	Pastoral Associate	Pastoral Associate
pmeyer@hamiltondiocese.com	imiltenburg@hamiltondiocese.com	mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com

"Dear friends, Christ is God's answer to our human hunger, because his Body is the bread of eternal life: Take this and eat of it, all of you! When we partake of Jesus, the living and true Bread, we live for him." - Pope Leo XIV



St. Teresa of Avila Parish
19 Flamingo Drive, Elmira

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 2027

All dates are at St. Teresa Parish
Children should attend with at least one parent/caregiver

Thursday, October 8 6-7 pm	Information Session for parents/caregivers and children
Online Registration Due Friday, October 23, 2026: tinyurl.com/TeresaFHC27 *To help cover the cost of materials and supplies, families are asked to make a $35 contribution to our program. Please bring this to our next session in an envelope labeled with your child's first and last name.* *We can accept cash or cheques made out to St. Teresa Church.*	
Tuesday, October 27 6-7 pm	Reconciliation Session
Sunday, November 8 9 am	Welcome and Enrollment at Sunday Mass *Children will be called forward during Mass for a special blessing. Please arrive by 8:45 am and check in with Iris or Mary*
Tuesday, November 10 6-7 pm	Reconciliation Session
Saturday, November 28 1-3 pm	First Reconciliation Day of Preparation and Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 1 6 pm	**Celebration of First Reconciliation**
Tuesday, February 23 6-7 pm	Communion Session
Tuesday, March 9 6-7 pm	Communion Session
Tuesday, April 6 6-7 pm	Communion Session
Saturday, April 10 1-4 pm	First Communion Retreat with Rehearsal
Sunday, April 18 9 am or 2 pm (Time to be determined)	**Mass of First Eucharist**

Questions or concerns? Contact Iris (imiltenburg@hamiltondiocese.com) or Mary (mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com)