



Helsinki 11.8.2016

Dear parents!

We invite your child to the sacramental education organized by St. Mary's parish. It prepares children for the reception of the Sacraments - **Confession and Eucharist** - in the Spring of 2017. The course will be in Finnish. In case your child would prefer English, Swedish or Polish, contact the parish office for more information.

There will be five meetings which are **obligatory**. If someone has a serious obstacle, please inform the teacher in advance. Otherwise the child will be transferred to the next year's teaching group. For the reception of the First Communion, your child must be **a registered member** of the parish and **has to participate in the Catholic religious education** either at school or at the catechetical lessons organized on Saturdays (Lauantaikurssi).

If your child was baptized in another church than St Mary's, kindly provide us with the **Certificate of Baptism** and the address of the parish where the baptism took place.

Lessons:

Saturday **17.09.2016** 10.00-14.00 at the English School (Mäntytie 14, 00270 Helsinki)

Saturday **12.11.2016** 10.00-14.00 at the English School (Mäntytie 14)

Saturday **11.2.2017** 10.00-14.00 at the English School (Mäntytie 14)

Saturday **11.3.2017** 10.00-14.00 at the English School (Mäntytie 14)

Saturday **22.4.2017** 10.00-14.00 at the English School (Mäntytie 14)

The First Communion Feast will take place 7.5.2017 at 10.00 (Sunday) and possibly 14.5.2017 at 10.00. Rehearsal and Confession on the previous day before the First Communion Feast (Saturday) at 10.30-12.00.

We will organize also three meetings for the parents. The purpose of those meetings is to help parents with the children's questions concerning the First Communion.

Dates and places:

17.9.2016 (Saturday) at 10.15 - English School, Dining room

27.10.2016 (Thursday) and 6.4.2017 (Thursday) at 18.40 - St Mary's parish hall.

One of the parents must be present in every meeting. The children should have a proper lunch with them every time as only juice and biscuits are offered on the lunch break. The children should also have other shoes to wear inside, a pencil, a rubber eraser and crayons.

We hope that the parents can give a donation of **50 € for food and teaching materials**.

The children have to attend Sunday Mass at least ten times. For that they will get a First Communion Pass which they must bring along with them every time.

A professional photographer will take the First Communion pictures. We hope that parents, relatives and friends will not do that as it disturbs the ceremony. You can order the pictures later.

We wish that parents could participate also in purchasing the flowers and decorating the church before the First Communion Feast. Further information will be given later.

Welcome and God Bless!

fr. Rafal Czernia SCJ

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Parish priest