Dear parents, Haarlem, summer 2025

We would kindly like to invite your child to attend the meetings in preparation to receive the sacrament of **the Eucharist/First Holy Communion.**

When your child receives the Sacrament of the First Communion, he or she may share in the love of God in a very special way. It is the next step after baptism. In preparation of receiving their First Holy Communion, children are made more familiar with the Church as a community of the faithful who live by the Gospel. Is your child not yet baptized, we can arrange this.

During the meetings, the children are guided to grow in talents, knowledge of the Bible and faith, and above all, to discover and get to know Jesus and God's grace more personally. Every year we observe that the First Holy Communion is a celebration for the children! They enjoy the stories, discovering the church and their place in it. We try to give the children the experience that God loves them just the way they are and that our parish is a community of people with whom you feel at home.

The parishes of Haarlem, Bloemendaal, Overveen, Aerdenhout and Zandvoort have joined forces to offer a shared preparation.

The First Holy Communion meetings are for children who attend group 5 (from 8 years to 11 years). Please note, this may be later than you are used to. We are working on supporting more families and children in the area. In this way, it allows children who receive their First Holy Communion in group 5 to participate in the preparation of receiving the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation in group 6.

The first meeting for the children will start on **February 5, 2025 at the St. Bavo Cathedral.**

Participating the meetings in preparation of the First Holy Communion will cost 35 euros. When registering multiple children from 1 family, the costs are lower. If the costs are not feasible for you, please let us know. Costs should not be a hinder to participate.

**You can register your child before January 10, 2025. Please complete the registration form via** [**https://rkhaarlem.nl/english/**](https://rkhaarlem.nl/english/)

Please contact Anne Commandeur, pastoral assistant before January 10, 2025, if you require more information. After you have registered your child, father Nars Beemster will contact you to schedule a date to visit your home, to talk about the journey of faith that your child will proceed in preparation of receiving the Sacrament of the First Holy Communion. We look forward welcoming your child.

Yours sincerely,
Father Nars Beemster and Anne Commandeur, pastoral assistant
Anne Commandeur: acommandeur@rkhaarlem.nl 06-28971981