



Giebing St. Michael, Haimhausen St. Nikolaus, Jarzt Mariä Himmelfahrt, Weng St. Georg

The Catholic Parish St. Nikolaus Haimhausen



invites Catholic **BIS pupils** of all nations to receive
the **Holy Sacraments**

First Holy Communion

and

Confirmation

with us.

Dear pupils and parents at BIS,

for several years already, BIS pupils take part in the preparation for the Holy Sacraments of First Holy Communion (see section 1 below) and Confirmation ("Firmung", see section 2 below) at the Catholic Parish St. Nikolaus Haimhausen. For 2017, you are again very welcome to join us and receive these sacraments at our parish.

Let us first introduce ourselves to you, here is our team: **Stefan Menzel** is the responsible priest for our community of parishes Fahrenzhäuser-Haimhausen. He is assisted by priests **Konrad Seidl** (basically in Haimhausen) and priest **Josip Cabraja** (basically in Weng), by Pastoralreferent **Bernhard Skrabal**, by Gemeindeferentin **Barbara Niedermeier** and by teacher for Religious Education **Dr. Andrea Kuffner**.

Here are some basic facts about the preparation period, the time-frame, dates of meetings etc. To give you an overview: Section 1 of this text covers First Holy Communion, section 2 covers Confirmation, so you do not have to read the whole paper but only the relevant section. **Sections 3 and 4, however, refer to both sacraments.** Let's start with First Holy Communion (you can completely skip that section if you are 13+ and go directly to section 2).

1 First Holy Communion

We will celebrate the sacrament of First Holy Communion in St. Mary Inhausen on Thursday, **May 25, 10am and on Sunday, May 28, 2017, 10 am.** German children who attend public school are **in grade 3, aged 8-10 years.** If you missed that age and are now 10+ it is no problem, you are also welcome to join the group! If you are already 13+ and missed First Holy Communion you can inscribe directly for Confirmation (see below) and will receive First Holy Communion on the date of Confirmation as a combined sacrament.

Priest Stefan Menzel is responsible for the organization of the First Holy Communion in Haimhausen and the overall theological concept. Dr. Andrea Kuffner will assist him with respect to BIS matters.

The preparation for First Holy Communion takes the following steps:

All organizational matters will be dealt with in the first **information evening for parents on November 23, 2016, 8 pm**. The location is the Parish Home in **Pfarrstraße 6** (public library building situated behind the very red old building where the Parish Office is).

In order to find out when each child has free time for house-group meetings, please fill in the inscription form accordingly.

For the inscription you also need a certificate of baptism of the child. If you do not have the document at hand, please address to the Parish where your child had been baptised; they are usually very helpful and send the required document within few days or weeks. If your child was baptised in Haimhausen St. Nikolaus or in one of the parishes that belong to our group of parishes you do not need this document.

The children will be **introduced personally to the parish during a Sunday mass in Inhausen St. Mary church** on one Sunday in February or March 2017, **10am**. The exact date has not been fixed yet.

There will be approx. six meetings in small "house-groups" usually led by parents who prepare an own child for First Holy Communion in their private home. In the last years for these "house-group" meetings the BIS pupils either joined one of the German groups (if they were native German speakers anyway or absolutely fluent in German) or these meetings were held in English language for BIS pupils. **If you as a parent are interested to lead the English speaking house group you are very welcome! You will not require deep theological knowledge.** Rather the group meetings are about the community-aspect of communion (note the same root of the word), baking and sharing bread etc.

One meeting with priests Stefan Menzel and/or Konrad Seidl will cover the **sacrament of confession**. The theological background will be given by Dr. Andrea Kuffner.

There will be a **weekend for all children in Thalhausen (March 3-5, 2017)**. The language will be basically German but adults who can translate will be present. The fee for the sleepover-weekend will be approx. 50 Euro.

Usually the parents decorate the **communion candle** of their child. The child can help to decorate it. The parish offers one or two dates (not fixed

yet, supposedly somewhere March to May 2017) to do this together in a group. If preferred, you may also get some wax material at the parish office and work on the candle at home as well as you can buy a ready decorated candle.

In one or two **rehearsals** in the church the children will learn how to walk in and out in a procession with the priest and altar service, when to stand, knee or sit and read short sentences/prayers in German as well as other mother tongues.

Most girls **wear** special white dresses. Boys can wear their "Sunday" clothes, some buy a suit. Living in Bavaria, some children (boys as well as girls) wear traditional Bavarian clothes. Another option is to lend a simple white dress "Albe" (like an altar boy's dress) from the Parish Office for that day (fee: 20 €).

The costs for the material (folder, photocopies etc) for the preparation are 15 Euro.

Please now read sections 3 and 4 (study-weekends and inscription-forms) which refer to both sacraments.

2 Confirmation

We will celebrate the the sacrament of confirmation in St. Mary Inhausen on **Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 9am**. The sacrament is called "Firmung" in German so the youngsters who will receive it are called "Firmling(e)". As the word "Firmlinge" is easier than "young people who will receive confirmation" it will be used in this text. Those Firmlinge who attend German public schools are in **grade 8, aged 13-15 years** when they start their preparation. If you missed that age and are now 16+ it is no problem, either. Some people decide to receive the sacrament at adult age, so it is never too late.

Barbara Niedermeier is responsible for the organization of the confirmation in Haimhausen and the overall theological concept. Dr. Andrea Kuffner will assist her with respect to BIS matters.

If you as a parent or pupil who had already received confirmation

wish to volunteer in the preparation team, you are very welcome. Take courage!

For the inscription you need a certificate of baptism of the child. If you do not have the document at hand, please address to the Parish where your child had been baptised; they are usually very helpful and send the required document within few days or weeks. If your child was baptised in Haimhausen St. Nikolaus or in one of the parishes that belong to our group of parishes you do not need this document.

The preparation for "Firmung" is currently being revised and updated. As the ceremony will take place in approx. one year's time, exact dates have not been fixed yet. If you are interested in this sacrament, please contact us early, however, so that we can provide you with all necessary information as soon as decisions on dates etc. have been taken.

Generally, the preparation for Firmung will take the following steps:

The **information evening** for parents and Firmlinge will take place in spring 2017. The location is the Parish Home in Pfarrstraße 6 (public library building situated behind the very red old building where the Parish Office is). The exact concept of preparation will be dealt with during the information evening.

The Firmlinge will be **introduced personally to the parish during the Sunday mass** in church **St. Mary Inhausen on Oct. 18, 2015, 10am..**

In one **rehearsal** for the ceremony in the church the Firmlinge will learn how to walk in and out in a procession with the priest and altar service, when to stand, knee or sit and read short sentences/prayers in German as well as other mother tongues.

There is **no "dresscode"**, just dress appropriate for the occasion. Living in Bavaria, many children (boys as well as girls) wear traditional Bavarian clothes.

The costs for the material (folder, fotocopies etc) for the preparation are 15 Euro.

Please now read sections 3 and 4 (study-weekends and inscription-forms) which refer to both sacraments.

3 Study weekends for both sacraments: Communion and Confirmation

We are convinced that it is much easier to understand the deep meaning of a sacrament in your heart and soul when you have at least a basic overview in your mind about the most important facts of religious knowledge as a foundation for your belief. Children at public Bavarian schools therefore attend regular classes in Religious Education (two lessons per week, except grade 3 and 4 when they attend three lessons per week) and thus have a broad knowledge of bible stories, the structure of the Holy mass and other religious topics.

We would like to provide some background knowledge on the Christian religion for BIS pupils who prepare for a holy sacrament. As this cannot be done during BIS school-time, we offer five study weekends.

The location of the weekends will be the Public School in Haimhausen (classroom of Dr. Andrea Kuffner) on Saturdays and church St. Mary Inhausen on Sundays. The children **sleep at home. A child who prepares for a sacrament (either communion or confirmation) should attend two of the five study weekends, but is welcome to attend all five study weekends.**

The hours of the lessons are: Saturday 9am to 4 pm (with a lunch break in a restaurant) and Sunday 9.45 to 11.15 am (i.e.: attend Sunday mass together with the opportunity to ask questions). The weekends will be held in English language by Dr. Andrea Kuffner. However, if all participants are native German speakers or absolutely fluent in German, the language will be German.

Parents who are interested in some religious input as well as friends from other classes or grades (e.g. children who have already received communion but still some years to wait for confirmation) are also very welcome as well as children and parents of other Christian confessions (e.g. protestant) or other religions. Please note, however, that the number of seats for a study weekend is restricted to 10.

There is no fee for the weekends, but the kids should bring some money for the lunch break at the restaurant.

The dates and topics of the five study weekends are:

2016: November 19-20

- Belief in God – what does that mean
- A perspective of life that transcends the restricted human perception
- Images of God

2017: March 11-12

- The Bible as a Holy Scripture (historic background, structure, etc.)
- Read between the lines, look behind the scenes: Seek answers to today's problems in words of eternal wisdom

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2017: April 1-2

- Who was Jesus? His life and death
- Geographical and historical background about Jesus
- "Thy kingdom come" - understand Jesus' message
- Does it make a difference? Being a Christ today

2017: May 6-7

- The sense of ceremonies
- Christian celebrations and festive times
- "Ora et labora": Times for work and rest
- Confession: The sacrament of reconciliation
- The structure of the Holy Mass

2017: September 9-10

- The trinity of God
- The Holy spirit – invisible but powerful
- Become firm in your believe: con-firm-ation!
- This weekend is especially for kids who prepare for confirmation.

4 Inscription forms and contact

Please find attached the following documents:

- inscription form for First Holy Communion
- inscription form for Confirmation
- inscription form for study-weekend

Please return the relevant documents by telefax to the Parish Office: +49/8133/9185350 or hand in the originals to Pfarrstraße 4, 85778 Haimhausen. Thank you.

We always try to find flexible, suitable and individual solutions. So if there is any problem or question please do not hesitate and contact Dr. Andrea Kuffner, +49/8133/908199 or AKuffner@RL.ebmuc.de.

The team of St. Nikolaus Haimhausen will be happy to meet you for the preparation of the Holy Sacraments for 2017.

Kind regards.

Stefan Menzel
Parish Priest

Konrad Seidl
Priest

Josip Cabraja
Priest

Bernhard Skrabal
Pastoralreferent

Barbara Niedermeier
Gemeindereferentin

Dr. Andrea Kuffner
Teacher for Religious Education