



Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish.

45 Ludstone Dr.
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****IMPORTANT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION REGISTRATION INFORMATION****

October 2020

Re: Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation / Year 2020-2021

Dear Parent(s):

You are receiving this letter because you have a child who has entered **Grade 7** in the fall of 2020, and therefore, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some information about the Parish based, **Sacramental Preparation Program** for the sacrament of Confirmation next year for those entering Grade 7 in 2020. This year planning can only be done tentatively due to the COVID-19 situation which is still very fluid. There are still many unknown variables regarding what things will be like in the winter and spring.

Please note that this Sacrament of Confirmation is to be celebrated and received in the family's home parish (i.e. the parish where the family attends Sunday Mass).

Young people learn their faith first and foremost from their parents. It is in the home that they first learn about God and are introduced to the Christian way of life. This is considered the **initial preparation** for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. Those who attend Catholic schools participate in religious education which is also part of this initial preparation, as is coming to Church to worship God, to celebrate the memorial of His Passion and Death, and thereby, thank God our Father for all His blessings, especially for the gift of His only son, Jesus.

Sacramental Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation will be accomplished through a combined effort of the candidates themselves, their parents, school and Transfiguration of the Lord Parish:

Role of Parents: The first role of parents is to help their child understand what is required in making the important commitment to deepen their relationship with God and His only begotten Son and receive the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Parents should help their child by encouraging them to remember that in Confirmation we receive the fullness of God's Spirit so as to be His disciples and witnesses in this world and to be able to participate more fully in the blessings of Heaven.

Furthermore, parents are responsible for helping their child discern if this is something they can commit to this year. If your son or daughter has commitments for the winter/spring seasons, such as recreational activities, vacation trips, family functions, etc. and therefore, they will not be able to fully commit and dedicate the required time to the program, they can defer receiving this sacrament until Grade 8 or high school.

It is expected, of course, that the candidate and their families commit to attending mass each weekend OR watching mass online if we are still under the current pandemic restrictions. It is the best opportunity for our children to understand their faith, and to see you leading by example which is the most important lesson and gift you can give them as parents. Once they are registered, the candidates will be required to **complete a Journal after each weekend mass** for the duration of the Confirmation program. We will provide further information in the winter as to how these will be submitted.

At this time, we have created a virtual format for Confirmation classes. Students will be required to attend a ZOOM session every week, the same way that they would have been attending classes in person. During this time, they will be required to be logged on and interacting with the program through these virtual classes. Attendance at all classes is absolutely mandatory, prior notice of absence must be given in advance.

Role of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish – Program, Class and Confirmation Celebration Dates:

Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish will be providing the **Sacramental Preparation Program**. The team established to lead this program will consist of several members of our parish community including our Youth Minister, parents, parish and student volunteers.



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Program and Ceremony Dates

This year planning can only be done tentatively due to the COVID-19 situation. There are still many unknown variables regarding what things will be like in the spring. The program is set to start the week of **January 11, 2021**. Once we have completed registration process for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we will be putting together a structure and timeline for what class schedule will be. Due to the program being virtual, there are many new factors that will need to be taken into consideration for the safety of the students and our volunteers. This letter is intended to give you **advance notice** to make you aware of the time commitments for both your child and your family in connection with receiving this Sacrament.

Classes will be held on a weekly basis (day of the week still to be determined). Within these virtual classes the students are required to participate and engage with the content of the program. The students will also be required to participate in Sunday Mass, whether it is here in our parish or at home through our Live Stream. They will also be required to complete a journal entry after each Sunday Mass (which will be explained further at a later time). Due to the current situation, we are unable to plan to attend the same Service Projects we had in the past. However, we will be creating a new and safe way for students to still be able to complete this part of the program.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we will not be announcing any ceremony dates at this time. Please be patient with us, as the protocols and restrictions continue to change, we will be waiting until the spring to choose and announce the dates. Please note that you will be given advanced notice for you to be able to prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Volunteers

Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity for you to share more deeply in this grace filled journey to Confirmation with your child. We encourage parents to consider volunteering to co-lead a group of approximately 6-7 young people for the sessions that will take place on a virtual platform, Zoom. Throughout the program, the candidates view DVD segments related to the faith and the sacrament of Confirmation. The volunteers then facilitate discussions in their small group about what was presented in the DVD. Many people who have volunteered with this program in the past have returned to assist in years when they don't have any children in the program because they found it to be such a rewarding experience. You do not need to be an expert in Catechism to become a volunteer: you will be given a copy of the Leader's Guide, as well, our program coordinators are here to help and train you. You need only to be willing to engage with the youth and to do your best. You have a wealth of experiences that will benefit the youth in your group.

Requirements

- One Training Session done online via Zoom
- Approximately a half an hour of preparation for each class to review material to be discussed
- One and a half hours on the day of each class

Conclusion

We look forward to sharing with you in this God-given mission of leading our children to the Father through His Son in the Holy Spirit.

Yours Sincerely,

Fr. George Parayil
Pastor



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Schedule of PROPOSED Dates for Confirmation 2020/2021

<u>Event</u>	<u>Proposed Date</u>	<u>Explanation/Requirements</u>
ONLINE REGISTRATION	Tuesday, October 20, 2020 until Monday, November 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child must have been baptized in the Roman Catholic faith (attach copy of baptismal certificate) • Child must be entering grade 7 or be in high school • Child/family must be attending Transfiguration of Our Lord Church on a regular basis • Registration fee: \$30
Session #1 Session #2 Session #3 Session #4 Session #5 Session #6 Session #7 Session #8 Session #9 Session #10 Session #11 Session #12 Session #13 Session #14	Week of January 11 Week of January 18 Week of January 25 Week of February 1 Week of February 8 Week of February 22 Week of March 1 Week of March 8 Week of March 22 Week of March 29 Week of April 12 Week of April 19 Week of April 26 Week of May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation preparation sessions for all candidates. (Classes to take place for all candidates virtually from home using Zoom) • Parents are asked to be present for the Zoom sessions for safety and security reasons • Attendance at all sessions is mandatory for students to be able to participate in the celebration of the sacrament • Workbooks will be available online, if you would like to have a physical copy you made contact the office to order a copy (cost of the book is \$25)
RETREAT AND RECONCILIATION	Dates TBD at a later time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates and Sponsors are required to attend this event once the date is picked prior to ceremony
CEREMONY	Dates TBD at a later time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to current situation of COVID-19 and the restrictions and limitations constantly changing, we will be choosing dates for the ceremony at a later time.

**** please note that all dates above are subject to change with the uncertainty of the current situation of COVID-19**