



The Parish of Saint Christopher

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Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

Congratulations! Welcome to Confirmation year!

Within this information packet you will find:

- A theology of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- A list of expectations in preparing for this Sacrament
- A calendar of events
- A list of prayers all candidates are **EXPECTED** to know
- Information on how to choose a Patron Saint
- Registration Form and requirements

Registration will take place on Sept. 23, 24, 25, Oct. 1, 7, & 8 following all masses. Forms will not be accepted in the parish office.

Please do not hesitate to contact Levy Anne Ramos with any questions you may have. Levy Anne's email is lramos@archtoronto.org

Please note of the following dates:

Commitment Weekend: Saturday, November 18 (5 PM), Sunday, November 19 (8:30 AM, 10 AM & 12 PM)

Retreat/Reconciliation: Saturday, May 4 (9 AM - 4:00 PM)

Confirmation Mass: Tuesday, May 21 & Thursday, May 23 (7 PM)

What is Confirmation?

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation... the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace (CCC 1285).

What does the Sacrament of Confirmation DO for us?

- ✕ Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
- ✕ it unites us more firmly to Christ.
- ✕ it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.
- ✕ it renders our bond with the Church more perfect.
- ✕ it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.
- ✕ Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an *indelible spiritual mark*, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness. (CCC 1303- 130

Who can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that "the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time," for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete. (CCC 1306)

PREPARATION should involve:

- ✚ A more intimate union with Christ
- ✚ Familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings
- ✚ Assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.
- ✚ Awakening a sense of belonging to...
 - the Church of Jesus Christ,
 - the parish community
- ✚ Receiving the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ✚ Intensity of prayer to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act (Cf. CCC 1309-1311).
- ✚ Seeking the spiritual help of a *sponsor*.

Choosing a Sponsor

SPONSOR MUST be a PRACTICING Catholic who will model Christian living through:

- Going to Mass every weekend and Holy day of Obligation
- Frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation (at least once a year for serious sins)
- Fasting and abstaining on appointed days
- Obeying the laws of the Church
- Who is at least 16 years old
- Who has already received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- Who, if married, was married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church
- Is NOT a parent of the candidate.

What is necessary for Confirmation?

What do we expect in our Confirmation program?

- ✚ Regular Mass attendance (regarding the weekend obligation)
- ✚ Attending all preparation classes
- ✚ Research a saint and prepare a report. It is ideal if the researched saint connects with the chosen Confirmation name (This allows for a special bond between the Confirmation candidate and a specific Saint).
- ✚ Completing 10 of community service hours and reflection sheet
- ✚ Completing weekly Spiritual activities sheet
- ✚ Turning in the assigned paperwork
- ✚ Choose a sponsor who will be a great spiritual help on this journey (must be a practicing Catholic)

Confirmation Preparation Timeline

| DATE | CLASS/ACTIVITY |
|--|--|
| Wednesday September 20 & Thursday September 21 (7pm) | Parent Information Meeting for Confirmation (Church) |
| September 23, 24, 30 October 1, 7, 8 | Registration after ALL MASSES (Vestibule) |
| September 26, 27, 28 October 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, | Family Meet & Greet (Sign up for time slot during registration period. Meetings are held in Parish office.) |
| Sunday November 5 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class One (Hall) |
| Saturday November 18 (5 pm) & Sunday November 19 (8:30 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm) | Commitment Weekend. All Candidates will receive their crosses. (Church) |
| Sunday December 3 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Two (Hall) |
| Sunday January 28 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Four (Hall) |
| Sunday February 11 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Five (Hall) |
| Sunday February 25 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Eight (Hall) |
| Sunday March 24 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Nine (Hall) |
| Sunday April 7 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Ten (Hall) |
| Sunday April 21 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Eleven (Hall) |
| Saturday May 4 (9 am – 4 pm) | Confirmation Retreat/Confession (Hall/church) (With Sponsors) |
| Sunday May 19 (3 pm – 4:30 pm) | Rehearsal (Hall & Church) (With Sponsors) |
| Tuesday May 21 & Thursday May 23 (7 pm) | Confirmation Celebration (Church) |
| Sunday June 9 (11:30 am – 1 pm) | Confirmation Class Twelve (Hall) |

Confirmation Prayers

Note: Please practice these prayers as a family and your sponsor everyday. Those prayers marked with an asterisk (*) are expected to be memorized.

The Sign of the Cross*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us, this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary*

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Angel of God

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love entrusts me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Prayer before Meals (daily)

Bless us, O Lord, and these, Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confiteor/I Confess... (Pray often)

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

The Apostle's Creed (pray often)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell, and on the third day, He arose from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Act of Contrition

Dear God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all else. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, My God, have mercy. Amen

Choosing a Saint

WHO ARE THE SAINTS?

A name given in the New Testament to Christians generally (Colossians 1:2) but early restricted to persons who were eminent for holiness. In the strict sense, saints are those who distinguish themselves by heroic virtue during life and whom the Church honors as saints either by her ordinary universal teaching authority or by a solemn definition called canonization. The Church's official recognition of sanctity implies that the persons are now in heavenly glory, that they may be publicly invoked everywhere, and that their virtues during life or martyr's death are a witness and example to the Christian faithful - Fr. John Hardon, *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*

HOW DO I CHOOSE A SAINT?

A patron saint is chosen by each person preparing for Confirmation. Begin by reading good biographies of saints, not just short descriptions of them. There are many good movies that faithfully depict the lives of the saints. [A good website to learn of saints and their attributes: **catholicsaints.info**

After doing this you should select one saint or blessed whose spirituality or example you would like to follow knowing that saint will become a particular friend on life's journey to Heaven. You may ask special intercessions from your patron in prayer.

Requirements for Registration.

Registration will take place on the following dates after all masses:

September 23, 24, 30

October 1, 7, 8

Please ensure you have:

1. A Copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate even if they were Baptized at St. Christopher.
2. A completed registration form. Please ensure you PRINT CLEARLY.
3. \$100 Program fee.

St. Christopher Catholic Church 2023-2024
Confirmation Registration Form

Child's Information **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Full legal name:

| | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------|
| First Name | Middle Name(s) | Last Name |
|------------|----------------|-----------|

☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth: _____ City of Birth: _____

Church of Baptism: _____ Date of Baptism: _____

School Currently Attending: _____ Teacher: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____ Height: _____ cm *required for appropriate length of ceremony gown*

Family Information

Mother (full legal name & maiden name)

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| First Name | Middle Name(s) | Last Name | Maiden Name |
|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|

Religion: ☐ Roman Catholic ☐ Other _____ ☐ None

Present Address: _____

| | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------|
| Street | City/Town | Postal Code |
|--------|-----------|-------------|

☐ I am a parent of, or have legal custody of the child.

Father (full legal name)

| | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------|
| First Name | Middle Name(s) | Last Name |
|------------|----------------|-----------|

Religion: ☐ Roman Catholic ☐ Other _____ ☐ None

Present Address: ☐ Same as mother's ☐ Other: _____

☐ I am a parent of, or have legal custody of the child.

Siblings (please list first name(s) and age(s))

Contact Information* (please print carefully) * *Both emails will be used in communications unless otherwise indicated or left blank.*

Mother

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Father _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Eligibility of Godparent

Canon 892 Insofar as possible, there is to be a godparent for the person to be confirmed; the godparent is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.

Canon 893 §1. To perform the function of godparent, a person must fulfill the conditions mentioned in canon 874 §1.

The following are the requirements in order for a Catholic to be a godparent (Canon 874 §1):

- at least 16 years of age
- he/she has been fully initiated in the Catholic Church (received Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation)
- in good standing with the Catholic Church: lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken; not under canonical penalty
- not the father or mother of the one to be confirmed

Godparent's (Sponsor) Information

Sponsor (full legal name)

First Name Middle Name(s) Last Name

☐ Male ☐ Female Current Parish: _____ City: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Church of Baptism: _____ City: _____

Present Address: _____
Street City/Town Postal Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Fulfills the requirements of canon 874 ☐ Agrees to participate in the program requirements as needed

Declaration and Consent

I, the undersigned, declare that the information on this form is true and accurate. I further understand that by registering my child in the program I will participate in all required activities.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Office Administration

☐ Completed Registration Form

Notes/Remarks

☐ Baptismal Certificate

☐ Scheduled Meet & Greet

☐ Program Fee (\$100)

☐ Completed 10 hours of community service

Date of Registration: _____

Date of Confirmation: _____