



# Holy Cross Church

291 Cosburn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4J 2M4  
Tel: 416-421-5225 - Fax 416-421-4656  
[holycrosscatholic@bellnet.ca](mailto:holycrosscatholic@bellnet.ca)

## Parents/Guardians:

You are your child's first and most important educator. When it comes to passing on your faith, the role of the school and the parish is to support the teachings learned and lived at home. As you know, this is why we take a Home-School-Parish approach to Sacramental Preparation.

At home, you teach your child values such as love, respect, honesty, and forgiveness. You encourage faith practices such as grace before meals, family/individual prayer, and regular participation in mass. Through your actions, you model these values and faith practices in your daily life.

At school your child is taught religion through a curriculum that is supported by the Bible and liturgical practices. He/she is also shown how our faith teachings translate into values and practices that guide our daily activities. Special attention is paid to the sacraments and your child is guided to focus on the information they need and how to appropriately participate in the preparation process.

The parish provides additional information - resources and activities that help guide you and your child through the sacramental process. This includes offering supplemental programs for each sacrament, providing special liturgies and being available to address questions and concerns. The parish community is asked to support those preparing, through prayer and example.

In the sacraments, you were expected to take a leading role and bring your child forward. The time has come with confirmation to pass the responsibility to the children. Parents still have an important role to play but now the children must take the lead. It is up to them to become active participants in both the preparation process and the decision to be confirmed. Your role is now one of support. Be willing to listen and let them challenge. Help them explore their giftedness and how they can be active in the community. Give them your love, acceptance, and support. Most importantly, be

prepared to respect their decision. If they do not feel ready, it is best to let them do it when they truly desire to live the commitment.

# Confirmation

The instructions, registration and program dates outlined in this registration package pertain to those students who intend to receive their Confirmation at Holy Cross Parish.

All sacraments should be received in the church where you regularly worship on Sundays. If you are attending another church, you must contact that parish for information about their Confirmation program.

If you live within the boundaries of Holy Cross Parish but are attending another Catholic church, we ask you to consider “coming home” and registering with our parish community. If not you will require a letter of permission from the Pastor of Holy Cross Parish for your child to receive Confirmation at another Church.

If you live outside the parish boundaries but come to Holy Cross Parish we ask that you also register to make your commitment to our community official. If you do not register with us you will need a letter of permission from the Pastor of your Church to have your child confirmed here.

## **Important Notice for Children Baptized in an Orthodox Rite Church or in an Eastern Rite Catholic Church**

The Roman Rite is one of twenty-two rites in the universal Catholic Church. Many Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto were baptized in one of the various Eastern Rite churches that constitute the Catholic Church. It is the tradition of most of the Eastern Rite Churches (Catholic and Orthodox) that those being initiated are confirmed and receive the *Eucharist at the time of baptism*. Please check your child's baptism certificate to verify if your child received Confirmation at baptism. When the parish, in usual conjunction with the Catholic schools, is preparing a candidate for Confirmation, those who are members of the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches will be expected to take an active part in all aspects of the program of the parish and school.

Orthodox Rite students are also welcome to participate in the lessons and retreats but *may not* be part of the Confirmation celebration masses.

## Sacramental Preparation

**Sacraments, are first and foremost, acts of Jesus, in union with the members of His body, the Church. The Church, therefore, is responsible for determining the specifics of sacramental preparation and celebration.**

There are two types of preparation for sacraments: *initial and immediate*.

INITIAL PREPARATION IS DONE BY THE SCHOOLS AND ENCOMPASSES:

- Education in a Catholic school system (or equivalent formation in the Parish)
- Daily living of a Catholic lifestyle appropriate to one's age and spiritual development
- Teachers should witness to the children, by word and example, the meaning of Christian discipleship
- Teachers should emphasize repeatedly with children and parents the importance of Sunday Eucharist and its connection to the sacraments
- In the Catholic Schools, the catechetical program *Born in Spirit*, is taught to the children. This teaching is an integral part of *initial preparation* for the celebration of all sacraments

IMMEDIATE PREPARATION is done by the parish and encompasses:

- Sunday worship
- Encouraging prayer in the family
- Developing a specific sacramental catechesis on the sacrament being anticipated
- Meeting with the principals and teachers to coordinate the specifics of the Parish sacramental preparation programs
- Stressing with parents that their child's immediate preparation takes place in their Parish of worship
- Conducting a retreat for those preparing to receive the sacraments
- Work closely with teachers regarding those students who have special needs. You are the experts!
- Teachers attending enrollment celebrations, parent sessions, and the celebrations of the sacraments as requested by the Pastor
- The responsibility for preparing candidates for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation belongs to the parents and the Parish

- Since cooperation among parents, Parish and school is essential in sacramental preparation and celebrations, the details of the preparation programs should be shared and communicated to all concerned.

The family has the greatest role in instilling human and Christian values. The family, like the Church, ought to be the place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates. Parents have the primary responsibility to journey in faith with the children. The formation of children depends on the help, example, and influence of their parents. They not only give consent to the Christian initiation process, they also promise to do their part in preparing their children for initiation. Parents are expected to have contact with the priests and catechists, to be present at all Sunday masses, especially at the Enrolment masses, and to attest to their children's spiritual progress.

Please keep the following in mind when making your choice for a Sponsor:

- Must be at least 16 years of age by the time of the Confirmation ceremony
- Must be confirmed and practicing their faith in any Catholic Church/Parish.
- Sponsors cannot be parents or grandparents
- Sponsors cannot be from other Christian denominations nor can they be Muslim, Jewish, or Buddhist

# HOLY CROSS CHURCH

291 Cosburn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4J 2M4

## Application Form for Confirmation Candidates

*The candidate must complete this for himself or herself*

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name First name

Male  Female

Candidate height: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name First name

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name First name

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Postal code

Home Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Bus.Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ CellPhone# \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name First name

Does the Candidate have a learning disability or special need?  Yes  No

Has the candidate made his/her: First Reconciliation  First Communion

*Please provide a photocopy of candidates' Baptismal Certificate with this registration form even if they were baptized at Holy Cross Parish.*

**Deadline for Registration: (date to be confirmed)**

I \_\_\_\_\_ conscious of the work of the Holy Spirit in my life, wish to apply for enrolment in the Confirmation program.

Signature of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only

Baptismal certificate photocopy    yes     No

## Confirmation Sponsor Form

### How to choose a confirmation sponsor

Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church. Every baptized Catholic should eventually receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. To prepare for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation (usually administered to young people in the Roman Catholic rite of the Church), candidates are asked to choose a sponsor. This **sponsor helps to educate them about and prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation, and stands with them during the administration of the Sacrament. The role of Confirmation sponsor does not end with the reception of the Sacrament - your Confirmation sponsor will be a guide for the rest of your life as an adult in the Faith.**

### These guidelines will assist you in selecting an appropriate sponsor for your Confirmation.

- Is one of your **baptismal godparents** available to be your Confirmation sponsor? If so, **that is the best option**, since this emphasizes the unity of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Check whether or not one of your godparents is able to be your Confirmation sponsor.
- If neither godparent is available to be your Confirmation sponsor, then you must select someone else. First, check whether or not **your prospective sponsor is a Catholic**. Your sponsor **must be a practicing Catholic who lives the life of faith**.
- Check whether or not your **prospective sponsor has received the Sacraments of Baptism, the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation**. Your sponsor must have received these sacraments of initiation. Please state this clearly on the "Form of Sponsor".
- Check whether or not your prospective sponsor is over the age of 16. **Your sponsor must be at least 16 years old in order to be sufficiently mature to give you guidance in the faith.**
- Although any other relative could be a suitable choice, **you cannot have either of your parents as your Confirmation sponsor.**

Finally, your Confirmation sponsor's role involves giving support and guidance to you in preparing for Confirmation, and also a good example in their own way of life. Be sure to select a sponsor who leads a virtuous life as a faithful Catholic.

Candidate's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you married?    Yes     No

If married, were you married in the Catholic Church?      Yes

No

**Note: Attach a Photocopy of your sponsor's baptismal certificate**

**Office Use Only**  
**Baptismal Certificate Received:**

Yes       No