

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

291 Cosburn Ave. Toronto, ON M4J 2M4

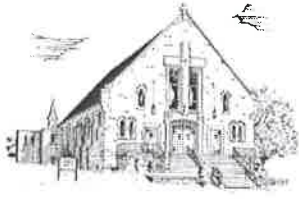
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Confirmation Registration Package 2022 – 2023



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Dear Parents:

We are now planning to resume the preparations for the **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** for your children.

In connection with this, we are inviting both the parents and the students in **Grade 7** to a meeting at the Church Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to outline the parish preparation program for the Confirmation.

Parent Information Meeting and Registration will take place on:

Date: **Saturday, October 29, 2022**

Time: **Grade 7 @ 11 am**

Venue: **Holy Cross Parish Hall**

MUST bring the following:

- Registration Form. **Completely filled-up**. Please write legibly.
- Child's Baptismal Certificate even if the baptism took place in Holy Cross Church. *(Photocopy)*
- Sponsor's either Baptismal, Confirmation or Marriage Certificate. *(Photocopy)*
Provide one (1) document.
- **\$75.00 Donation**
Your donation will be used to assist our parish to defray the costs of booklets, confirmation gown rental, retreat and other incidentals. We encourage you to pay in cheque **addressed to Holy Cross Parish**. Please specify in your cheque – For Confirmation Preparations.

All students who wish to be confirmed and their parents/guardian **MUST** attend the registration meeting.

Thank you very much and we look forward to meeting you at the registration.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Godofredo R. Claudio
Pastor



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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 received 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.

TO: All Grade 7 students who attend in Holy Cross Parish (and their parents)

In 2023 you will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It marks your decision to live a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Confirmation opens up new challenges to us in our journey of faith. We are challenged to deepen our understanding of the gospel message and to measure the issues of our world against that message.

You will also be challenged in practical ways. This program involves your full commitment to attend mass at Holy Cross Church every Sunday, attend the Rite of Enrolment Ceremony, attend and participate in all instruction sessions which concludes with the **Confirmation ceremony in February 2023.**

The decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is yours. Your parents will support and encourage you in taking on the responsibility. The Sacrament of Confirmation is for all those wanting to reaffirm their baptismal vows and are ready to make a public commitment to their faith. So you should take some time to think seriously about this decision and talk it over with your parents to decide if you are ready. Some of you may choose not to be confirmed at this time, but rather wait to be confirmed when in High School or later on as an adult.

To those students whose families attend to another church and still wish to participate in our Program, please bring with you a letter of permission signed by the Pastor of your Church.

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.

We look forward to meeting you and your parents/guardians at registration.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Godofredo R. Claudio
Pastor

Confirmation Candidate's 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: _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name

SPONSOR'S INFORMATION

Sponsor's Full Name: _____
Last Name First Name Middle 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: Provide one (1) photocopied document.

Sponsor's Baptismal, Confirmation or Marriage Certificate.

Office Use Only
Document Received: *(Please check)*

Yes No



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FORM OF INTENT

CHILD:

I _____ ask that my Parish community of HOLY CROSS CHURCH accept and help me with their prayers, and my commitment to prepare worthily for the reception of the

Sacrament of Confirmation

I promise to prepare by:

- Being a witness of one who believes in God and His Church of which I am a member.
- Being faithful to Sunday Eucharist.
- Participation in the Confirmation program at the Parish.

May God bless us all as we prepare to receive the sacred

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

Confirmandí's Signature

Date

NOTE: TO BE SUBMITTED DURING THE ENROLMENT CEREMONY ON (DATE) AT (TIME).