Dear parents:

We are initiating our Confirmation preparation program at the beginning of January.

In connection with this, we are inviting parents of students from Holy Cross Parish and Canadian Martyrs Parish to attend an Orientation night.

The purpose of this meeting is to outline the parish preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please note this is the only orientation night being offered. All parents must attend.

This is also the **last day we are accepting the registration form** with all required certificates-for the child and the Sponsor, and registration fee.

Date: Thursday, December 17, 2026

Time:7pm

Venue: Holy Cross Parish Hall

A registration form has been attached to this package if your child attends Holy Cross School or Canadian Martyrs School

A Registration form can also be obtained through our Holy Cross web page or from the Holy Cross Parish office.

For questions or assistance, please contact Maria Agovino, our Lay Pastoral Associate:

magovino@archtoronto.org

***<u>IMPORTANT INFORMATION</u> ***

<u>ORIENTATION NIGHT</u>: THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 7pm (Holy Cross Parish Hall)

No further registrations will be accepted after December 17, 2026.

1. Please note that this year candidates from both schools/parishes (Holy Cross and Canadian Martyrs) will receive catechesis **classes together at HOLY CROSS PARISH**.

2. Students whose families attend another church and wish to participate in our program must bring a letter of permission signed by the Pastor of your Church

3. **Sponsors**:

- Cannot be parents
- Must be 16 yrs of age or older by the time of the Confirmation ceremony
- Must be confirmed and practicing their faith at a Catholic Church
- Cannot be from other Christian denominations, Muslim, Jewish or Buddhist

4. 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 mass.

We look forward to meeting parents/guardians at our Orientation night.

If you have any questions, please contact Maria our Lay Pastoral Associate:
magovino@archtoronto.org

How to choose a Confirmation Sponsor (Godparent)

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/Godparent.

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 a 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.

Are 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.

If neither godparent is available to be your Confirmation Sponsor, then you must select someone else. First, check whether your prospective Sponsor is a Catholic.

Your Sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who lives the life of faith.

Check whether your prospective Sponsor has received the Sacraments of Baptism, the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. They must have received these 3 Sacraments of initiation to be your Sponsor. And they must be 16 or older.

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 a good example in their own way of life. Be sure to select a sponsor who leads a virtuous life as a faithful practicing Catholic.