

Confirmation 2016 - St. Ann's Parish, Ancaster, Ontario

Dear Parents or Guardians of our Grade Six Students:

During the next school year, beginning in September 2016, your son or daughter will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation into the Church, not a grade seven class project. Preparation for the sacrament is a partnership between the family, the parish and the school. Your young people are already growing in faith and in responsibility for their own faith practice. Parents still have an important role in helping to model Christian faith, values and practice to their children. Parents should also help their son or daughter make a decision about Confirmation that is sincere and appropriate. In this letter please find some important information and dates for next year. I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Catholic Baptism

In order to be confirmed in the Catholic Church it is necessary to have been baptized in the Catholic Church, or to have been received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Any of our non-Catholic students will take part in all of the preparation done during school time, and are welcome to take part in the celebration of Confirmation. They would ask for the Bishop's blessing at the actual time of Confirmation.

Eastern Rite Catholics and Orthodox Students

Children baptized into the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church, and in the Orthodox Churches are Confirmed (*Chrismated*) at Baptism. Confirmation, since it imparts sacramental character, is given only once in a lifetime, so they will not be confirmed again in grade seven. They will take part in all of the school preparation, and are most welcome to take part in the Confirmation celebration, during which they would ask the Bishop for a blessing.

Important Note to Parents of Non-Catholic Children

If you would like your child to be confirmed, and he/she is not already a baptized Catholic, please call me at the Parish Office immediately to arrange for baptism, or reception into the Roman Catholic Church, before the new school year begins.

Students from other Parishes

We know that there are students in our schools who belong to parishes other than St. Ann's. Your child is welcome to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. Ann's or you may choose to have your child receive this sacrament in your own parish. If you are from another parish please have a conversation with your own parish priest as soon as possible.

Registration Form and Baptismal Certificate

At the beginning of September you will receive the Confirmation Registration Form, and further information, from your child's teacher. *Please bring this form, fully completed, to the Confirmation Parent Meeting.* It is important to note that no-one will be admitted as a candidate for Confirmation until this form has been returned fully completed, with a photo-copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate, unless your child was baptized at St. Ann's, Ancaster.

Confirmation Sponsors

All candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to have a sponsor. Please help your child to choose their sponsor wisely. A sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic, who is sixteen years of age or over. Candidates are welcome to choose their godparents from Baptism if they wish. Parents may not sponsor their own child, but may stand in proxy for a sponsor who is unable to be present at the Confirmation ceremony. Please begin giving this choice some thought during the summer months.

Please mark your calendars with the following important dates

Confirmation Parents' Meetings

Private, Public and Home School Children	Tuesday, September 20 at 7:30pm
Holy Name of Mary & Immaculate Conception	Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00pm
St. Ann's & St. Joachim's	Thursday, September 15 at 7:00pm

These meetings are mandatory! They are the only venue at which all of the information for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be disseminated. If you are unable to attend your scheduled time, please arrange with your child's grade seven teacher to attend another meeting. At least one parent or guardian of every candidate must be in attendance. ***All meetings take place at St. Ann's Church and Parish Hall. Please bring \$25.00 cash, or a cheque made out to St. Ann's Parish for the Confirmation Retreat and Gown Rental.***

Confirmation Candidates' Enrolment Sunday

All students intending to be confirmed are to attend one of the Parish Masses at St. Ann's, Ancaster to offer their names for Enrolment, and be publicly accepted as Candidates for Confirmation. ***Enrolment Sunday will take place on the weekend of October 29/30 Only. Masses are Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00noon.***

Confirmation Retreat Days

All candidates for Confirmation are required to take part in a retreat day prior to Confirmation. These retreats will be held at St. Ann's Church during school hours. Lunch will be provided. Retreats are on the following dates:

St. Ann's	Mon. Nov. 7	St. Joachim's	Tues. Nov. 1
Immaculate Conception	Wed. Nov. 2	Holy Name of Mary	Thurs. Nov. 3
Parish Catechism Class	Wed. Nov. 2	<i>(with Immaculate Conception)</i>	

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Holy Name of Mary	Tuesday, November 22	7:00pm
Immaculate Conception & Catechism Class	Wednesday, November 23	7:00pm
St. Ann's & St. Joachim's	Thursday, November 24	7:00pm

If my staff or I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at (905) 648-6874

***I am faithfully yours in Christ:
The Very Reverend Ian R. Duffy, VF, PP,
Parish Priest***