



St. Mary's Parish Community

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

133 Murray St. Brantford, ON N3S 5P8

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www.marybrantford.com

June 18, 2019

Dear Confirmation Candidates

Dear Parents/Grandparents/ Guardians/ Sponsors,

We are excited to announce that this year the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Saturday, October 19th at 1:00 pm**. It will be administered by **Bishop Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.**

This will be a great opportunity for you to receive the powerful **SEAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**, the last of the 3 **Sacraments of Initiation** (*Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation*) and to complete the next stage in your spiritual maturity.

According to our diocesan requirements every Grade 7 student is eligible for Confirmation. We also welcome students from higher grades who haven't been confirmed yet and students who attend schools other than our Catholic schools. Please contact the parish office or speak to Fr. Luke on Sunday if you need any clarification. All our Catholic schools' staff will gladly help you as well.

You need to submit the registration form signed by your parent or legal guardian. The **form** is available from our website, our parish office or from the school. We will also need proof of your Baptism. Please submit a copy of your Baptismal certificate or confirmation from the school if the certificate was submitted there. Every candidate must be **baptized Catholic** prior to Confirmation. If you haven't been baptized you can still receive this sacrament on **October 13th**, in our church. The registration form for Baptism and a folder explaining the requirements are available from our website. Please contact us if you have any questions or require some clarification.

There will be a **Retreat Day** for all Grade 7 students and others interested in being confirmed at Jean Vanier School gym on Monday, **September 30 beginning at 9:30 am**. We have invited a team from NET (National Evangelization Teams) to facilitate the retreat. They will explain to you the meaning and importance of Confirmation. It will be a half day activity and the school will provide transportation and supervision as well. Students from other schools need to organize their own transportation. After the retreat we ask you to make your final decision and to submit your registration form no later than October 6th.

We invite you and your families to our Sunday Masses to pray with us and to feel the power of the Spirit who acts in the Community and makes God present to us in Holy Communion.

Students who decided to be confirmed are asked to attend any of the Masses on the weekend of **October 12th and 13th**. This will be your enrolment weekend when you will be officially presented to the parish Community as the candidates for Confirmation. This presentation is stress-less! :-) You only need to prepare a **letter of intent**. Fr. Luke will accept these letters from you during this Mass. (See *below for instructions on how to write the letter*). Your teachers or parents will be happy to assist you as well. Confirmation Candidates always write fantastic letters!

“Each candidate is asked to compose a letter at the end of the Confirmation preparation journey to state their intent of wanting to be confirmed in the Catholic Church. Within the letter the Confirmation candidates should write what it is they have done to prepare for the sacrament, why they want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, and what it is they are planning to do once they are confirmed to continue to grow in their faith.”

We will **practice** the Confirmation Mass on **Friday, October 18th at 10:00 am** in the church. The schools will organize the transportation. We ask parents of the candidates from other schools to make sure that their children also attend this **rehearsal**.

In respect to your **Confirmation name** there is no need to change your Baptismal name.

However – *“a customary practice in our country is for Confirmation candidates to choose a new name. If a new name is chosen, it ought to be the name of a recognized saint: a male name for a boy; a female name for a girl.”*

Every confirmation candidate must choose a **Confirmation sponsor** who will present and assist the candidate at the moment of Confirmation. Our Diocesan rubrics specify who can be a sponsor.

“The role of the sponsor in Confirmation is to encourage and support the candidate in his/her efforts to be a true and faithful witness to Christ. The sponsor should be chosen because he/she is an exemplary, active member of the Catholic Church.

A person, male or female, who has been fully initiated in the Catholic Church, and lives a life of faith may be a sponsor for Confirmation. The sponsor must be sixteen years of age or older, and may not be the parent of the candidate. It is desirable that the sponsor be the person who undertook this role at Baptism. When the sponsor cannot be present for the Confirmation liturgy, another suitable person may be a proxy for the sponsor during the celebration.”

On the day of Confirmation, we ask you to **arrive at 12:00 pm** with your sponsor and **go directly to the parish hall**. You will receive a special **gown**. Each candidate will be measured for the gown during the retreat. *There is a charge of \$10 for the gown and it should be paid for in advance to the teacher.*

Photos are not permitted during the liturgy. There will be an **official photographer** allowed to take pictures. These photos will be available later for purchase if you wish. After the candidates are dressed there might be time for group and individual photos in the parish hall depending on the Bishop’s availability. There might be an opportunity for a whole group photo with the Bishop to be taken at the end of the Mass on the steps of the sanctuary. You will be allowed to take photos at that time as well.

We recommended that the families and guests proceed directly to the church and take **available seats** while the candidates are preparing in the parish hall. The Confirmation candidates, sponsors, altar servers and the Bishop will process from the hall to the church.

The diocesan instructions state that: *“Candidates are to be seated as a group at the front of the church on both sides of the centre aisle. The sponsors are seated as a group directly behind them.”*

We will develop a seating plan for the candidates and sponsors at the rehearsal so that the order of seating for the candidates corresponds to that of the sponsors. We ask everyone present to respect the sacredness of this celebration and turn off your cell phones and minimize chatting.

As a sign of gratitude, there will be a **special collection** taken during the Holy Mass for the needs of St. Mary’s Church. We greatly appreciate every donation.

After the Holy Mass and photos please proceed to the parish hall and leave the Confirmation gowns at the designated place. Every **Confirmandi** will receive a **certificate** which will be distributed later in the classrooms.

Please refer to the parish website for more information and updates: www.marybrantford.com, and mark your calendars with all the important dates.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Lukasz Kopaniak SAC
Pastor

Sacrament of Confirmation 2019

at Our Lady for the Assumption Parish Brantford

We invite grade 7 students and older non-confirmed
Parishioners and students of our Catholic schools

Preparation Program

Confirmation Retreat

Jean Vanier School gym, Monday, September 30, 9:30 am

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Submitting Forms

Deadline Day, Sunday, October 6, 2019

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Enrolment Sunday

Oct. 12/13, 2019

Attend any Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Church

Sat. 5pm, Sun. 9am, 11am

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Confirmation Rehearsal

Fri.. Oct. 18, 2019, 10:00 am-12.00pm, St. Mary's Church

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Sacrament of Confirmation Mass

Saturday, October 19, 2019, 1:00 pm

By His Excellency Bishop Douglas Crosby O.M.I.

* For more information please ask your teacher, or check our website:
www.marybrantford.com



CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, St. Mary's Church

CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION		
Student's Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Name:
Address:		
City, Postal Code:	Home Phone No.:	Cell Phone No.:
Email: <i>(please print)</i>		
Father's Name:	Mother's Given and Maiden Name:	
School:	Teacher:	
BAPTISM INFORMATION		
Birth Date:	Baptism Date:	Church, City, Province
If not in the Catholic church, what church or denomination?		
Certificate is on the school files	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Certificate is attached	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
SPONSOR'S INFORMATION		
Sponsor's Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Name
<i>A person, male or female, who has been fully initiated in the Catholic Church, and lives a life of faith may be a sponsor for Confirmation. The sponsor must be sixteen years of age or older, and may not be the parent of the candidate</i>		
STATEMENT OF INTENT		
The above information is true to the best of my knowledge. I wish my child to be admitted to the preparation program and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of the Assumption (St. Mary's) church in Brantford.		
_____ Parent/Guardian Signature		_____ Date: