



St. Mary's Parish Community

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

133 Murray St. Brantford, ON N3S 5P8

(519) 753 7316, marybrantford@gmail.com

www.marybrantford.com

October 27, 2020

Dear Confirmation Candidates

Dear Parents/Grandparents/ Guardians/ Sponsors,

We are excited to announce that this school year the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 11:00 am**. By the faculty granted by Bishop Crosby I will be the celebrant to confer this Sacrament on you.

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 journey.

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 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.

Please submit your registration form no later than December 16th.

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.”

Since the sponsor is the person seating next to you, due to the social distancing rules we recommend that you choose the sponsor from between your family members or a someone of the household if possible.

Due to Diocesan guidelines that prohibit the use of gowns during Covid, please observe casual but modest and elegant attire that is suitable for the church celebration.

Rehearsal is not required due to a simple layout of the liturgy. You will receive all instructions from the pulpit during the liturgy.

On the day of Confirmation:

- You can invite 5 persons to the celebration who will share the pew with you. There will be no additional seats available!
- We ask you to **arrive at 10:30 am** at the front door of the church **together with all your guests** and you will be checked in and seated by an usher. Please notice that the face mask is mandatory for you and all your guests. Other safety protocols will also be in place.
- You should take a seat closest to the central isle, and your sponsor next to you. Your guests can spread in the pew.
- You will remain in the pew for the whole ceremony.
- The Sacrament will be celebrated outside the Holy Mass with the Liturgy of the Word and without Holy Communion. You and your sponsor will be asked to stand at some point to receive the anointing, and then sit.

Photos are not permitted during or after the liturgy in the church or on church grounds, we recommend taking the photo at home with your sponsor and family.

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