



St. Mary's Parish Community

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

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November 1, 2024

Dear Confirmation Candidates

Dear Parents/Grandparents/ Guardians/ Sponsors,

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on **Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 2:00 pm**. Bishop W. Lobsinger will be presiding.

Sacraments are new steps in everyone's Catholic faith journey and maturity. They require a certain understanding and preparation, but they are more spiritual than academic events. Sacraments are not a one-time celebration but a life-long journey with Jesus Christ our Savior. It is important that you faithfully and according to the recommendation of the Church, join your parish community for their sacramental celebrations. The Sacraments practiced regularly provide incredible support in our daily life.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is also known as the **Seal of the Holy Spirit**. Confirmation is one of the **Sacraments of Initiation** (*Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation*).

According to our Diocesan policy 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.

Your registration form needs to be completed by your parent or legal guardian and brought with them to the **Parent/Guardian Meeting on November 27, 2024 in the church**. The **form** is available from our website for download, from our parish office or from the school. Proof of your Catholic baptism, in the Catholic Church, is required and must be submitted by you. Every candidate has to be **baptised Catholic** prior to Confirmation. We can arrange your baptism, if necessary, if there is sufficient time. Please contact us if you have any question or require some clarification.

You are **strongly encouraged** to join us for Sunday Holy Mass to familiarize yourself with the church and liturgy.

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

However – “a customary practice in the church 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.

Every Confirmation candidate has to 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.”

The dress code is Sunday best.

Rehearsal for the Sacrament will be **Saturday, February 22, 2025, 10:00 am in St. Mary’s Church**. On **the day of Confirmation**, we ask you to **arrive beginning at 1:30 pm** with your sponsor and guests **at the church main door**. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ARRIVE EARLY.

Photos are not permitted during the liturgy. You can arrange photos later.

You can express your gratitude by making a monetary contribution to St. Mary’s Church. The donation box is located at the entrance. We greatly appreciate every gift.

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. Laszlo Amaszka
Parish Pastor