



December 9, 2021

Dear Grade 7 Parents,

This year your child is eligible to enter a process of *immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation*. With the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child completes all the Sacraments of Initiation, receives the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and becomes a full member of the Catholic Church. For your child to be eligible for the Confirmation Preparation Program here at St. Jerome's your child must be:

- *Baptised in the **Roman Catholic Church***
- **Worship weekly here at St. Jerome's Parish*
- *Initiated into the Sacrament of Confession and frequents the sacrament*
- **Initiated into Holy Communion and is nourishing his/her faith through weekly mass*
- *Willing to learn about his/her faith*

**During Covid-19 restrictions, Sunday mass can be viewed on-line through our parish website.*

This is an important decision your child must make for themselves as they continue their spiritual growth and development in understanding their roles as young Catholics. This is an opportunity for your child to build a personal relationship with God as they journey with other young people towards becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church and receiving the mark of the Holy Spirit through this sacrament.

This year, St. Jerome Parish will be returning to our in-person Confirmation Preparation Program. Our program is designed to help young people encounter Christ by putting the teachings of the Catholic faith into practical, creative, and reflective experiences. Our confirmation program will not only provide your child with the essential understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation, but also invite them to make their faith their own while being engaged emotionally and spiritually.

Our program consists of 7 in-person sessions, one session per week, meeting weekly in the parish hall and led by our Catechists who will work closely with their groups through their spiritual preparation. Although these sessions will be conducted in-person, we will still be observing all Covid-19 protocols regarding face masks, sanitizations, contact tracing, and social distancing where permissible. Five different session timeslots are available from which your child will be expected to register and attend one. The timeslots are as follows:

1. *11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays from February 26th to April 23rd*
2. *1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays from February 26th to April 23rd*
3. *7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturdays from February 26th to April 23rd*
4. *7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sundays from February 27th to April 24th*
5. *7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays from February 28th to April 25th*

No sessions will take place from March 5th - 7th and April 16th - 18th.

As part of your child's registration process, we ask you to please commit your child to one of the session timeslots listed above. Due to cohort mandates and occupancy restrictions, the timeslot chosen will be your child's permanent session throughout the program. Furthermore, each session is essential to your child's preparation for the Sacrament, and attendance is mandatory.

To register your child for the Confirmation Program at St. Jerome Parish, please visit our parish website www.stjeromeparish.ca and navigate to the Sacrament of Confirmation tab. You may then follow the link available to fill our online registration form. Once you have completed the online form, you may come to our parish office during our office hours (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday) to complete the registration process by providing a payment of **\$50.00**. Payments through cash, debit, and credit are accepted. Once successfully registered online and payment made at the parish office, you may then sign up your child for one of the session timeslots. There are limited numbers in each session timeslot, so we will be utilizing "first-come-first-served" with session registrations. Please ensure to register early and come to our parish office to secure the chosen session timeslot for your child.

Registration will close Friday, January 28, 2022

Dates for the confirmation ceremonies will depend on which timeslot your child will be attending their sessions. Along with potential restrictions and limits set by provincial mandates, the number of people able to attend the confirmation ceremonies will also be restricted, however, as we receive more information and clarity, you will be updated with all changes regarding our confirmation program and ceremonies.

Throughout this process, you, as the primary educators of faith to your children, also have an important role to play in their preparation for this sacrament. I encourage you to book your seats for our Sunday Masses and attend as a family to assist your child's formation in their faith through prayer and personal witness. Please visit our website for more information on how you can book your seats and attend our masses. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Adrian Gill, our Confirmation Program Coordinator, at gill@stjeromeparish.ca. He will be happy to address any issues or questions you may have.

We look forward to working with the parents and the youth of our parish as we prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation and the fulfilment of their Baptismal commitment.

Yours in the peace of Christ.



Msgr. Michael Busch
Parish Pastor



Rev. Jibin Joy
Associate Pastor



Adrian Gill
Lay Pastoral Associate