

St Mary's Church

40 Russell Street East, Lindsay, Ontario, K9V 2A4



June 21, 2023

Dear Parents:

With your support, the help of the parish and Catholic school community, I look forward to assisting your child to prepare to receive the sacrament of **Confirmation**. **Children who will enter Grade 7 in the Fall of 2023 and children up to grade 12 who have not received this sacrament are potential candidates for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

The parishes of the Diocese of Peterborough are working together to offer a Sacramental Preparation Program that is consistent in form and content. This initiative is designed to assist the home, school, and parish in nurturing the faith of your child as you prepare them for receiving the sacraments.

All the Catholic parishes in the Diocese work closely with the school communities. The Catholic schools provide Religious and Family Life Education for your child and the parishes provide the Sacramental Preparation Program for your child. **The Sacramental Preparation Program will be offered at the parishes.**

There will be two **Parent Information Meetings that will last no longer than 60 minutes. Please attend one.** They will be:

- **Wednesday, September 13 at 8 p.m., and**
- **Sunday, September 17 after the 11 a.m. Mass**

All meetings will be at the parish hall, which is in St. Mary's School. These meetings will help to explain the Sacramental Preparation Program and how you can continue to support your child's faith development. **Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate.**

There is a fee of \$50 for the Confirmation program to help offset cost of the materials. Your child will receive the program textbook, *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*. If this expense poses a concern, I strongly encourage you to speak with me so that our assistance can be offered. Your child will also receive a Mass journal booklet and Saint's project booklet.

Your family will also have access to Formed an online Catholic content streaming service which will help prepare students with videos on the many Saints, and other faith filled videos. Details will come when classes start in the fall.

As Pastor, I am responsible, in collaboration with the Bishop, in following Canon Law and Diocesan Policies, to ensure that all the requirements are completed in preparation for the celebration of this sacrament for your child. **If your child has not been baptized yet, please feel welcome to contact me at your earliest convenience.**

Because the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation is important for your child, I want to encourage you to go over the requirements of this program carefully. My hope is that you take the catechism program

into consideration when making decisions for your child's extracurricular activities (such as hockey, gymnastics, lacrosse, etc) for this school year.

Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Sessions

A 90-minute session, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., will take place in the large Sacristy of the Church on the following dates. Your child must attend at least 8 classes and come to Mass to be considered in good standing. Your child is encouraged to attend all classes. Please note the calendar is subject to change and update. Please ensure to watch your emails, parish bulletin for changes.

- Session 1 – Tuesday October 17, 2023**
- Session 2 – Tuesday October 24, 2023**
- Session 3 – Tuesday November 14, 2023**
- Session 4 – Tuesday November 28, 2023**
- Session 5 – Tuesday December 12, 2023**
- Session 6 – Tuesday December 19, 2023**
- Session 7 – Tuesday January 16, 2024**
- Session 8 – Tuesday January 30, 2024**
- Session 9 – Tuesday February 13, 2024**
- Session 10 – Tuesday February 27, 2024**
- Session 11 – Tuesday March 19, 2024**
- Session 12 – Tuesday March 26, 2024**
- Session 12 – Tuesday April 16, 2024**
- Session 13 – Tuesday April 23, 2024**
- Session 14 – Tuesday May 7, 2024**

Confirmation Mass – Spring 2024

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

The children must complete Mass journals, and a Saint's project during the academic year. As you are the first teachers of the Catholic faith, you are expected, you and your child, to be consistently attending Sunday Masses, in person, as the Church requires. To miss Mass on Sunday or the Saturday evening Vigil Mass (without grave reason) is a grave sin.

At a later time, we hope to hear about the timing for the Retreat based on the ministry's schedule and Confirmation which depends on the Bishop's schedule. Thank you for your patience.

I will be praying for you and your child as they prepare to receive the holy sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Dominic Clovis, IVE
Pastor, St. Mary's