



St. Joseph's Catholic Church

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10 October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Re: Confirmation

On September 15, 2023 a letter was shared with the parishioners of St. Joseph Church regarding the new policy for Sacramental Preparation for the Archdiocese of Kingston. This letter can be found on the reverse side of this letter. The new policy can be found on our parish website <https://www.stjosephskingston.ca/> or at visit the Archdiocesan website at <https://romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/>

Based on this new policy, the process of preparing our children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion at St. Joseph's Church will look a little different going forward. With the help of our Sacramental Preparation team and you, the parents and family members, your child will be prepared for the reception of the sacraments through the parish. Our focus is bringing the families closer to Christ and the Church through proper catechesis. As a community, we will be supporting our candidates for this important milestone in their lives.

To begin the preparation of candidates for this Sacrament, I would like to invite all parents/guardians with children in grade 8, whose children wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring to attend the Parent Information Meeting on **November 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall. If you are unable to attend this meeting, there will be an opportunity on **November 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** with parents of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion candidates. It is mandatory to attend one of the dates about. Note the change in date for the second meeting.

This meeting will provide parents with the information necessary to start their child on the journey toward the reception of this Sacrament. Registration and information regarding Sacramental Preparation classes which will be held at the Parish beginning early January 2024 will be provided at this time. The meeting is geared to adults, and so it is not necessary that your child be present at the meeting,

Deadline for registration for the reception of the Sacraments is **Thursday, November 23, 2023.** Registration will not be accepted after this date.

The Enrollment Ceremony for the candidates will take place on **Sunday, November 26, 2023, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.**

I am looking forward to seeing you, as we continue our journey in faith.

Sincerely,

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara
Pastor



ARCHDIOCESE of KINGSTON

6 August 2023

The Solemnity of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Dear Families,

Grace and peace to you. How blessed we are by the Holy Spirit!

In St. Matthew's gospel we read the account of Jesus and the Children. The "people brought their little children to him, for him to lay his hands on them and pray." (Matt 19:13) Parents and grandparents alike, brought their little ones to meet Christ and receive his blessing.

Not many years ago, you brought your daughter or son to your parish and requested the Sacrament of Baptism. In the waters of Baptism, they received a second birth as a child of God. The Holy Spirit poured out the saving graces of Our Redeemer. As your child reaches the natural age for the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and Reconciliation we are charged with the sacred task of preparing their hearts and minds to celebrate the Sacraments with knowledge, understanding and faith.

"The family is a domestic church, that is, a community where faith, hope and love are taught and lived by word and example in union with the larger family of the parish church." **Together with the pastor and faith community, parents and families serve as the primary catechist for the immediate preparation of sacraments.** Parents have been entrusted by Christ and His Church with the task of teaching their children how to live the Christian life. You are your child's primary educator in matters of faith. The rationale for this policy is outlined in the [Sacrament Preparation for School Aged Children: The Role of Families, Parish and Catholic Schools](#). You will find the full text of the policy on our website: [www. https://romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/](http://www.https://romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/)

The sacraments are both a personal and communal encounter with Christ. The family's active participation in the preparation provides a unique opportunity for parents to engage spiritually with their children. "Daily, you model and witness to the love, mercy, and grace of our God." The schools will continue to teach the religious education curriculum but the catechesis for the sacraments is the privilege and obligation of the faith community particularly parents and guardians.

The local parish, together with the Pastor, will offer their warm welcome, care, and prayerful support and direction for you as a family. The sacraments graft us to Christ and unite us to the faith community and its sacramental life. Weekly participation in the Holy Eucharist, on the Lord's Day, is the best preparation for the sacraments. It is our privilege to accompany you in the preparation of your children for the Sacraments of Initiation. We remind all parents and guardians that you are qualified, able, blessed and called to prepare your son or daughter by your love, faith, sincerity and especially by your God given privilege of having your child entrusted to you by Him.

Prayerful best wishes,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston