



ST. PETER'S CHURCH
ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

659 Markham Street

Toronto, Ontario

M6G 2M1

T: 416.534.4219

F: 416.534.2328

E: contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca

www.stpeterstoronto.ca

Dear Candidate,

Your initiation into the Christian community began when your parents presented you for Baptism. In the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, you were brought more deeply into Christ's Church. Confirmation is the sacrament whereby you will complete your initiation. After Confirmation you are completely and fully a member of the Church. We welcome you and celebrate your decision.

As we begin the process of preparing you for this sacrament, here are a few things we would like you to think about:

Confirmation is about Initiation not Graduation

At many points in your life you will "graduate". Think for a moment about what this means. You will have spent many years attaining enough knowledge to merit a certificate that says you have earned an education. You have completed something. Graduation signals the end of something. It is the last step of a process.

Initiation, on the other hand, is something quite different. Initiation signals the beginning of something. It is a first step, not the last. As a sacrament of initiation, Confirmation is about the beginning of a new and deeper kind of Christian commitment. It is the beginning of your life as an adult member of the Church. Do you have to know everything about being Catholic to be confirmed? Not at all. Learning about the meaning of your faith is a lifetime task. You need only know enough to understand what kind of commitment you are making. The preparation process in our parish is about helping you to do that as well as helping you to prepare spiritually for that commitment.

Confirmation is about Commitment

When you were baptized, your parents made a decision to raise you as a Catholic Christian person. At Confirmation, both you and the Catholic community confirms this decision. This is your chance to decide to renew and recommit yourself to the promises that were made on your behalf at your Baptism.

So what are you committing yourself to in the sacrament of Confirmation? Well, first of all to living a CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE. This means trying to be loving and kind in all that you do. It means caring about justice and truthfulness. And most of all it means having a relationship with Jesus. Central to this relationship is living a life of prayerfulness - both personal (PRIVATE PRAYER) and communal (SUNDAY MASS). For Christians this is how we come to know and express our faith in God. It is also how we find the strength to sustain our commitment to live just and loving lives.

If you do not feel able to make such a commitment, we encourage you not to be confirmed at this time. This is not because we want to be judgmental or "exclusive". Rather, Confirmation is about celebrating one's "full, conscious and



ST. PETER'S CHURCH
ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

659 Markham Street

Toronto, Ontario

M6G 2M1

T: 416.534.4219

F: 416.534.2328

E: contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca

www.stpeterstoronto.ca

active participation" in the Christian community. It doesn't make sense to celebrate the ritual if we do not intend to live out the commitment. We would certainly never dream of signing up for a sports team and buying all of the equipment just so that we would have the experience of signing up with no intention of participating in the games. Nor should we celebrate a ritual of Christian commitment if we don't intend to participate fully. Whenever in our lives that we feel the call to full inclusion in the Church, whether we are thirteen or ninety, this is when we should be confirmed.

How Do You Know You are Ready?

The following questions will help you to discern if you are ready to celebrate Confirmation.

1. Why do I want to be confirmed?
2. If everyone else in my peer group/class/friends, etc. was choosing not to be confirmed, would I still chose to be confirmed myself?
3. Am I willing to be a person of love and compassion, serving others in the way that Jesus did?
4. Am I willing to make an effort to deepen my spiritual life through private prayer and public worship?
5. Is participation in the Christian community, particularly through my parish, important to me?

If you answered yes to the above questions, you are ready to begin your journey to confirmation. If you answered no or maybe to the questions, you should discuss your feelings with your families, sponsor and / or one of our parish priests. We are all here to help you on this journey.

If, after you start the preparation, you decide that this is not the time for you to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are asked to contact the coordinator. We will respect your decision, and encourage you to consider being confirmed when the time is right for you.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH
ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

659 Markham Street

Toronto, Ontario

M6G 2M1

T: 416.534.4219

F: 416.534.2328

E: contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca

www.stpeterstoronto.ca

What do I have to do to prepare for Confirmation?

All candidates, attending both public and catholic schools are required to attend the preparation classes, participate in the Rite of Enrollment, retreat and volunteering a few hours of Christian service.

Classes for Confirmation Preparation will be held on Saturday's in the Church Basement. The following is a schedule of classes and other mandatory events (highlighted) which will take place throughout the year.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event Description</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wed, Nov 22, 2023	Parent / Candidate Meeting (opt 1)	7 pm - 8 pm	Main Church
Sat, Nov 25, 2023	Parent / Candidate Meeting (opt 2)	2 pm - 3 pm	Main Church
Sun, Dec 10, 2023	Rite of Enrollment	11:15 am Mass	Main Church
Sat, Jan 06, 2024	AfM - Session 1	3 pm - 4:30 pm	Basement
Sat, Feb 03, 2024	AfM - Session 2	3 pm - 4:30 pm	Basement
Sat, Mar 02, 2024	AfM - Session 3	3 pm - 4:30 pm	Basement
Sat, Apr 06, 2024	AfM - Session 4	3 pm - 4:30 pm	Basement
Sat, May 11, 2024	Rehearsal	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Main Church
Sat, May 11, 2024	Retreat	1:30 pm - 5 pm	Basement
Sat, May 18, 2024	Confirmation	5 pm Mass	Main Church
Sat, Jun 01, 2024	AfM - Session 5	3 pm - 4:30 pm	Basement

About the Program:

The Classes follow the Anointed for Mission (AfM) program. AfM is a program created by the Archdiocese of Toronto which focuses on the Sacrament of Confirmation, helping to prepare you to become a fully initiated member of the Church.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH
ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

659 Markham Street

Toronto, Ontario

M6G 2M1

T: 416.534.4219

F: 416.534.2328

E: contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca

www.stpeterstoronto.ca

What is the Rite of Enrollment / What will happen?

The Rite of Enrolment is a rite of passage for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this coming spring. By completing and signing the enrollment form and handing it in during the ceremony, it gives you the opportunity to state publicly before the community that you are taking this step in your sacramental lives seriously. The Rite of Enrolment will take place on **December 10, 2023, at the 11:15 am Mass.**

At the end of Mass, before the final blessing, the candidates and their families will come forward to the sanctuary, receive a blessing and place their envelope, containing the following, into a basket provided:

- Completed enrollment form
- **If you have not already done so** , also include:
 - Copy of your baptismal certificate if you were not baptized at St. Peter's
 - A donation to cover the cost of materials (recommended \$60)

The general rule is that if we do not receive the completed form on that day you will not be eligible to participate in the Sacrament next spring, however if for some reason, illness etc., you are unable to attend the Rite of Enrolment, please drop off the envelope at the parish office, attention Lynett Wilson, no later than **Saturday, December 16, 2023** .

What is a Sponsor? Who should I pick as my Sponsor?

A sponsor is a person who encourages and assists a candidate to embrace and actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation. The sponsor also presents the candidate to the Bishop (or his delegate) at the celebration of Confirmation.

Being a sponsor is not just an honour. The sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic who can be a role model for the candidate. Ideally, you should choose one of your godparents from Baptism, provided he or she meets the above guidelines. If it is not possible to choose a godparent as your sponsor (e.g. they are deceased, live too far away, or are no longer a practicing Catholic), then you might ask someone else whom you see as an example of a committed, practicing Catholic. This could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, other relative, family friend, parent of one of your friends, a teacher. The requirements of the Catholic Church say that a sponsor:

- May be either a man or a woman who regularly comes to Sunday Mass and celebrates the sacraments.
- Must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed and has made First Communion.)
- Must be at least 16 years old at the time of your Confirmation
- May not be one of your parents



ST. PETER'S CHURCH
ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

659 Markham Street

Toronto, Ontario

M6G 2M1

T: 416.534.4219

F: 416.534.2328

E: contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca

www.stpeterstoronto.ca

- Only ONE sponsor will be registered in the confirmation records. If you choose to have more than one person stand up for you please keep this in mind.

Your sponsor should participate during the Rite of Enrollment ceremony and the Rehearsal.

What is Christian Service?

We would like all Confirmation candidates to perform some type of community service beginning during the preparation time and continuing throughout their lives. We emphasize Christian service because "good work" is absolutely central to the Christian life of faith. As Christians, we must instill in ourselves a deep sense of care and concern for the world around us.

Each candidate is asked to volunteer a few hours of community service. St. Peter's Parish offers various volunteer opportunities through work with the Winter Welcome Table (WWT) held Monday evenings during the winter months in the church auditorium. An info sheet about the WWT is enclosed. Candidates may also complete their volunteer time at another location if they choose.

In order to ensure everyone has a chance to complete this aspect of your preparation, you will need to sign up for a WWT session. Available dates are 'first come / first serve' and can be viewed online at www.religioused.stpeterstoronto.ca

To sign up please email your top three date choices to lynettw@stpeterstoronto.ca. You will be contacted with the dates assigned to you.

On the date assigned, please arrive 15 minutes early. For the WWT you proceed to the parish auditorium and speak to one of the priests or a coordinator.

Once you've completed your Christian service, please complete the enclosed page and return it to the Office. Feel free to make separate copies for each volunteer experience and don't be shy about telling us how you felt. Maybe you loved it and want to do more, or maybe you disliked it and that particular activity wasn't for you. It helps to be honest about how the experience made you feel so that in the future you'll be able to find an activity you enjoy doing.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH
ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

659 Markham Street

Toronto, Ontario

M6G 2M1

T: 416.534.4219

F: 416.534.2328

E: contactus@stpeterstoronto.ca

www.stpeterstoronto.ca

What else do I need to know?

Baptismal Certificates: Why does the parish need the address of the church where I was baptized? After you have been confirmed, we record the details in our parish Confirmation register. We are also required to send a notice to the parish in which you were baptized (no matter where in the world that parish is located) and they, too, enter your Confirmation in their records. We can only do this when you provide a complete mailing address for the church.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory! We expect that all candidates will attend every session, including the retreat. Enrolling in the Confirmation program means commitment to taking part in all aspects of the preparation: Rite of Enrolment, all sessions, retreat. We understand that sometimes there are serious reasons which prevent people from attending. If you are sick or have some other serious conflict, contact the coordinator of the program to arrange to make up the session. Retreats cannot be made up. Candidates who fail to participate without a valid reason may be asked to withdraw from the program and delay Confirmation till another time.

Retreat & Rehearsal: A retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 12:30 pm to 5 pm**. Your sponsor does not need to attend the retreat but should plan to attend the rehearsal on **Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm**.

Confirmation Names: You may be familiar with a tradition of having candidates choose a "Confirmation name." This is no longer an encouraged practice. Candidates are now confirmed using their baptismal names. However, having models of holiness is very important in a culture in which movie, music and sports heroes dominate our lives. The Christian saints provide such models. While the Church no longer expect candidates to take on a new Confirmation name it is very appropriate for candidates to learn about the saints after which they may have been named at Baptism.

Clothing: Candidates do not wear any specific clothing to their Confirmation. "Sunday Best" is always appropriate. A stole is the sign that someone has been ordained as a deacon, priest or bishop. It is not, therefore, appropriate for Confirmation candidates to wear a stole.

I look forward to working with you over the next year, and I hope you find the program enjoyable. If you have any questions regarding Confirmation preparation at St. Peter's, please feel free to contact me at the number below or speak to Fr. Michael McGourty.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynett Wilson'.

Lynett Wilson
Religious Education Coordinator
(416) 534-4219 ext 234, lynettw@stpeterstoronto.ca