

St. Jane Frances de Chantal

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



2747 Jane Street, North York, ON. M3L 2E8
Phone: 416.741.1463 Email: office@stjanefranceschurch.ca
Website: www.stjanefranceschurch.ca

July 2023

2023-2024 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

For students starting Grade 7 or higher in September 2023

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Congratulations! This year your child is eligible to enter a program of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion comprise the Sacraments of Initiation.** Confirmation is a sacrament that continues the welcome and the belonging that your child began with Baptism and continued with Eucharist. Confirmation deepens our relationship with God and strengthens us to live lives of faith and mission. *With the completion of the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child becomes a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.*

Parents/guardians who have children in Grade 7 or higher, and who wish them to receive the sacrament of **CONFIRMATION** in our Parish in Spring 2024, are asked to review and complete all required forms in the Confirmation Registration Package.

If you wish your child to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in St. Jane Frances Parish in the spring of 2024, you are asked to print and complete the registration package, and return it to the parish office, in person, NO LATER than September 29, 2023.

If you are unable to print the package, you may contact the parish office by telephone (**416-741-1463**) or via email (confirmation@stjanefranceschurch.ca) to arrange pickup.

Students beginning grade 7 or higher in September 2023 will begin their preparation in October 2023 and will receive the sacrament in the Spring of 2024.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Parents of children who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation should be **registered and practicing members of our Parish.**
2. Parents who are **registered and practicing members of another Parish**, but wish their child to receive Confirmation in our Parish, will have to complete the **LETTER OF PERMISSION from the Pastor of their parish**, included with on the registration form in the Confirmation package. **Registration WILL NOT be accepted without the Pastor's Letter of Permission.**
3. **If your family attends a Protestant church on Sundays, even though your child may have been baptized as a Catholic, this program is not for you.** Confirmation is a sacrament of full initiation into the Catholic Church. You may want to check with your Protestant minister about their Confirmation program.

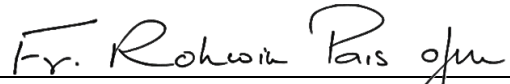
4. Your child's **ORIGINAL Baptism Certificate (plus one photocopy)** will have to be provided at the time of registration. **Registration WILL NOT be done without your child's proof of Baptism.**
5. **If your child is NOT baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, please speak with Fr. Rohwin BEFORE submitting a completed registration package.**

And finally, PLEASE NOTE:

- The **dates for all catechism classes** will be provided **AFTER** the registration period is complete. At this time, classes are *tentatively* scheduled to begin on **October 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**
- The **dates for additional meetings, retreats, rehearsals and Confirmation celebrations** will also be confirmed **AFTER** the Registration period ends.
- Communication of important information to **PARENTS** will be through announcements at weekend Masses, via our parish website (<https://stjanefranceschurch.ca/sacraments>) and/or by parish email sent from confirmation@stjanefranceschurch.ca.

We look forward to working together with you and your children this Fall!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Rohwin Pais, O.F.M., Pastor

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CHILDREN BAPTIZED IN THE
ORTHODOX CHURCH OR IN AN EASTERN RITE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Roman Rite is one of twenty-two rites in the universal Catholic Church. Many Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto were baptized in one of the various Eastern Rites that constitute the Catholic Church. It is the tradition of most of the Eastern Rites that those being initiated *are confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the time of Baptism*. **Please check your child's baptism certificate to verify if your child received Confirmation at Baptism.**

When the parish in the usual conjunction with the Catholic schools are preparing the candidates for Confirmation, those Eastern Rite Catholic students are welcomed to take an active part in all aspects of the program of the parish and school. When the Roman Catholic candidates are being confirmed, those of the Eastern Rite may participate as well but there must be a clear intention and action that they are not be confirmed. The Eastern Rite students will be called forward with a brief explanation for the assembly and receive a blessing from the Pastor as an act of recognition of their previous Confirmation and a prayer for its fruitfulness in their lives.

Orthodox Rite students are also welcome to participate in the lessons and retreats but the Orthodox bishops have asked that their students not be publicly recognized at the Confirmation Masses

ST. JANE FRANCES PARISH

2747 Jane Street, Toronto, ON M3L 2E8
Telephone: (416) 741-1463

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION GR. 7+ REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete ALL sections.

OFFICE USE ONLY

- Candidate NOT Baptized
- o/s Baptism Certificate
- o/s First Communion Certificate
- o/s Candidate's Letter of Intent
- o/s Signed Confirmation Contract
- o/s Sponsor's Affirmation
- o/s Sponsor's Confirmation Certificate
- o/s \$40 Registration Fee

Section 1: CHILD'S FULL LEGAL NAME (Please COMPLETE / PRINT clearly)

FIRST Name MIDDLE Name LAST Name

() Male () Female DATE of Birth: PLACE of Birth:

Name of SCHOOL: Grade in September 2023:

PLEASE NOTE: If there are any special education needs that may affect your son/daughter's full participation in the Confirmation Preparation Program program, please inform the parish office when submitting registration package.

• Has your child received the sacrament of **BAPTISM**? NO YES If YES, please complete below.

• DATE OF BAPTISM:

• CHURCH OF BAPTISM:

• Complete Address of Church of Baptism:

• Has your child received the sacrament of **First Communion**? NO YES If YES, please complete below.

• DATE OF FIRST COMMUNION:

• CHURCH OF FIRST COMMUNION:

• Complete Address of Church of **FIRST COMMUNION**:

Section 2: PARENT INFORMATION (Please COMPLETE / PRINT clearly)

• MOTHER'S Name:

FIRST Name LAST Name MAIDEN Name

Religion: Roman Catholic Other: _____ None

Present Address: Same as child's * If NOT the same as child's please complete below.

Street City Postal Code

TELEPHONE: Email:

I am a parent of, or have legal custody of, this child.

• FATHER'S Name:

FIRST Name LAST Name

Religion: Roman Catholic Other: _____ None

Present Address: Same as child's * If NOT the same as child's please complete below.

Street City Postal Code

TELEPHONE: Email:

I am a parent of, or have legal custody of, this child.

Turn page over ⇨

Section 3: FAMILY PARISH INFORMATION (Please COMPLETE / PRINT clearly)

Please select **ONE** of the following as it pertains to your family. Please box:

We currently live within the territorial boundaries of St. Jane Frances Parish, and **ARE** registered parishioners.

Please provide your current 2023 Parish/Envelope # _____

We currently **DO NOT** live within the territorial boundaries of St. Jane Frances Parish, but we **ARE** registered parishioners. Please provide your current 2023 Parish/Envelope # _____

We currently **DO NOT** live within the territorial boundaries of the parish, and **ARE NOT** registered parishioners.

Please have the **LETTER OF PERMISSION** below completed by the Pastor of the parish where your family practices.

PASTOR'S LETTER OF PERMISSION

I, the undersigned, _____,
(Name of Pastor)

hereby attest that _____ and _____
(Mother's Name) (Father's Name)

are registered and practicing members of _____
(Name of Parish)

and I grant permission for their child _____
(Name of Child)

to receive the sacrament of **CONFIRMATION** at **St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish** in Spring 2024.

Signature of Pastor

Date

Parish Seal

Section 4: FOR PARENTS

Minimum Requirements to be met in order for your child to be eligible for CONFIRMATION:

1. **Must** be a Baptized Roman Catholic.
2. **Must attend** all class sessions and scheduled learning events.
3. **Must attend** Sunday Mass (or Saturday Vigil Mass) regularly **with parents**.
4. **Must show** a cooperative attitude toward class work, homework, memory work and others in the class.
5. **Must show** satisfactory completion of assigned work.

PARENTS: Do you agree to help your children meet the minimum requirements as outlined above?

Please box:

Yes – “I agree to help my child fulfill the Confirmation requirements to the very best of my ability.”

No – “I do not agree.” – **Please contact the Pastor.**

A completed **Confirmation Registration Package** must be handed in to the parish no later than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**, and must include all required documents.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Registration Package 2023-2024

St. Jane Frances Roman Catholic Church
2747 Jane Street, Toronto, ON. M3L 2E8
Telephone: 416.741.1463 Fax: 416.741.1469

Sacrament of Confirmation for Candidates in Grade 7 and higher in September 2023

REQUIREMENTS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to St. Jane Frances Church!

The decision to be confirmed is a serious one, for it indicates that a young person wishes to ratify and accept the Church. In Confirmation, one willingly assumes an active participation in the Church's apostolate or mission.

The preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation happens throughout a young person's lifetime. This type of preparation is referred to as "INITIAL" preparation and includes all the years of catechesis that have led to this moment. "IMMEDIATE" preparation refers to catechesis for Confirmation specifically. This Immediate preparation for Confirmation is a process that takes place in the parish and focuses on preparation for receiving the sacrament.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration packages must be handed in to the parish office
NO LATER than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, 2023**

CHECKLIST:

All the forms listed below are to be handed in no later than September 29, 2023:

FOR THE CANDIDATE:

- Completed "Confirmation Registration Form" (with "Pastor's Letter of Permission" if required), as well as the "Arrival & Departure Form".
- The ORIGINAL COPY of your child's Baptism Certificate + ONE photocopy.**
- Your child's "Letter of Intent" to Fr. Rohwin explaining "Why I want to be Confirmed". (* SEE page 6 of Registration Package *)
- Completed "Catechism Contract" (to be signed by Candidate and Parents). (* SEE page 7 of Registration Package *)
- The Fee of \$40.00 to cover the cost of the preparation materials and the rental of the Confirmation gown; please note, we will only accept payment made in cash. Thank you.

FOR THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:

- The ORIGINAL copy of the Sponsor's Confirmation Certificate.** A copy will be made and the original will be returned to you.
- The Completed and signed "Sponsor's Affirmation" (* SEE page. 8 & 9 of Registration Package)

Sacrament of Confirmation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. **Our parish-based instruction program prepares your child for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.** It assumes that your child has been baptized as a Roman Catholic, **or been formally received into the Catholic Church.** It is also assumed that your child has received the Sacrament of First Communion.

If you are a baptized Roman Catholic parent and you want your child to be baptized, or receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Communion, please DO NOT FILL OUT THIS REGISTRATION PACKAGE. Instead, please contact the parish office immediately. A separate preparation program called R.C.I.C., the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Children*, will provide the Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Communion instruction needed for your child.

2. We recognize that not every student who attends one of our parish schools worships at St. Jane Frances Church. ***If you are worshipping at another Catholic parish on Sundays***, such as St. Augustine of Canterbury, St. Philip Neri, St. Jude, St. Wilfrid or Our Lady of Guadalupe, ***your child should be confirmed at that parish.*** Because Confirmation programs are parish-based and are not taught in the schools, your child should be prepared by the church that you worship at each Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE: If your family does attend another parish, but you would like your child to prepare for and receive the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Jane Frances, you will need to include a "Pastor's Letter of Permission" with the Confirmation Registration Form.

IF YOUR FAMILY ATTENDS A PROTESTANT CHURCH

3. ***If your family attends a Protestant church on Sundays, even though your child may have been baptized as a Catholic, this program is not for you.*** Confirmation is a sacrament of full initiation into the Catholic Church. You may want to check with your Protestant minister about their Confirmation program.

Important Notice for Children Baptized in an ORTHODOX CHURCH or in an EASTERN RITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4. The Roman Rite is one of twenty-two rites in the universal Catholic Church. Many Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto were baptized in one of the various Eastern Rite Churches that constitute the Catholic Church. It is the tradition of most of the Catholic Eastern Rite and Orthodox churches that those being initiated ***are confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the time of baptism.*** ***Please check your child's baptism certificate to verify if your child received Confirmation at baptism.***

When the parish in conjunction with the Catholic schools prepares the candidates for the Confirmation, those Eastern Rite Catholic students are welcomed to take an active part in all aspects of the program of the parish and school. When the Roman Catholic candidates are being confirmed, those of the Eastern Rite may participate as well but there must be a clear intention and action that they are not being confirmed. The Eastern Rite students will be called forward with a brief explanation for the assembly and receive a blessing from the pastor as an act of recognition of their previous confirmation and a prayer for its fruitfulness in their lives.

Orthodox Rite students are also welcome to participate in the lessons and retreats but ***the Orthodox bishops have asked that their students not*** be publicly recognized at the Confirmation Masses.

Sacrament of Confirmation

FOR PARENTS

SHARING IN YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY OF FAITH

Why do parents have to be involved in sacramental preparation programs? Isn't this preparation being done at school or in the home?

The preparation is done at school and in the home. Christian initiation, however, requires much more preparation. Full initiation into the mystery of Christ is about the making of a Christian! Today we recognize that initiation needs a partnership, with parents as the first and most important partners!

At your child's baptism, you promised to bring your child up in the faith. Passing on faith involves all your day – to – day relationships: your family priorities, your witness to the values of the gospel in spite of all the pressures on family life today. Sacramental preparation programs offer you an opportunity to join with the parish in preparing and in celebrating your child's full initiation into the Christian life of your community.

Why is this taking place in the parish and not in the school?

The school or the classroom is not the community of faith into which your child is to be initiated. The community that worships every Sunday says "Come, join us at the table!" You and your family are invited to participate more deeply in the activity of that faith community. The school can do this only at a distance through its religious education program and by the witness of the community of teachers and students.

What are we expected to do at home?

You are invited to share your faith with your child in a simple way. Suggestions from the team will offer some ways of doing this.

Who decides when my child is ready?

You do, for you know your child best. You may, however, want to consult with your child's pastor or catechist. The child's desire should also be respected. In the process of preparation you may discover that your child does not really understand the sacrament. It would be well, in this case, to delay the celebration.

What are the "Gifts of the Spirit" that we receive at Confirmation?

Wisdom

The ability to see things as they truly are in an open-minded manner.

Understanding

A heart that accepts, cares, listens, understands, forgives.

Right Judgment

The ability to make good and wise decisions.

Courage

The strength to do what is right in spite of challenges.

Reverence

A deep respect for God, for others, and for all creation.

Wonder & Awe in God's Presence

A sense of the greatness and majesty of God coupled with a deep realization of His nearness.

Knowledge

With the gift of knowledge, we understand the meaning of God.

Sacrament of Confirmation
FOR PARENTS
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacraments are, first and foremost, acts of Jesus, in union with members of his body, the Church. The Church, therefore, is responsible for determining the specifics of sacramental preparation and celebration.

There are two types of preparation for sacraments: *initial* and *immediate*.

INITIAL PREPARATION is done by the family and school and encompasses:

- Education in a Catholic school system (or equivalent formation in the parish)
- Daily living of a Catholic lifestyle appropriate to one's age and spiritual development, including weekly celebration of Mass
- Parents and Teachers should witness to the children, by word and example, the meaning of Christian discipleship
- Parents and Teachers should emphasize repeatedly with children the importance of Sunday Eucharist and its connection to the sacraments
- In the Catholic Schools, the catechetical program *We Are Strong Together* (grades 7,8) is taught to the children. The teaching is an integral part of *initial preparation* for the celebration of all sacraments.

IMMEDIATE PREPARATION is done by the parish and encompasses:

- Sunday worship
- Encouraging prayer in the family
- Developing a specific sacramental catechesis teaching on the sacrament being anticipated
- Meeting with principals and/or teachers to coordinate the specifics of the parish sacramental preparation programs.
- Stressing with parents that their child's immediate preparation takes place in their parish of worship
- Conducting a retreat for those preparing to receive the sacraments
- Working closely with teachers and parents regarding those students who have special needs. You are the experts!
- The responsibility for preparing candidates for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation belongs to the parents and the parish.
- Since cooperation among parents, parish and school is essential in sacramental preparation and celebrations, the details of the preparation programs should be shared and communicated to all concerned.

It is the responsibility of the parish to encourage and support parents in the faith formation of their children.

FOR CANDIDATES – WRITE A LETTER OF INTENT

Why do I want to be Confirmed?

Each candidate must write a letter of intent, addressed to the **Pastor, Fr. Rohwin Pais, O.F.M.**

The purpose of this letter is for the candidate to demonstrate, in writing, his/her desire to be Confirmed, and his/her willingness to make this commitment.

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING AS A GUIDE FOR THE LETTER:

- * **First** – Begin with your greeting: *Dear Fr. Rohwin,*
- * **Second** – Introduce yourself and share some information about yourself, such as your family, your interests and hobbies, and a little about your background.
- * **Third** – State that you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and explain (in one or two paragraphs) **WHY** you want to be confirmed.

It may help you to think about:

- a) the ways in which this sacrament will strengthen your relationship with Jesus,
 - b) the role of faith in your life,
 - c) what it means to you to be a part of our parish community and/or
 - d) how the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to be witnesses for Jesus (read and reflect on the *Acts of the Apostles*.)
- * **Fourth** – Conclude your letter with a quotation from Scripture which will serve as your inspiration during your preparation for Confirmation. This can be a sentence or a few sentences. Include an explanation as to why you chose this passage.
 - * **Fifth** – Place your letter in a sealed envelope.

*** Your Letter of Intent must be turned in with completed registration package no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, 2023.**

CATECHISM CONTRACT

Please read the Catechism Contract carefully. By signing the Catechism Contract you agree to its terms and conditions. We take this contract very seriously and we expect that you will live up to your commitment.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

By registering for this Confirmation Program at St. Jane Frances Parish, we agree to:

1. **Attend Sunday Mass weekly.**
2. Provide the original copy of my child's Baptismal certificate.
3. **Assure that my child attends each and every class and arrives on time!**
4. Make sure my child is dressed appropriately and modestly for class. I will be punctual in picking up the candidate after classes. The doors are locked 15 minutes after the classes have ended. Catechists are not responsible for students once they are dismissed at the end of class.
5. **Assist my child in selecting a suitable sponsor. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic that has received Confirmation. Baptism sponsors are recommended. A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age or older on the day of Confirmation. Parents cannot serve as sponsors.**
6. Provide my child with the foundation of Catholic faith and assist the preparation process by ensuring that the candidate knows the basic prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be), the Apostle's Creed, and has an understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
7. **Meet with Fr. Rohwin for a discussion if my child has missed more than TWO classes without notifying the parish office. Postponing Confirmation until a candidate is prepared is acceptable.**
8. The parish is not responsible for unruly and/or inappropriate behavior of students. Any student conducting themselves in an inappropriate manner will be asked to leave the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

CANDIDATES:

By registering for the Confirmation Program, I agree to:

1. **Attend Sunday Mass every week.**
2. Attend all classes as scheduled, and arrive on time!
3. **Dress appropriately for all Confirmation program events including the Enrolment Mass, Confirmation classes, the retreat, Confirmation practice and ceremony.**
4. Complete all assignments at home, read the weekly unit and come prepared for the sessions.
5. **Complete a MINIMUM of 10 hours of community service. Service Projects will be discussed in detail once Confirmation classes begin.**
6. Be attentive to the catechist's instructions and behave appropriately in class.
7. **Willingly and voluntarily attend classes and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.**
8. While in the classroom, respect other students and what they have to say.
9. **Respect the church and its property. Leave the classrooms and hallways as I find them. Unruly and/or inappropriate behavior will result in my being asked to leave the program.**
10. Call the parish office if illness will prevent me from attending a session. Leave a message if necessary.

Candidate Signature

Date

*** The Catechism Contract must be turned in with completed registration package no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, 2023.**

Sacrament of Confirmation

CONFIRMATION SPONSORS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Why do I need a sponsor?

Our journey in faith in the Catholic Church is never taken alone. One of the people important to us in the process of becoming a fully initiated member of the community through Confirmation is our sponsor.

Throughout your life, you have received support from your family, friends, and other caring people. They feed and clothe you. They listen to you, offer guidance, assistance and comfort.

At Baptism, you entered the Church with support from parents and godparents. Speaking for you, they promised to raise you in the Catholic faith and watch out for you.

At Confirmation, however, you stand by yourself and renew those vows that were spoken for you at Baptism. The Church considers you old enough to assume this responsibility. BUT, a special person is still present – your Confirmation sponsor – who will stand with you and present you to the Bishop (or Pastor, as the case may be). This person will be a support for you as you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Church does not allow a parent to be a sponsor for his or her own child. However, a godparent can be a sponsor. And a man may serve as sponsor for a young woman and a woman may serve as sponsor for a young man.

Who can be my sponsor?

Your sponsor should be:

- A person who is at least sixteen years of age
- A person who is a *fully initiated* Confirmed Catholic, who lives a Christian way of life. (*Must be baptized, received First Communion and Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church.*)
- A person who is a practicing Catholic and who has sufficient maturity for this role.
- A person who *cannot* be married outside of the Roman Catholic Church. A divorced Roman Catholic who has remarried outside of the Roman Catholic church may not be a sponsor.
- A person who takes an active interest in your faith life.
- A person who is prayerful, loving, and is comfortable sharing with a young person.
- A person who is free to attend meetings and spend time with you.
- A person you can relate to so that you can pray and discuss together.

What will my sponsor do?

Your sponsor serves you in three ways:

- First, your sponsor serves as a role model for you in faith.
- Secondly, your sponsor is a companion on your faith journey, supporting you in prayer and in your search for the Holy Spirit.
- Finally, your sponsor witnesses for you and with you before the entire Church. Standing by you as you are confirmed, he or she proclaims by that gesture that you are ready and willing to accept the responsibilities and privileges of being a fully initiated member of the Catholic Christian community. He/She will be your spiritual friend.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOUR SPONSOR:

- A copy of his/her Confirmation Certificate (with visible stamp or seal).
- The **Sponsor Affirmation Form** completed and signed by your sponsor. (* See pg. 9)

SPONSOR'S AFFIRMATION

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:

* Sponsor's **Confirmation Certificate** must be attached to "Sponsor's Affirmation". *

SPONSOR'S INFORMATION:

Full Legal Name: _____

Current Parish: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Candidate's Full Name: _____

AFFIRMATION:

- I affirm my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and my membership in the Roman Catholic Church.
- I affirm that I have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) in the Roman Catholic Church. **As required, I have attached a copy of my Confirmation certificate.**
- I affirm that I practice my faith on regular basis by attending Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist.
- If married, I affirm that my marriage has been celebrated in the Catholic Church or with proper permission from the Roman Catholic Church.
- I affirm that I strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to His Church by my loving response to those with whom I live and work.
- I affirm that I have the qualities necessary to give my full support the candidate whom I sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, in leading a Christian life in harmony with the faith, by my prayers and by the example of my life.
- I understand and accept the responsibility that I undertake as a sponsor, and affirm that I will faithfully fulfill the obligations connected with it.

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

* ***The Sponsor's Affirmation and Confirmation Certificate must be turned in with completed registration package no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, 2023.***

ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

NORMS for Sacramental Preparation

INTRODUCTION

2. Sacraments are for people. The Christian faithful have the right to receive the spiritual good of the Church, especially the word of God and the sacraments (*Canon 213*)
3. Sacramental Preparation in the Archdiocese of Toronto is rooted in three principles:
 - All sacraments are ecclesial celebrations, i.e. celebrations of the Church;
 - Parents are the primary educators of their children in the way of faith;
 - Catholic schools are an integral part of ongoing Religious Education, including *initial* (ongoing Religious Education) preparation for the sacraments.
4. There are two types of preparation for sacraments, *initial* and *immediate*.
5. **INITIAL preparation** encompasses:
 - Sunday worship.
 - Prayer in the family.
 - **Education in a Catholic school system (or equivalent formation in the parish in Catholic doctrine and life-style).**
 - Daily living of a Catholic life-style appropriate to one's age and spiritual development.
6. **IMMEDIATE preparation** encompasses:
 - Sunday worship.
 - Prayer in the family.
 - **Specific sacramental catechesis on the sacrament being anticipated.**
 - Daily living of a Catholic life-style appropriate to one's age and spiritual development

The *immediate preparation* for all candidates for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation is the responsibility of parents and of the parish.

8. The Second Vatican Council teaches that parents, "by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children" (*Lumen Gentium, II*). It is, therefore, the right and duty of parents to take an active part in the child's spiritual formation.

It is the responsibility of the parish, however, to encourage and support parents in the faith formation of their child. This frequently involves

providing specific catechesis on the sacraments for parents and/or children.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

10. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are intimately related as three distinct sacramental moments which together form the total process of sacramental initiation into the Church (*Canon 842*).
11. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are intimately related as three distinct sacramental moments which together form the total process of sacramental initiation into the Church (*Canon 842*).
16. Special needs children have a right to the sacraments. They are to be catechized according to their capacity, utilizing the expertise of catechists with training in this ministry (*Canon 777*).

Special needs children will receive catechesis suitable to their abilities. What is expected of the child is adapted individually to suit his/her development.
17. Liturgical actions are primarily actions of Christ and celebrations of His Church, not private devotions. Since sacraments are liturgical celebrations, their very nature calls for a communal celebration. The source and place for their celebration is the local worshipping community, i.e. the parish (*Canon 837*)
18. When a child is enrolled in a Catholic school and the family worships in a parish *other than* that in which the school is located, **immediate preparation and the celebration of the sacraments is the responsibility of the parish of worship, i.e.** the one the family attends *most regularly*.
19. Since sacraments are ecclesial celebrations, it is the responsibility of the parish to collect the baptismal certificates before First Eucharist and Confirmation. Church law requires that a valid Baptism be conferred with water (pouring or immersion) and in the name of the Blessed Trinity (*Canon 849*).
20. Children who belong to Orthodox Churches and attend school within the Catholic Boards may receive initial and ongoing catechesis, as taught in the school's curriculum.

21. Orthodox children remaining Orthodox must not be included in a Catholic parish's immediate preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation.
22. Children validly baptized in another Christian tradition who wish to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church must have the permission of their parents and receive suitable catechetical instruction before celebrating the Rite of Reception into Full Communion. Confirmation and First Eucharist follow the celebration of the Rite of Reception.
24. Any decision to delay First Eucharist to a child who has completed the parish preparation process and is baptized in the Roman Catholic Church is to be made only after the parish priest has consulted the child's parents to decide whether or not the child is ready (*Canon 843*).

PHASES OF IMMEDIATE SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Enrolment and Spiritual Accompaniment

28. The main function of enrolment is to provide an opportunity for parents to present their children to the community, inviting the congregation as a whole to share in the responsibility of providing prayerful support for Christian formation.
30. Since the sacrament of Confirmation is to be celebrated on or close to Pentecost, the enrolment of candidates is normally celebrated during the Sunday liturgy at the end of the liturgical year or at the beginning of Advent. The enrolment marks the beginning of *immediate* sacramental preparation.
31. The period includes, especially before Confirmation, a retreat or day of recollection in order to enhance the candidate's journey towards the celebration of the sacrament. This retreat or time of prayer could be held on an evening, a weekend or during school time. The coordination, facilitation and any expenses incurred are responsibilities of the parish.

PARTICULAR NORMS

Confirmation:

60. In the sacrament of Confirmation, God bestows the Holy Spirit on us as Christ promised the Church. This promise was realized at Pentecost. In this sense, it intensifies the effects or capacities given in Baptism (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1303-1305) and can be

seen as an extension of Pentecost (Jn. 20:21; Acts 2: 1-4).

61. By the sacrament of Confirmation the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1285).
62. All baptized persons who have not been confirmed and only they are capable of receiving Confirmation (*canon 889, § 1*).
63. To be licitly confirmed it is required, if the person has the use of reason, that one be suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew one's baptismal promises (*canon 889, § 2*).
64. Children in the Eastern Church (Orthodox and Catholic) are confirmed (chrismated) at Baptism and are never confirmed again.
65. Parents of children with special (developmental) needs decide, in consultation with the pastor, when their child is ready to be confirmed.

Confirmation Sponsors

66. **As far as possible, the person to be confirmed is to have ONE sponsor.** The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfils the duties inherent in this sacrament.
67. Sponsors are models of faith for a candidate. Therefore, **a sponsor for Confirmation is a Catholic who has already received Confirmation, is practicing his/her faith and is mature enough** (usually 16 years or older) **to carry out the role of sponsor.** A sponsor may be either male or female. **Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children** (*canons 874 and 893, § 1*).
68. It is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook the role at baptism (*canon 893*).
69. Candidates are confirmed with their Baptismal name(s). The law of the Church no longer requires that candidates choose an additional name.

ST. JANE FRANCES CHURCH CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM 2023-2024

ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE Information



DEAR PARENTS:

We would like to welcome you and your child to this year's Confirmation Preparation Program. In order to ensure the safe arrival and departure of your child, please complete the information below and return to the parish office no later than **Friday, September 29, 2023**.

Name of Parent(s) / Guardian(s) : _____

Child's Name : _____

Child's School : _____

DEPARTURE Information (Select only ONE):

1. I give my permission for my child to sign him/herself **IN** and **OUT** of the Confirmation class every week.

OR

2. My child will be signed **IN** and **OUT** of the Confirmation class. **ONLY** the persons listed below are permitted to sign-out my child:

WAIVER:

In consideration of **St. Jane Frances de Chantal R.C. Church** permitting me or the child listed above to participate in activities of its "**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM**", I agree to release and discharge and to indemnify and save harmless **St. Jane Frances de Chantal R.C. Church** from and against all claims or proceedings by whomsoever made or brought, in respect of any costs, losses, damage or injury arising by reason of my/their participation in such activities, or by reason of the provision of medical care to me/them.

I further authorize **St. Jane Frances de Chantal R.C. Church** to obtain such medical care to the person(s) listed above, as it may deem necessary in the event of injury or otherwise, and agree to pay for all expenses incurred thereby.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____