

2021 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

December 4th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter comes to inform you about the sacrament of Confirmation which will be held in St. Bernard Parish in 2021. As some of you may know, last year's cohort was supposed to be confirmed in the spring at Notre Dame Cathedral, however because of the lockdown, the ceremony had to be rescheduled for the fall. The children were confirmed in 3 separate ceremonies in November at St Bernard Church. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and safety requirements, we do not have a date or even a season when your child will be confirmed next year. However we do ask that if your child wishes to be confirmed, please register him or her for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important for you to fill out the attached registration form so that we will have all of your contact information. It is the only way in which we will be able to keep you informed regarding this sacrament, with dates and times. We normally hold an information meeting for all parents to discuss the Sacrament of Confirmation, however because of the restrictions on the number of attendees at meetings, all information will have to be sent out via the schools, initially, and then by email.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR: A sponsor for your child is necessary for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The selection of your child's sponsor is a very important decision; you and your child should discuss together about who should take on this role. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, who regularly attends Sunday Mass and is over the age of sixteen and has already been confirmed. Only one sponsor is needed, preferably one of your child's godparents. The sponsor should be someone who your child respects and whose role will support the parents and child in the preparation for your child's full initiation into the Church. The mother or father of the child cannot be the sponsor; and the sponsor does not necessarily have to be a relative.

REGISTRATION: Your child must be registered in order to be confirmed in 2021. Registration is done by completing the Confirmation Registration Form which is attached to this letter. All information must be filled in and **photocopies** of your child's Certificate of Baptism from a Catholic Church and proof that your child's sponsor has been confirmed **must be attached to the registration form and returned to your child's teacher or to the parish office by January 31st, 2021.** To obtain a copy of the sponsor's Confirmation certificate, the sponsor will have to request a copy of his/her certificate from the parish where they were baptised. If his/her Confirmation is not on record at that parish, then they will have to get in contact with the

parish where they were confirmed. The required documents must be submitted to St Bernard Parish in English or French.

PLEASE NOTE: We will not accept incomplete registration forms so please ensure that you have all necessary information by February 12, 2021.

BAPTISM and FIRST COMMUNION: It is important to note that your child must have been baptised and have made their First Communion according to the norms of the Catholic Church in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Those who need to get their child/children baptised should get in touch with the parish office ([613-738-1943](tel:613-738-1943)) to register your child for Baptism at your earliest convenience. Baptisms are normally held on the last Sunday of every month at St. Bernard Church.

THE CONFIRMATION CEREMONY: Due to the large number of children from all 3 parish schools, the Confirmation ceremony has normally been held at Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive. However as mentioned earlier, last year's group was confirmed in St. Bernard Church. **We will notify only those students who have been registered for the Sacrament of Confirmation once we have more information regarding the date, time, and place of the ceremony or ceremonies.** The girls making their Confirmation do not have to wear white dresses. Information on the dress code will be sent out at a later date.

Don't let your child miss his/her chance to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with the rest of the class so please be respectful of the above deadline dates. All information regarding the sacraments will be updated at www.saintbernardparish.com so please check on our website throughout the year.

If you have any questions or need clarification on any of the above, please direct any inquiries to the parish office, 613-738-1943, as early as possible.

Finally, we would like to welcome you to St. Bernard Parish and we look forward to a great Sacramental Celebration.

God bless you all and keep you safe.

Fr. Eslin Pereira cmf, Pastor and Sacramental Team of St Bernard Parish