

September 2, 2022

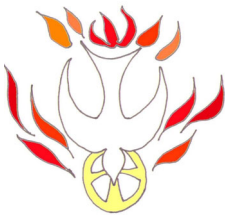
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION - FORMING FAITHFUL DISCIPLES

Dear parents and guardians of our Confirmation candidates,

INVOLVING PARENTS MORE & SHARING OUR FAITH EXPERIENCE – A GREAT GIFT FOR ALL!!

I am writing this letter to you as a new school year is about to begin, letting you know that we as a family of parishes (the five Catholic churches in Chatham) are getting ready for sacramental preparation now. This fall we are making a major shift in our sacramental preparation that we hope will strengthen the gift of your faith and build up our family of parishes sharing and living the Good News. Here are some things you need to know:

1. All ministries and programs in our faith community, especially sacramental preparation, will focus on **forming disciples** who will follow Christ every day **reaching out to all**.
2. All our sacramental preparation programs will use a small faith sharing group model that encourages everyone to share their experience of faith together, supporting one another.
3. Since the primary faith educators of children are their parents, we as a parish, support parents in forming these young disciples. **This will require the attendance and participation of at least one of the candidate's parents or grandparents at each of the preparation sessions.**
4. The three basic foundations of our sacramental preparation will focus on **sharing one's own faith experience** (seeing how faith connects with real life), building a greater sense of **community** and **catechesis** (understanding the teachings of faith).



This is a significant change from past years, but it is one that we hope will have a strong, positive impact on candidates, families, and the parish. We are taking a more intentional approach supporting not only the candidate, but parents, grandparents, and family members together hoping to further integrate everyone into the life of Christ through the family of parishes.

I know that change can cause some frustration and difficulty, but we all realize that there needs to be a better and more impactful way to prepare our candidates and their families for the sacraments. With the change in focus and method, we are also changing the schedule.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

I understand the busy lives families lead today, especially in our post-pandemic world. I really think that they are too busy!!! Children are involved in so many amazing programs, sports, and activities. The Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes wants to be as flexible as possible making things manageable for families that are constantly on the go. With this in mind, we are offering Confirmation preparation three times in the upcoming year. Families will be able to choose the cycle that best meets their schedule. This change will also mean the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments throughout the year when the candidates are ready and when families can truly rejoice together.

The three cycles of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place Sunday mornings from 11:00 to 11:50 AM at the Spirit & Life Centre prior to the 12:00 Noon Mass at St. Joseph Church. Each cycle will include 3 sessions in addition to activities provided to be done at home with family members. With this schedule, families will be able to attend Mass together as part of the preparation for the sacrament. There will also be MAKE-UP sessions for each cycle if necessary, trying to be as flexible and adaptable to the needs and schedules of busy families.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION MEETINGS (for parents & candidates)

Thursday September 15, 2022 – 7:00 PM at the Spirit & Life Centre (St. Joseph Church Hall)

Wednesday November 9, 2022 – 7:00 PM at the Spirit & Life Centre (St. Joseph Church Hall)

Thursday February 16, 2023 – 7:00 PM at the Spirit & Life Centre (St. Joseph Church Hall)

CYCLE A

(at the Spirit & Life Centre – 11 to 11:50 AM)

Confirmation Preparation:

Session #1: Sunday September 25, 2022

Session #2: Sunday October 2, 2022

Session #3: Sunday October 16, 2022

Make Up Sessions – To be determined

CYCLE B

(at the Spirit & Life Centre – 11 to 11:50 AM)

Confirmation Preparation:

Session #1: Sunday December 4, 2022

Session #2: Sunday December 11, 2022

Session #3: Sunday December 18, 2022

Make Up Sessions – To be determined

CYCLE C

(at the Spirit & Life Centre – 11 to 11:50 AM)

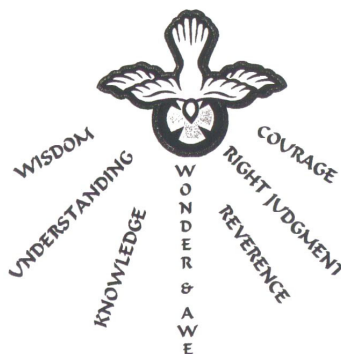
Confirmation Preparation:

Session #1: Sunday March 12, 2023

Session #2: Sunday March 19, 2023

Session #3: Sunday March 26, 2023

Make Up Sessions – To be determined



(Once all preparations for the sacrament are complete, candidates will be able to choose Masses on the weekend in our family of parishes to receive the sacrament---in the midst of the community. More details will follow)

*****For more information, please check out family of parishes website.**

You will see a link on the main page---www.chathamcatholic.ca***

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CANDIDATE FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

Step #1 – Go to the family of parishes website at www.chathamcatholic.ca and look for the CONFIRMATION link on the main page of the website. (Registrations open September 2, 2022)

Step #2 – Fill out the online registration form by answering all the questions and all the contact information required. You will be asked which cycles of preparation you will attend.

Step #3 – You will receive a confirmation email to let you know that your child has been registered. Further information will be sent to you in preparation for the parent meeting and the sessions in the fall.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION WILL BE LIVE ONLINE AT THE FAMILY WEBSITE STARTING SEPTEMBER 2, 2022. (www.chathamcatholic.ca)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Colleen Keane, our pastoral minister responsible for the Sacrament of Confirmation – ckeane@dol.ca or at 519-352-9483 ext. 225. We are all here to help!!

Fr. John

Fr. John Jasica - Pastor