

July 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of children who will be in Grade 6 from September 2017 through June 2018,

As many of you are aware, next year (Grade 6) is a very important year in the faith formation of your child. Since 2014, the Sacrament of Confirmation has been conferred on the Grade 6 children by Archbishop Prendergast or Bishop Riesbeck at Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive. Confirmation is one of the three 'Sacraments of Initiation' of your child into the Catholic Church; the other 'Sacraments of Initiation' are Baptism and First Holy Communion.

Although the dates of the Confirmation ceremonies for St Bernard Parish were in May and June over the past 4 years, the date of the ceremony each year is designated by the Archdiocese and could conceivably be earlier in the year in 2018. Therefore, a very important information meeting will be held **at 7pm on Monday, Sept. 25th, 2017 in St. Bernard Church** for all parents who want their child to be confirmed next year. Registration forms will be handed out at the meeting, so *please mark this date on your calendar*. More information regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation will be sent home in early September through the schools and **will be available on the parish website (saintbernardparish.com) over the summer. Please note that it is your responsibility to get the information at the information meeting or on the parish website.**

There are two things that you should consider before September; the first is to decide whether you feel your child is ready to make the commitment to be confirmed in 2018. Please keep in mind that **your child must have been baptised in the Catholic Church** in order to be confirmed at Notre Dame Cathedral next spring. The second equally important consideration is who you will ask to be your child's sponsor for his/her Confirmation. The sponsor cannot be the child's parent, does not have to be a family member but must be a practicing Catholic, over the age of 16, who regularly attends mass. *Your child's sponsor must be able to provide proof that he or she has been confirmed, either in the form of a Certificate of Confirmation, an email from the appropriate parish stating that the sponsor was confirmed, including the date of his or her Confirmation, OR if neither of these is possible, we will accept a letter from your sponsor's parish stating that he or she is registered with that parish.* A copy of this proof, as well as your child's Baptismal Certificate, must be submitted to St Bernard Parish, in either English or French, by the end of November, 2017. Also, when selecting a sponsor, please consider the distance that he or she will have to travel to attend the ceremony, in order to avoid any last-minute changes.

The dress code for the ceremony is as follows: normally the boys wear nice pants with a shirt and tie if they have one. The girls should wear a nice dress; halter dresses or strapless dresses should be covered with a sweater or jacket; a skirt/dress pants and blouse are also acceptable. The dresses do not have to be white.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the parish office, 613-738-1943.

We wish you and your family a safe summer season and we look forward to meeting with you in September.

St Bernard Parish Sacramental Team