

2020 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION  
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

*September 5th, 2019*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter comes to inform you about the sacrament of Confirmation which will be held in St. Bernard Parish in the spring of 2020. Please mark these important dates in your calendar.

**PARENT INFORMATION MEETING: Tuesday, September 24th, 2019 at 7:00pm**

It is mandatory that at least one parent/guardian attends this information meeting which will be held at St. Bernard Church. The meeting will cover the most important aspects of the upcoming celebration as well as the Sacramental preparatory requirements; **registration forms will be handed out at the meeting.** Your children are also welcome as the meeting should be no longer than 45 minutes. If you are having difficulty attending this meeting, please advise the parish office (613-738-1943) as early as possible. **Confirmation is a parish celebration, and not a school celebration, so the parents/guardians are responsible for getting all of the necessary information from, and to, the parish by the due dates in order for your child to receive this most important sacrament.** Please check the parish website ([www.saintbernardparish.com](http://www.saintbernardparish.com)) throughout the year for requirements and dates.

**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 2020. Registration is done by completing the Confirmation Registration Form that will be handed out at the Parent Information Meeting on **September 24th, 2019**. All information must be filled in, including an email address for each parent that is *regularly checked*, 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 November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. 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 touch with the parish where they were confirmed. The required documents must be submitted to St Bernard Parish in either English or French.

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not accept incomplete registration forms so please ensure that you have all necessary information by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**MONTHLY MASSES:** As part of your child's faith formation, special masses will be held at 1:30pm on January 12th, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020. These masses will be geared to Confirmation students; all students who register to be confirmed are expected to attend with their parents. Sponsors are also welcome.

**RETREAT:** According to the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, all parishes, as part of the Confirmation process, should offer a retreat or series of retreats to the Confirmation candidates. Therefore, a retreat is scheduled to take place on Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for all students who are registered to be confirmed in 2020.

**BAPTISM:** It is important to note that your child must have been baptised and have made their First Holy Communion according to the norms of the Catholic Church in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. **Take note that your child must be baptised before November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** 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. You will also need to attend a meeting at the church at 7pm on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 regarding the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. **Children who have not been baptised by November 24<sup>th</sup> will not be able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 2020.**

**The CONFIRMATION CEREMONY:** Due to the large number of children from all 3 parish schools, the Confirmation ceremony will be held at Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive. We will be advised of the date and time of the ceremony by January and **will notify only those students who have been registered for the Sacrament of Confirmation at that time.** As indicated in the letter sent out to you in June, the girls making their Confirmation do not have to wear white dresses. Information on the dress code will be discussed in the preparatory meeting.

Don't let your child miss his/her chance to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring with the rest of the class so please be respectful of all of the above deadline dates. All information regarding the sacraments can be found at [www.saintbernardparish.com](http://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. We hope to see you all on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00pm.

God bless you all.

Fr. Eslin Pereira, Pastor and

Sacramental Team of St Bernard Parish