

*Dear Parents/Guardians of children who will be in Grade 6 from September 2019 through June 2020,*

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.

The dates of the Confirmation ceremonies for St Bernard Parish were as early as the first weekend in April (in 2019) to mid-June over the past 6 years; the date of the ceremony each year is designated by the Archdiocese. A very important information meeting will be held **at 7pm on Tuesday, Sept. 24th, 2019 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***. **All future information regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation will be available on the parish website ([www.saintbernardparish.com](http://www.saintbernardparish.com))**. We hope to have most of the information posted by the end of July. **Please note that it is your responsibility to get the information at the information meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> and from the parish website.**

If you feel that you and your child are ready to make the commitment to be confirmed in 2020, please keep in mind that **your child must have been baptised in the Catholic Church** in order to be confirmed next spring. If he or she has not been baptised, please get in touch with the parish ASAP to register for Baptism as your child must be baptised by Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. 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.* 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. ***In some instances, getting all of this information can take weeks and sometimes months so it is best to start the process right away.*** This proof, as well as your child's Baptismal Certificate, must be submitted to St Bernard Parish, in either English or French, by November 15th, 2019. **Since we will not be accepting incomplete registration forms, please ensure that you have all necessary information by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

The dress code for the ceremony is as follows: the boys normally 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.