



St. Ignatius Loyola

Roman Catholic Church

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November 7, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Sacrament of Confirmation forms an important moment in the life of young Catholics. At a time of physical and emotional change, with its uncertainties and confusions, our young people need to be reassured of God's unconditional love for them. In this sacrament, God comes to them with confidence and love, offering them the self-assurance, strength, and wisdom to deepen their bonds of friendship with Him and their neighbour. Each candidate, in turn, responds in faith to the fundamental truths of our faith in front of the celebrant and the entire assembled community.

When during the Confirmation ceremony your son/daughter commits to these beliefs, they commit themselves to living a Catholic, Christian life. This implies they want to experience God more deeply in Jesus Christ. Therefore, they must be open to continuing and developing a daily personal prayer life, anchored in their regular attendance at one of our parish Sunday Masses. Growth in the likeness of Christ through prayer and the sacraments will enable them to be of real Christian service to the community.

Only one parent is required to attend the Registration Meeting with their child. At this meeting, we will pray for the candidates, learn about the sacrament and the liturgy of Confirmation, and better understand our role in this great celebration.

In advance of the registration meeting, I would ask the candidate to choose a confirmation sponsor. In choosing their sponsor, they should keep in mind that this person acts as a role model for the candidate to show what it means to be a full and active member of the church. Please consult the attached sheet entitled *"Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor"* to assist you with this important decision.

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We will be using the book *Decision Point* by Dynamic Catholic.com as part of our parish preparation program again this year. Each student will be required to purchase a copy at the registration meeting. Fr. Alex D'Silva will be using this text both in his school visits and in four mandatory sessions in the parish hall. I ask in advance for your patience and promise you that any changes will be communicated to you through e-mail as well as through our parish schools.

Your son/daughter needs to register as a candidate and prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the following ways:

Schedule of Meetings and Events

1. Registration & Information Meeting in the church (one parent & candidate)

Tuesday December 5, 2023 - OR - Wednesday December 6, 2023

Registration 6:30 p.m. and Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

You will need to provide:

1. Your completed Registration Form (see attached)
 2. A copy of your child's baptismal certificate (even if they were baptized here)
 3. \$50 registration fee for *Decision Point* book and Confirmation gown rental
2. The candidate will receive the Commitment Form at the Registration meeting, which is to be filled out and brought to one of the Saturday evening/Sunday Masses on one of the following weekends:

December 9/10, 2023 OR December 16/17, 2023

This symbolizes your son/daughter's willingness to regularly attend Sunday Mass in preparation to receive this great Sacrament. These forms will be collected in a basket near as you enter the church for mass and will be brought forward with the Offertory Gifts. During the Mass, the Confirmation candidates will be recognized, **receive their Confirmation crosses**, and receive a special blessing by the priest.

3. Attendance at FOUR Preparation Classes & the Post Confirmation Session in the parish hall

The dates for the four mandatory sessions one each month from January to May 2024 and the post-Confirmation session with distribution of Confirmation Certificates is found in the attached schedule.

4. Sacrament of Reconciliation

This will be celebrated during Lent at each parish school, and an opportunity will be given for the RCIC students to celebrate during one of their Wednesday class times.

5. Confirmation Rehearsal 2024 (one parent, candidate, and sponsor)

Tuesday April 30 OR Wednesday May 1 at 7:00 pm

It is only after each of these steps have been completed that your son/daughter will be accepted as a candidate for the **Sacrament of Confirmation 2024**, which will take place at St. Ignatius Loyola Church on ONE of the following dates:

Wednesday May 8 or Thursday May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Registration information for one of these Confirmation Masses will be emailed to you in March/April 2024.

I ask you to discuss these matters with your son/daughter in advance of our upcoming Registration and Information Meeting on either **Tuesday December 5 or Wednesday December 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

May the Holy Spirit accompany each of us as together we help our young people in their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Timothy K. Hanley
Pastor