**Saint Clement Catholic Parish**

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Dear Grade 7 Students and Parents,

On behalf of St. Clement Parish,

it is my pleasure to invite you to prepare for Confirmation.

* Students – To be confirmed means to say “Yes” yourself to the questions answered for you by your parents at your Baptism. It is your decision to live out the Catholic faith as a young adult. At Confirmation, you will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit through the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts will help you live your life each day.
* Parents – You have been your child’s spiritual guides since Baptism and are their most important role models. Your role is essential as your child takes the first steps to continue in the Faith on their own.
* Regular attendance at Sunday Mass is expected from students who wish to be confirmed, and we hope that all parents will help their children to meet this expectation.

Please reach out if anything in this package is unclear. And please be assured of our prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,



Father Peter Tuyen, Pastor

**CONFIRMATION 2021 PARENT/CANDIDATE MEETING** – First of all, thank you to the Principals, the Grade 7 teachers, and the parish Confirmation Team. We appreciate your help preparing the students for this important Sacrament!

**IMPORTANT DATES** – Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to have workshops, retreats, the enrolment ceremony, nor the rehearsal that we would normally have for the candidates.

**Confirmation – Without Mass**

 **St. Joseph School St. Michael School**

 **4 May 2021 at 7:00 p.m. 6 May 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

CONFIRMING MINISTER: Bishop Wayne Lobsinger

**Candidates and sponsors, please arrive at the Church by 6:15 p.m.**

**That will allow time for registration and seating.**

**Confirmation**

* St. Joseph School – Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
* St. Michael Schoo6 – Thursday, May 6th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**DRESS**:

Your “Sunday best”. Please keep modesty in mind.

**REGISTRATION**

**AT CONFIRMATION:**

1. Please arrive at the Church by 6:15 p.m. That will allow time for registration and seating.
2. The main entrance will be open, as well as the east side door (the door facing the Rectory-side parking lot).
3. Two registration tables will be set up at the back of the church. On registration, each candidate will provide their Confirmation name, to be printed by a Team Member on a large name tag. The name tag will be worn for Bishop to read as the sacrament is conferred.
4. In keeping with Covid protocols, guests must also register at the doors.
5. As persons register, the Team Members will escort families – and later, the guests as space permits – to their pews.

**SEATING:**

1. On a first-come, first-served basis, as the Confirmandi register. They will be seated on the aisle-end of the pew, with their sponsor beside them.
2. No more than 6 persons per pew: The Candidate, the sponsor, and up to four other family members per pew. Families exceeding the six-person limit will be directed to have their extra members wait.
3. After all the Confirmandi and families have been seated, guests may sit in the back pews provided there is space to maintain social distancing.

**PROCESSION**:

No procession, as all will have been seated.

**DISMISSAL:**

1. After the ceremony, the Bishop, Father Peter, and the altar server return to the sacristy.
2. Families will be asked to take their time and exit using the Westminster Drive door. You are kindly asked to leave the church, **one side of the church at a time**.

**DUE TO COVID PROTOCOLS**:

1. Everyone must wear a mask in the church, and physical distancing must be practised.
2. No response will be made by the students except when answering the Baptismal Promises.
3. The sacrament will be conferred in silence; that is to say, no thank-you will be expressed by the students. No participation in the liturgy by the students.
4. Instead of a collection being taken, offerings may be placed in the baskets at the door as people exit.
5. No pictures may be taken inside of the church.
6. No congregating is permitted in the church, so to keep everyone safe.
7. After everyone leaves the church, the Team Members will sanitize the pews.

**The Rite of Confirmation …**

***What Takes Place?***

The Candidates are confirmed during the Confirmation Mass, after the Bishop speaks to the Candidates and the congregation. The Team Members will help direct the Confirmandi and sponsors as the Sacrament is conferred: One side of the church at a time.

1. You stand before the bishop.
2. Your sponsor lays one hand on your shoulder.
3. The bishop anoints you using the Oil of Chrism, saying “[Your Confirmation name], be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
4. Due to Covid, you do not respond “Amen” as you would normally do.

**And you are now an adult in the eyes of the Church. Adulthood – even young adulthood – means to do what is right on your own.**

**Confirmation as a Sacrament**

There are three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes or “seals” your baptism, as you *reaffirm* (say for yourself) your baptismal promises.

THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES have two parts.

Part I – Denouncing Evil

 Do you reject Satan? *R*. I do.

 And all his works? *R*. I do.

 And all his empty promises? *R*. I do.

Part 2 – Profession of Faith

 Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? *R*. I do.

 Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? *R*. I do.

 Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? *R*. I do.

**When we make these promises at Confirmation, we accept responsibility for our faith and destiny.**

**The Signs of Confirmation**

1. THE LAYING ON of HANDS

Since the time of the apostles, the imposition (laying on) of hands has signified the invoking of (calling on) the Holy Spirit. It is recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the Sacrament of Confirmation. During Confirmation, the bishop extends his hands over the Candidates and invokes the outpouring (calls down the power) of the Holy Spirit upon them.

1. THE OIL of CHRISM

In Biblical history, oil is a sign of abundance and joy. It cleanses and heals. It makes radiant (bright and shining) with beauty, health, and strength. The Oil of Chrism is a special oil that is mixed with perfume and blessed by the bishop at the Mass of Chrism. It is used only in the Sacraments that involve consecration (setting one aside as belonging to God for a special task). When the bishop anoints the Candidates with the Oil of Chrism, it symbolizes that:

* They are *consecrated* (set apart) for the Church’s mission and work – to worship God, to spread the Faith, and to build the Kingdom of God.
* They are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
1. THE SIGN of PEACE

The Sign of Peace concluding the Rite of Confirmation is a sign of unity with the bishop and all the faithful. When the bishop says “Peace be with you” it is on behalf of the community. It symbolizes that we are all one with the Church, one people of God.

**The Holy Spirit**

THE PRESENCE of the HOLY SPIRIT in OUR LIVES

The Confirmandi receive more fully the gift of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The presence of the Holy Spirit deepens their relationship with God and with the Church, helping them to become more like Christ and to be a witness of the Good News. **“To be a witness” means to stand out – People see who you are and what you believe, by what you do and say.**

THE 7 GIFTS of the SPIRIT –

A prophecy in the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 11:2-3)

**Each gift points out in a special way, God's work in a person’s soul.**

* 1. Wisdom The Holy Spirit enlightens us, helping us to feel God's presence in the everyday events of ordinary life.
	2. Understanding The Holy Spirit grants us understanding through prayer, helping us to discern right from wrong in our daily decisions.
	3. Knowledge The Holy Spirit helps us to educate ourselves by reading scripture and studying Church teachings.
	4. Counsel The Holy Spirit heightens the sense of right and wrong and gives us strength, through prayer and devotion, to reject what is wrong and choose what is right.
	5. Fortitude (Courage) The Holy Spirit gives us greater courage to live out our faith in the face of ridicule and hardship.
	6. Piety (Reverence) This gift gives us a greater capacity to respect and trust in God and the Church.
	7. Fear of the Lord

 (Wonder and Awe) This gift opens the eyes of the heart to see God's holiness more fully and recognize God's power, perfection, and goodness. This gift unites a soul more honestly with the God of creation.

THE 9 FRUITS of the HOLY SPIRIT –

A teaching from St. Paul’s letter to Galatians (Galatians 5:22-23).

The Fruits of the Spirit are the result of the Holy Spirit’s work.

**They are a result of the Gifts of the Spirit.**

1. Love / Charity Unselfish concern. Seeking the highest good for others.
2. Joy Happiness that comes from loving God. Gladness not based on circumstances.
3. Peace Contentment that comes from trusting God. Harmony between people.
4. Patience Slowness to anger and the ability to endure trials.
5. Kindness Sweetness in outlook. Mercy in action.
6. Goodness Being generous. Love in action.
7. Faithfulness Being dependable and trustworthy.
8. Gentleness Being humble and forgiving.
9. Self-Control Disciplined behaviour.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation …**

***Roles and Responsibilities***

**ROLE OF THE PARENTS:**

1. To pray for and set a good example for their children.
2. To ensure that forms (Confirmation Registration form and proof of baptism) are properly completed and submitted on time.

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORMS:**

* + - 1. Due to the pandemic, Confirmation registration is electronic this year.

Please visit [www.stclementsparish.ca/-confirmation-registration-form](http://www.stclementsparish.ca/-confirmation-registration-form)

* + - 1. The submission deadline is Friday, April 16th, 2021. If a registration form and proof of baptism are not submitted, it means that your child has decided not to be confirmed this year.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE CANDIDATES:**

1. Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion.
2. Faith practice – Mass attendance!
3. To choose a confirmation name:
* One that is not contrary to Christian teaching.
* Some people choose a saint because they share something in common.
* Some people choose a saint they want to be like, or a saint known for a virtue they want to imitate.
* Some people choose a saint who inspires them to want to become saints.
* The saint whose name you choose can pray for you from heaven. This is the Communion of the Saints.

**ROLE OF CONFIRMATION SPONSORS:**

The sponsor helps to prepare the Candidate for Confirmation, and he/she stands with the Candidate when the Sacrament is administered. The sponsor’s role does not end when the Candidate is Confirmed. The sponsor is a guide to the Candidate for the rest of his/her life as an adult in the Faith.

**Requirements:**

1. Must be baptized and confirmed.
2. Must be at least 16 years old.
3. Must be a practising Catholic.
4. Cannot be a parent of the Candidate.
5. If married, to have been married in the Catholic Church.