

**ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
ONLINE COPY**

2025/2026 Confirmation Preparation

27th September 2025

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we have begun a new academic year, we are looking forward to inviting our Catholic grade seven students (and above) to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, through the Sacrament of Confirmation! Candidates will receive the fullness of initiation into the Catholic Church, through their own Profession of Faith. We are excited to take part in this journey with you and your family.

“The sacrament of confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church” (Canon 879, CIC 1983).

The Code of Canon Law also states, “Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time” (Canon 890). As a result, it is necessary that you, as parents and guardians, help in the preparation of your son or daughter for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which includes regular attendance at Holy Mass and regular catechesis.

It is important to note, that while the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is completed collectively as a class, **it is not a class event or merely a family tradition to fulfill; it is a sacrament of the Church.** As such, no student should feel pressured to receive this sacrament if he or she is not fully committed to “a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit”, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us.

Attached in this package are details for registration, a description and outline of the preparation program, a calendar of important dates and more. Please read through the package thoroughly and carefully and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions. Know that we are praying for you throughout this time of preparation!

In Christ,

Fr Michael Simoes

Samantha Cameron



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Requirements for Registration:

- **Be registered and practicing members of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish**
 - *Please note that attendance at St. James or St. Lukes Catholic Elementary School, or a family history of receiving sacraments at the parish, does not automatically constitute formal parish registration*
- Youth must be in grade 7 or older
- Regular attendance at Sunday Mass (or Saturday Vigil)
- Complete the Confirmation Registration Form via Google Forms or go to the parish website to find the registration
- You will need a copy of your child's baptism certificate on hand when completing this registration form and will need to upload it when completing the registration (for any questions or issues about baptismal records please email Samantha)

Program Outline:

Upon registering your child for their Confirmation, the candidate will be required to attend an interview. The purpose of this interview is to get to know the candidate prior to the beginning of the preparation period. It is also an opportunity for the candidates to meet with their Confirmation leader to discuss themselves, their faith journey and why they want to be confirmed. This meeting will allow us to best accompany your family as your child begins to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Candidates will also be asked to submit a letter of intent which will be due at the time of their interview. Guidelines for this letter are attached to this package.

This year, through prayer and reflection, we were able to write our own Confirmation program "Belong." With clear instruction from the catechism we are to have a preparation that leads candidates to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, to become more familiar with the Holy Spirit and to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church and to our parish community (CCC 1309). That being said, our program consists of four pillars; Catechesis, Encounter, Community & Mission

Catechesis: Focusing on an understanding of Sacraments, specifically the Sacrament of Confirmation and how that fits into their life. We will also focus on salvation history and where they [the candidates] fit into that

Encounter: Learning to listen to and act on the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their life. Exploring how they can and should participate in the Sacraments as well as encouragement the frequent reception of the sacraments and coaching them in their prayer life

Community: Help the candidates to foster community amongst themselves, to help them find community with the Saints and community in our parish.

Mission: A call to action; helping the candidates to understand their adulthood in the faith, that they are the ones defending the faith, they are the ones who will carry on the faith.



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Letter of Intent

Dear Confirmandi,

Before we formally begin your preparation for Confirmation, we ask that you write a letter of intent! We ask that you write a one-page letter addressed to myself and Fr. Michael. In this letter you will tell us a little bit about yourself, your family and your hobbies. We would also like for you to tell us about your relationship with Jesus and the Catholic faith as well as why you want to be confirmed. We are also asking you to **be honest** - we don't want to know the perfect version of you, we just want to know you as a person! Do your best to not see this as homework (because you're not being graded on it) but take this opportunity to reflect on who you are, what your relationship with God is like at the beginning of this journey towards your Confirmation.

Checklist for Completed Letter:

- Addressed to Fr. Michael and Samantha
- Describe yourself (hobbies, interest, family ect.)
- Describe your faith journey (your experience with Jesus and the Catholic faith)
- Describe why you want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
- Add anything else you would like to tell us about!
- One page in length, 12 sized font (if you are typing it)

Your letter is due upon the date of your interview. Please know that you are in our prayers and as always, if you have any questions please feel free to send me an email at SCameron@archtoronto.org or call (905)-278-2058 ext. 804

Choosing a Sponsor

The role of a Confirmation sponsor is an important one. They are meant to walk with the confirmation candidate and provide spiritual support by way of praying for and with them as well as being an example of living the Catholic-Christian life. When considering who to choose as a sponsor please take into account the following

1. Age - They must be over the age of 16
2. Faith - They must be a practicing Catholic (attends Mass every Sunday + every Holy day of Obligation, they frequent the Sacraments) and who has received their First Communion and Confirmation
3. Relation - cannot be mother or father

Historically, the Godparent of the candidate would be chosen as the sponsor, however, this is not a requirement. Finally, it is recommended that the candidate chooses someone within the faith that they admire, someone who is willing to become personally involved in the preparation for Confirmation

Confirmation 2025/2026 Schedule Calendar

Date	Time	Activity
Saturday, September 27th	11:00am	Parents Info Session/Registration opens
Saturday, October 18th/25th	12:00-2:00pm	Confirmandi Interview + letter of intent due
Sunday, November 30th	11:59pm	Deadline for sponsor submission
Wednesday, February 18 th	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #1
Wednesday, February 25 th	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #2
Wednesday, March 4 th	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #3
Wednesday, March 11 th	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #4
Thursday, March 26 th	7:00pm	Parent/Sponsor Meeting (Online)
Sunday, April 12 th	11am Mass	Rite of Enrollment
Wednesday, April 15 th	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #5
Wednesday, April 22nd	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #6
Wednesday, April 29 th	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #7
Wednesday, May 6 th	6:30-8:00pm	Confirmation Class #8
Friday, May 22nd	7:00pm-9:00pm	Retreat (Confirmandi, Sponsors and Parents)
Saturday, May 23rd	10:00am-12:00pm	Rehearsal and Sponsor/Confirmandi Breakfast
Saturday, May 23rd	5:00pm	Confirmation Mass