



Dear Families,

Thank you for choosing Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes (St. John the Divine, and St. George) to journey with you in preparing young people of your families to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Through the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation – *sacraments of Christian initiation* – the baptized are more perfectly connected to the Church and become true witnesses of Christ in the world. Like Baptism, Confirmation gives an *indelible* (permanent) mark; for this reason, it is only given once.

Confirmation is often misrepresented as a ‘coming of age’ tradition to be celebrated during a young person’s final year of elementary school. While most candidates are in the seventh or eighth grade when receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, the sacrament is more than something to accomplish in grade eight. Instead, young people are encouraged to seek Confirmation not because of any external pressure or sense of obligation, but when they desire to have a personal, profound encounter and relationship with the person of Jesus – this may be in the eighth grade, or even later! Confirmation preparation “should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church, as well as the parish community” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1309).

Flexible Schedule

Our sacramental preparation sessions have a flexible schedule. Two cycles of sessions will be available to choose from. Since St. John the Divine Parish and St. George Parish now form one Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes, please select the cycle that best fits your family’s schedule:

- Fall Cycle: Tuesdays, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm, at St. John the Divine Parish, September – December
- Sundays after Mass, 11:15am-1:15pm, St. John the Divine Parish, February – April

Preparation sessions will include a combination of gathered (in-person and online) sessions, that require the attendance and participation of the candidate at 5 sessions; and at-home activities that will support candidates in developing lives inclusive of personal prayer, Church engagement, and Christian service.

Role of Parents

Parents, we desire the same encounter and deepening of a relationship with Jesus for candidates as we do for you. This preparation process, and the take-home activities, are opportunities for you to re/discover the effects of your own Confirmation. Your role will include participating in at least one of the 5 gathered (in-person/online) sessions and completing take-home activities with your child.

Role of Confirmation Sponsors

A Sponsor is a person over the age of 16 who has been confirmed, and who is a committed, practicing Catholic active in the life of the candidate. One Godparent is generally asked by the candidate to be their Sponsor, provided that the Godparent fits this description. If it is not possible to choose a Godparent as a Sponsor (eg. they are deceased, live far away, are no longer practicing the Catholic faith), another example of a committed, practicing Catholic may be asked by the candidate to be their Sponsor.

The role of the Sponsor is to accompany the candidate to actively practice the Catholic faith before and after Confirmation. Sponsors may participate in one of the gathered (in-person/online) sessions, and/or complete take-home activities with the candidate. On the day of Confirmation, Sponsors will present the candidate to the Bishop (or designate priest) for Confirmation.

A Day of Service

Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes will facilitate one Day of Service during the Fall (November 18, 2022), and Winter/Spring (March 25, 2023). The target audience of these events are young people in grades 7 to grade 12 who are either preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, who have recently been confirmed, or who are interested in learning more about the Church's social teaching and getting involved in their local community. Participation at a Day of Service is not required but recommended as opportunities for young people of similar beliefs and values to gather in community, prayer, and to do meaningful work. More information will be provided closer to each event date.

Registration Form and Fee

Please visit springbankcatholic.ca to register for Confirmation preparation sessions. To access the Registration Form, select from the menu: 'Sacraments,' then 'Sacraments of Initiation.'

A Registration Fee of \$50 per candidate is due before candidates begin preparation sessions**. This fee covers the cost of the candidate's sacramental preparation materials, and refreshments at in-person sessions. This Fee is payable by cash or cheque at St. John the Divine or St. George Parish Offices. Please make cheques payable to either parish. We also accept e-transfer to stgeorge@dol.ca

Please include with your payment the note: "Sacramental Preparation."

**Please contact sacramentsatspringbank@dol.ca if you require financial assistance. Or if you are able to support young people preparing for sacraments, please consider paying it forward by making a donation to Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes; please include: "Donation to Sacramental Preparation."

Parent Meeting

Parent Meetings are offered ahead of each sacramental preparation cycle (Fall or Winter) to meet one another, learn about the sacramental preparation materials and format, and to ask questions. Parents only need to attend one Parent Meeting before the young person/s in their family begin sacramental preparation sessions. Registration for Confirmation preparation sessions is available online, and will also be available at Parent Meetings, including the purchase and pick-up of each candidate's materials. Pre-registration is required for set-up purposes.

- Fall Cycle (September – December) Parent Meeting, Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:30pm
- Winter Cycle (January - April) Parent Meeting, Sunday, January 15, 2023, at 11:15am

Fall Cycle Dates & Locations for In-Person Sessions

Session #1	October 4, 2022	6:30pm – 8:30pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #2	October 11, 2022	6:30pm – 8:30pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #3	October 18, 2022	6:30pm – 8:30pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #4	October 25, 2022	6:30pm – 8:30pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #5	November 1, 2022	6:30pm – 8:30pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall

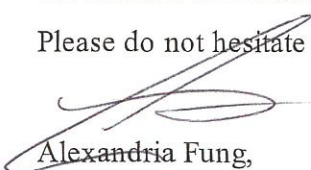
Winter Cycle Dates & Locations for In-Person Sessions

Session #1	February 5, 2023	11:15am – 1:15pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #2	February 12, 2023	11:15am – 1:15 pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #3	February 19, 2023	11:15am – 1:15 pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #4	February 26, 2023	11:15am – 1:15 pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall
Session #5	March 5, 2023	11:15am – 1:15 pm	St. John the Divine Parish Hall

Confirmation Dates

Once a candidate has completed their Confirmation preparation sessions, a list of dates will be provided for families to choose from for the celebration of these sacraments.

Please do not hesitate to contact sacramentsatspringbank@dol.ca with any questions or concerns.



Alexandria Fung,
Pastoral Minister to Families & Youth