

Dear Candidates and Families,

Thank you for choosing Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes (St. John the Divine, and St. George) to journey in faith with you toward the celebration of your 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.

What Confirmation Is Not

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 before graduating from elementary school.

What Confirmation Is

An individual is encouraged to seek Confirmation not because of any external pressure or sense of obligation, but when that person desires to have a personal, profound encounter and relationship with the person of Jesus – this may be in the seventh grade, or even later! Confirmation preparation has as its goal, striving "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).

Preparation sessions include a combination of five required in-person sessions for candidates to attend:

- Sessions #1-3: Reflection upon personal faith journey so-far, and small group dialogue about topics of faith. Volunteers are needed to offer these sessions. Please let us know if you can assist. Training will be provided.
- Session #4: Overview of the sacrament, and rehearsal. Confirmation Sponsors are encouraged to attend this session if they are able.
- Session #5: Preparation concludes with a 'Day of Service.' This full-day event combines learning about social justice from a Catholic lens, and applying what has been learned through hands-on volunteering with a local organization.

Flexible Schedule

A complete list of dates, times, and locations can be found at the end of this information package.

Our sacramental preparation process offers a flexible schedule. Two cycles of sessions are available to choose from. Together, St. John the Divine Parish and St. George Parish form one Springbank Catholic Family of Parishes. Please select the cycle (rather than the location) that best fits your family's schedule.

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.

- Monday, September 15, 7:30PM – 8:30PM, St. George Parish Hall
- Sunday, March 8, 1PM – 2PM, St. John the Divine Parish Hall



Role of Confirmation Sponsors

A Sponsor is a person over the age of 16 who has been Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic faith, and who is a committed, practicing Catholic. Sponsors should be 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 above. 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. A parent cannot act as the Sponsor of their child.

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) sessions and should 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.

Candidates who are having trouble determining a suitable Sponsor should not be deterred from approaching this sacrament. If you are having a difficult time identifying a Sponsor, please share this as soon as possible with a member of our Sacramental Preparation Team so we may offer assistance!

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, including lunch/dinner at each session. This fee is payable by cash or cheque at the Parish Office (1164 Commissioners Road West). Please make cheques payable to St. John the Divine Parish, or St. George Parish.

We also accept e-transfer. Please include with your payment the note: "Confirmation Preparation." Please send e-transfers to stgeorge@dol.ca

**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 n."

Confirmation Dates

Once Confirmation preparation has begun, families will receive a link to communicate their preferred dates for the celebration of Confirmation. Please note that requested dates are not confirmed until written confirmation is communicated from our Sacramental Preparation Team. Space is limited. We will do our best to accommodate requests.

Alexandria Fung,
Pastoral Minister to Families & Youth | Sacraments

Confirmation Preparation Schedule (2025-2026)

Subject to change.

FALL CYCLE: 4 Tuesdays, 6PM – 8PM + 1 Retreat

Session #1	October 14, 2025	6PM - 8PM	St. George Parish Hall
Session #2	October 21, 2025	6PM - 8PM	St. George Parish Hall
Session #3	October 28, 2025	6PM - 8PM	St. George Parish Hall
Session #4	November 4, 2025	6PM - 8PM	St. George Parish Hall
Session #5	DAY OF SERVICE		
	Saturday, May 9, 2026	TBD	St. John the Divine Parish

SPRING CYCLE: Saturdays, 6:15PM – 8:15PM + 1 Retreat

Session #1	April 11, 2026	6:15PM - 8:15PM	St. George Parish Hall
Session #2	April 18, 2026	6:15PM - 8:15PM	St. George Parish Hall
Session #3	April 25, 2026	6:15PM - 8:15PM	St. George Parish Hall
Session #4	May 9, 2026	10AM – 12PM	St. John the Divine Hall
Session #5	DAY OF SERVICE		
	Saturday, May 9, 2026	TBD	St. John the Divine Parish

