

## St Leonard Parish

### Sacrament of Confirmation 2021

The St. Leonard Confirmation team has prepared an online program for candidates who would like to move forward and prepare for this Sacrament this year. While the regular Confirmation program is an active and involved year for the candidates, the program, as it was designed, does not allow for it to be offered this year. As an alternative, an online, work-it-your-own pace program has been developed.

The aim of this program is to experience a period of faith formation through prayer, online lessons, conversations and activities about being a Christian, our Catholic faith, our customs and traditions, and how this sacrament begins a deeper and more mature relationship with Christ.

Below is the outline of the program should you wish to move forward this year with sacramental preparation:

- Complete the on-line registration
- Choose a Sponsor
- Choose a Patron Saint
- Complete three at-home formation sessions
- Watch at least eight masses on-line and keep a Mass journal
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Write a letter to Father Gerard explaining what Confirmation means to you

#### On-line Registration

If you and your child decide to pursue preparation for this Sacrament this year, please go to "Sacraments" choose "Confirmation" and follow the instructions.

You will be required to provide proof of baptism (baptismal certificate) for the candidate. You will have to provide this certificate even if your child was baptized at St. Leonard's church. If your child was baptized at a different church and you are unable to locate the baptismal certificate, the church where the baptism was performed will be able to provide you with one upon request.

The cost of registration is \$10.00 and is payable online. Please indicate that the payment is for your child's Confirmation registration.

#### A Sponsor for your Journey

The Church asks that every candidate choose a sponsor to help with their decision and to guide them along the road of Christian life. The sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- fully initiated in the Church: Baptized; received First Holy Communion; and, Confirmation;
- attend mass regularly;
- be at least 16 years of age or older; and,
- A parent of the candidate may not be a sponsor but a sibling of the candidate or a godparent can.

At the Sacrament of Confirmation, the sponsor will present the candidate to the bishop. If the sponsor cannot be there, someone may stand in for them, but the name of the intended sponsor will be written on the Confirmation record. This will be sent to the church where the candidate was baptized and will become official church record.

Take some time to discuss who will be your sponsor as this journey will form a life-long bond between the two of you. Included in this program are some questions for you to discuss with your sponsor to help you make this important decision.

A questionnaire for the candidate to complete with the sponsor will be provided.

### **A Patron Saint**

Patron saints are special guardians that we pray to as protectors or guardians. We pray to them to look over us and help us in times of need. Selecting a Patron Saint that inspires us is a deeply formative experience in the faith formation of this Sacrament. We ask that candidates pick a saint they admire and gives them strength and comfort and explain why they have chosen this saint.

A template for this essay will be provided

### **The Confirmation Program**

The **Decision Point Confirmation Program** is the basis for the four at home learning sessions. It is designed to engage Catholics in a meaningful conversation using modern reference points about faith. You can learn about the program at this website: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation>

These are the modules that will be covered throughout the program which you can view online.

Session 1 - Navigation (1.0) and God's Dream for You (1.3)

Session 2 - Who is Jesus (3.1) & the Holy Spirit (8.1)

Session 3 - The Fruits of the Holy Spirit (8.3) and the Day of Confirmation (10.4)

An assignment program will be sent to you for each session which will include instructions, an opening prayer, links to videos, questions for discussions, and activities.

### **Mass journaling**

During the pandemic, Mass continues to be celebrated every Sunday by Father Gerard on our livestream. <https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintLeonardParish/featured>

Candidates are asked to watch a minimum of eight masses and keep a journal recording thoughts, impressions and things they observed during mass.

Templates will be provided.

## **Letter to Father Gerard**

The Confirmation program typically concludes in the Spring with a retreat where the candidates review the lessons learned throughout the year and write a letter to Father Gerard explaining what they learned, and stating why they think they are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This activity provides the candidate with some time for contemplation and reflection to fully appreciate what they have learned, how they have grown and to begin preparing for their celebration.

Templates for letters will be provided.

## **A date for the celebration of Confirmation**

Under normal circumstances, St. Leonard's has celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring at Notre-Dame Cathedral. Given the uncertainty of access to public places, we cannot confirm a date or a location for the celebration of Confirmation at this time.

In order to complete the Sacrament of Confirmation for the class of 2019-2020, a series of small and intimate celebrations were conducted at St. Leonard Church by Father Gerard with the permission of the Archbishop. There is a strong likelihood that this will be the manner in which the celebrations are completed this spring.

Further details regarding a date and a location will be provided as they are confirmed.

**If you have any questions about the Confirmation program, please email us at:**

**[1holyconfirmation@gmail.com](mailto:1holyconfirmation@gmail.com)**