

Sacred Heart of Jesus  
38 Bursthall Street  
PO Box 104  
Marmora, ON  
K0K 2M0  
613.472.2220

15 February 2023

Dear Confirmation candidates, parents and sponsors:

I greet you warmly on the cusp of the great Lenten Season! By our baptism, we all try to do what the Lord Jesus wants of us: to love him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, to live and work for peace and justice and to be compassionate and forgiving in our everyday life. Because we are baptized in the Lord Jesus, we are invited always to live as his brethren to continue his work. This is why the Sacrament of Confirmation is so important and so helpful for us. Here at Sacred Heart of Jesus, we will celebrate Confirmation with Archbishop Mulhall at 11am on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2023. That doesn't give us much time I know, but between now and then, we all need to prepare as well as we can.

For Baptism and First Holy Communion, parents made the choice for their children, choosing something that is very precious to them – their faith in Jesus and their membership in the Church – and introducing their children into the faith. Now, for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the young people are asked to make their own commitment. Confirmation, in a sense, completes baptism: it involves making a mature decision to commit oneself to our Blessed Lord and to own one's membership in the Church. This is a huge decision. It demands some pretty heavy maturity on the part of the young person. A student in Grade 8 should be able to make this decision for Christ. For you parents, this is a key moment for you to help your child to discern well and to make that decision to follow Jesus and become an active member in the Church. Please use this moment well.

Preparation for Confirmation is not simply another school activity. **This is a Sacred Heart of Jesus experience.** Here at the parish, we are most fortunate to have Catholic schools and committed Catholic teachers to help students prepare for Confirmation. In Confirmation, a person really *does* receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But there is no such thing as “cheap grace.” To receive the sacrament of Confirmation means preparation – doing some serious praying about and study of the sacrament and getting serious about a life of service of others. I want to use this letter to you parents and candidates (students) to kick-start that preparation. There are two important steps in the preparation process that I want to outline for you in this letter.

• **Step 1 – Meeting with the candidates and their parents**

On **Thursday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm**, I'd ask all the candidates for Confirmation and their parents to meet me at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Hall in the basement of the church. At this meeting I will briefly begin the catechesis around the meaning of the sacrament as well as:

- Distribute and complete the "Request for Confirmation" forms and update the parish registration form
- Distribute and explain the sponsor forms
- Distribute the Decision Point Confirmation preparation video's and workbooks for home preparation.
- Explain the service experience required for Confirmation

• **Step 2 – Rite of Acceptance**

On **Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at a 7pm** Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus, we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance for all the candidates for Confirmation. The candidates, their parents and their sponsors must be present for this important Rite of Acceptance liturgy, which takes place in the celebration of an evening Eucharist. We ask that parents/guardians and the candidate to be confirmed – and, if possible, the Confirmation sponsor – sit together. Please make this a priority for your family. This will give meaning and depth to understanding and preparing for Confirmation. In the fall, we will celebrate the Rite of Enrolment and the Rite of Commitment.

I realize that this is an unusually short preparation period but let's just do our best to push forward. The aim is to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11am at SHJ with Archbishop Mulhall**. Thanks so much for your kind attention to this most important experience for you, the candidate, and for you, the parents/guardians of this young person. Please reach out to our secretary **Pauline Davis** at the Parish Office (613.472.2220 or [rcmarmoramadoc@gmail.com](mailto:rcmarmoramadoc@gmail.com)) to submit your completed registration form or if you have any questions.



Sincerely,

Fr. Justin Pulikunnel

Sacred Heart of Jesus