



ST JOSEPH CHURCH

148 Madison Avenue South, Kitchener Ontario N2G 3M6

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stjosephkitchener.org

stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

January 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

Confirmation, together with Baptism and the Eucharist, form the Sacraments of Initiation. In Confirmation, the baptized are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and strengthened to live a life of faith. It is with great joy that St Joseph Church extends an invitation to your child to be Confirmed.

Those preparing for this Sacrament are called "candidates." They prepare in multiple ways, including prayer and spiritual growth, instruction, and time spent in community with other Catholics. You as parents and guardians are the candidates' first and most important teachers of the faith, even as they enter their teen years. We hope to partner with you and your candidate's sponsor as they prepare for Confirmation, with a combination of home-based activities and virtual sessions on Zoom.

To begin this journey, we ask that you and your child attend our **virtual information session for youth, parents, and guardians**. You have two options to attend. Please choose **one of**:

Sunday, January 17 at 6:30 pm

OR

Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83078275114>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86188534289>

These links are also available on our website at stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html. At this address and on the following pages, you will find more information about how we are approaching Confirmation during this time of Pandemic, including a schedule of online sessions.

While this sacrament is often celebrated in grade seven, we also welcome any young people above grade seven who would like to be Confirmed. If your child has not been baptized, or was baptized into another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, please contact us.

If you have any questions or concerns, we would be more than happy to speak with you. We look forward to growing together as part of the faith community here at St Joseph.

Yours in faith,
St Joseph Pastoral Team

Father Brian Quigley
brianquigley@gmail.com

Father Tom Vermiglio
frtom@combonimissionaries.ca

Father Mussie Keflezghi
mussiemccj@gmail.com

Mary Forcier, Youth Minister
stjosephkitcheneryouth@gmail.com

God is even now making all things new; the Holy Spirit is truly transforming us, and through us he also wants to transform the world in which we live. Let us open the doors to the Spirit, let ourselves be guided by him, and allow God's constant help to make us new men and women, inspired by the love of God which the Holy Spirit bestows on us! - Pope Francis

St Joseph Church

Confirmation Preparation information for 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic

- All formation will be available online. Please be sure to check your email inbox(es) frequently, as this is our primary way of reaching families.
- Online sessions will be offered on Sundays and Wednesdays and families may choose which group to join for the year. Depending on the Pandemic protocols in future some sessions may have an in-person *option*, but online will always be available.
- This year, we are hoping to facilitate good conversations of faith between sponsors and candidates as part of the formation process. Please begin thinking, discussing and praying as a family about potential sponsors. The sponsor should be someone the candidate will be comfortable spending time with on the phone or a video call regularly. More guidance for choosing a sponsor is found on the fourth page of this package.
- Our Diocese continues to work with Public Health to ensure we are following all safety measures for gathering size, cleaning, distancing and contact tracing. These will likely continue to evolve throughout the winter and spring.

The Sunday Eucharist

The Sunday Eucharist is at the very centre of Catholic Christian life. It is the “heartbeat” of the Christian life; everything else we do is rooted in our celebration of Sunday Mass. Without our participation in the Sunday Eucharist, our Christian lives are incomplete. The most important way to prepare for Confirmation as a family is by regular prayer, including the Eucharist.

In person (when permitted):	Saturday evening at 5:00 pm Sunday morning at 11:00 am
Online:	Sunday mornings at youtube.com/stastj

St Joseph Church Information

Parish Priests:	Father Brian Quigley, MCCJ	Deacon:	Rev. Mr. John Andrade
	Father Mussie Keflezghi MCCJ	Secretary:	Renata Kochanowska
	Father Tom Vermiglio, MCCJ	Youth Minister:	Mary Forcier

Parish Office Hours (enter from the rear parking lot, beside the garage doors)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 12:30-4:00 pm

Saturday-Monday – Office closed (The office is also closed during any mandatory shutdown/lockdown, though staff can still be reached by phone or email)

Contact Information

Parish Phone:	519-745-9302
Parish Email:	stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com
Parish Website:	www.stjosephkitchener.org
Facebook:	facebook.com/stjosephkitchener
YouTube:	youtube.com/stastj
Youth Ministry Twitter:	@stjosephkyouth
Youth Ministry IG:	@stjosephkitcheneryouth
Mary's Email:	stjosephkitcheneryouth@gmail.com

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Confirmation 2021 - Important Dates

Sunday, January 17 6:30 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83078275114 OR Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86188534289	Online Information evening on Zoom. Please click the link to join a few minutes before 6:30.
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Registration is online, and is **due Sunday, February 7** at stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html. In addition to your online registration form, we need a copy of the Baptism Certificate for anyone who was not baptized at St Joseph. Please send a legible picture or scan to stjosephkitcheneryouth@gmail.com, or bring a copy when you pick up your materials.

Sundays	Wednesdays	
February 21, 6:30 pm	February 24, 6:30 pm	Online session for Candidates - Sponsor information due by beginning of session to stjosephkitcheneryouth@gmail.com
March 21, 6:30 pm	March 24, 6:30 pm	Online session for Candidates
April 18, 6:30 pm	April 21, 6:30 pm	Online session for Candidates
Early May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions and activities for a hands-on at-home 'mini retreat' provided • An online prayer evening of preparation • Rehearsal Video distributed
Mid to Late May		Confirmation Liturgy (Multiple celebrations as needed to accommodate distancing etc.)

In addition to our online sessions, we will also be sending home a monthly conversation guide for candidates to complete with their sponsors. This will be a combination of a short scripture passage, questions to ask one another, and opportunities for prayer.

You may choose the time and mode of your conversation (Facetime, phone call, Zoom, etc.), but it should be a conversation, and not done by email or text.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to shift and change, we are making every effort to adapt and adjust our Sacramental preparation process. We were able to successfully and safely celebrate First Communion and Confirmation in October and November of 2020, following all protocols carefully. We thank you for your patience, and welcome your feedback on how we can best journey with you in faith during this time.

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

What is a sponsor?

We do not journey alone in the Catholic community. A sponsor is a person who encourages and assists a candidate to embrace and actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation. The sponsor also presents the candidate to the bishop (or his delegate) at the celebration of Confirmation.

Who can be a sponsor?

The Catholic Church says that a sponsor must be...

- At least 16
- Baptized, Confirmed, and have received First Communion
- A practicing member of the Catholic Church
- Someone who follows church teachings
- Someone other than the candidate's parent

What makes for a good sponsor?

Being a sponsor is not just an honour. The sponsor should help the candidate to actively practice the Catholic faith before and after Confirmation. A sponsor will pray for the candidate, take an interest in their preparation process and their life more broadly, and help support them in their life as a young Christian. A good sponsor is someone who...

- Is an active, practicing Catholic who regularly attends Mass.
- The candidate is comfortable talking with.
- Is comfortable talking about their faith, and answering questions about it.
- Can communicate with the candidate on a regular basis (someone who lives nearby and is seen often, or who regularly spends time with the candidate talking on the phone, over Facetime, etc.).
- Be someone the candidate will be able to turn to for help and guidance in the years ahead.

Who should we consider?

The baptismal godparents would be ideal, but aunts, uncles, cousins, older siblings, family friends, parents of the candidate's friends, teachers, and grandparents all make great sponsors as well.

Choosing a Confirmation sponsor takes time and prayer. We therefore do not require you to give your sponsor's name when you register for Confirmation Preparation. This information is due the week of February 21.

