

Confirmation – Frequently Asked Questions

When are the dates for Confirmation?

Candidates will be able to choose one of four possible dates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Here are the following dates with their corresponding rehearsal times/dates:

- (a) Tues. Nov. 30, 2021 at 7:00 pm (rehearsal on Mon. Nov. 29 at 7:30 pm);
- (b) Fri. Dec. 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm (rehearsal on Wed. Dec. 1 at 7:00 pm);
- (c) Tues. Dec. 7, 2021 at 7:00 pm (rehearsal on Mon. Dec. 6 at 7:30 pm); and
- (d) Fri. Dec. 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm (rehearsal on Wed. Dec. 8 at 7:00 pm).

Both the rehearsals and the actual Confirmation ceremonies will take place at St. James Church in Colgan.

Please note that the rehearsals on Mon. Nov. 29 and Mon. Dec. 6 are at 7:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm because we have a recurring Monday evening Mass at St. James at 7:00 pm.

Will there be a Confirmation retreat?

The Confirmation retreat this year will be completely online and can be completed independently once you complete your online prep course. The retreat will involve three sessions; and include a workbook sent to your email that will assist you through the series of talks, prayers, activities and games.

How do I choose my Confirmation name?

Your confirmation name must be a Christian name. The easiest way to see if your choice is a Christian name is simply to do an Internet search to see if there is a saint with that name.

What are the requirements for being a Confirmation sponsor?

Your sponsor must be at least 16 years old and fully initiated into the Catholic Church. A person has been fully initiated in the Church when he or she been baptized and received both First Communion and Confirmation.

Your sponsor is not allowed to be one of your parents.

You are not required to submit a baptismal certificate on behalf of your sponsor.

Who is required to attend the rehearsals besides the actual candidate?

Sponsors are strongly recommended to attend the rehearsals, but their attendance is not absolutely required.

How do I register to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Whether or not you have completed the sacramental prep program beforehand, please do the following to register for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- (a) complete the registration form on the HopeStone website for our parish;
- (b) register for a specific date for Confirmation through Eventbrite at eventbrite.ca or through their mobile app by searching our parish (St. James Colgan);
- (c) submit a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate; and
- (d) pay a fee for registration and/or the cost of a gown rental (see later).

If you were baptized at St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier, please advise the parish office as to when approximately you were baptized to assist us in looking up your information in our parish records.

Do I still need to register and/or pay a fee if I have already done so?

If you have already completed your sacramental prep through the parish, we still require you to do the following:

- (a) complete the registration form on the HopeStone website for our parish;
- (b) register for a specific date for Confirmation through Eventbrite; and
- (c) provide a copy of your baptismal certificate to the parish office.

However, you will not be required to pay an additional registration fee, except for the cost of the gown rental.

What is the registration deadline?

The registration deadline is Tues. Oct. 5, 2021.

What is the fee for registering for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The fee is \$30 (\$20 for the course plus \$10 for the cost of gown rental).

Again, if you have already completed your sacramental prep through the parish, you must still pay for the cost of the gown rental.

How do I pay the registration and/or gown fees?

You can leave the money or cheque in a sealed envelope with your full name and what it is for in the drop box located on the side of the parish office at St. James in Colgan. You can also drop off your payment in person during office hours.

If you cannot afford the registration fee, please contact the parish office at stjamesco@archtoronto.org or 905-936-4266.

By what time should I have completed the online prep course?

Once you have registered and after the registration deadline, HopeStone will send you a link allowing you to begin sacramental prep. Please contact the parish office at stjamesco@archtoronto.org or 905-936-4266 if you don't receive this link in a timely manner after the registration deadline on Tues. Oct. 5th.

The online sacramental program offered by HopeStone is unique in the sense that each video must be played in its entirety before moving onto the next video.

If I regularly attend another parish besides St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier, can I still receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here?

Yes. You only need to complete a parish registration form and return it to the parish office. You will not need a letter of permission from the parish that you attend.

There is no need to complete the parish registration form if St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier is your closest parish.

If I don't attend any of the elementary schools attached to the parish, can I still receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the parish?

Yes. However, if St. James, St. Mary's or St. Francis Xavier is not your closest parish, you will need to complete a parish registration form.

Is there a limit to the number of people who can attend the Confirmation ceremony?

Each family can invite a total of ten people, including the candidate and his or her sponsor. When you register on Eventbrite, please include the candidate and his or her sponsor amongst the people for whom you are reserving spots.

Each Confirmation night will be limited to 50 candidates and an overall limit of 350 people due to limits in terms of social distancing.

Will we need to bring our Eventbrite tickets to the Confirmation ceremony?

Please bring your Eventbrite ticket to the actual Confirmation ceremony, whether in printed form or on your mobile device.

Will there be reserved seating?

There will be designated seating only for those being confirmed and their sponsors. Other attendees will be guaranteed a place in the church, although not in a specific spot.

What should I wear to my Confirmation?

There is no set requirement for a specific dress code. You will be given a gown to wear over your clothes before the actual ceremony.

What time should the candidates arrive on the date of their Confirmation?

Candidates should arrive at least 30 minutes before the start time of the Confirmation Mass in the parish hall at St. James to be fitted for their gowns.

What if I have further questions or concerns?

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the parish office at stjamesco@archtoronto.org or 905-936-4266.