



**St Anne Parish**  
268 East Ave, Kitchener  
519-745-5302

**St Joseph Parish**  
148 Madison Ave S., Kitchener  
519-745-9302



January 2022

Dear parents and guardians,

Confirmation, together with Baptism and the Eucharist, form the Sacraments of Initiation in our Catholic faith. In Confirmation, the baptized are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and are strengthened to live as followers of Christ. It is with great joy that St Anne and St Joseph parishes extend an invitation to your child to be Confirmed this year.

Those preparing for Confirmation are called “candidates.” They grow through prayer, spiritual 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 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, **families are asked to attend one of our two virtual information sessions at either 6-7 pm on Sunday, January 23 OR 6-7 pm on Monday, January 24.** Registration for both dates is available at [stanneskitchener.ca/confirmation](http://stanneskitchener.ca/confirmation) or [stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html](http://stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html). Young people (candidates) and their parents/caregivers should attend this session together.

All young people in grade seven and above are invited to prepare for Confirmation. We would like to extend a particular invitation to young people with special needs who may require any accommodations or adaptations needed. All are welcome in God’s kingdom. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your parish office, email us at the addresses below, or speak to us at Mass.

The pandemic continues to be tough on families. Through the Sacraments, God comes close to us in our joys, sorrows, successes, and frustrations. Our prayer is that as your family prepares for Confirmation, you continue to experience more of his loving presence in the midst of life.

Yours in faith,

The Pastoral Team of St Anne and St Joseph

Father Brian Quigley  
[brianquigley@gmail.com](mailto:brianquigley@gmail.com)

Father Mussie Keflezghi  
[mussiemccj@gmail.com](mailto:mussiemccj@gmail.com)

Mary Forcier, Youth Minister  
[mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com)

And at the moment of anointing, the Bishop says these words: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit": the Holy Spirit is God's great gift. And we all have the Spirit within. The Spirit is in our heart, in our soul.  
- Pope Francis, 2018

## CONFIRMATION 2022 – DATES TO REMEMBER

All group sessions for Confirmation this year will be online, using Zoom. You may choose between Sunday evenings or Monday evenings when you register. Please check your email regularly for updates.

Sundays	Mondays	
January 23 6-7 pm	January 24 6-7 pm	Online Information meeting (Pre-registration required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://stanneskitchener.ca/confirmation">stanneskitchener.ca/confirmation</a> or <a href="http://stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html">stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html</a></li> </ul>
Friday February 11		Registration forms due online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://stanneskitchener.ca/confirmation">stanneskitchener.ca/confirmation</a> or <a href="http://stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html">stjosephkitchener.org/sacraments.html</a></li> </ul>
Saturday February 12 and Sunday February 13		Pick up physical materials from Parish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details emailed to registered families</li> </ul>
February 27 6-7 pm	February 28 6-7 pm	Online Session for Candidates
March 27 6-7 pm	March 28 6-7 pm	Online Session for Candidates
April 24 6-7 pm	April 25 6-7 pm	Online Session for Candidates
Early May		Instructions and activities for a hands-on at-home 'mini retreat' provided  Rehearsal Video distributed
Mid to Late May		Confirmation Liturgy (Multiple celebrations as needed to accommodate distancing etc.)

## INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION

### **Prayer and Personal Preparation**

As you approach Confirmation, we encourage you to explore ways you can deepen your faith life individually. Prayer – communication with God – is critical for both Confirmation preparation and for your faith overall, but it will look different for each of us.

To help you in this journey, we have a small book for you. In *My Encounter: How I Met Jesus in Prayer*, author Chika Anyanwu shares her story of prayer — the highs and lows, the joys and the challenges. It is a practical resource for growing (or starting!) your prayer life.

### **Sponsor-Candidate Conversations**

All candidates for Confirmation choose a sponsor to accompany them in their faith journey. We will be sending conversation guides for candidates to complete with their sponsors throughout the preparation process. These will include scripture, questions to discuss, and opportunities for prayer. All activities can be done in person, over the phone, or virtually. Please see the attached handout for further information on choosing a good sponsor.

## OUR PARISHES: ST ANNE AND ST JOSEPH

The St Anne and St Joseph faith communities work closely together, with a single pastoral team. Each of our Parishes is connected to a Catholic Elementary school: St Anne to St Anne, and St Joseph to St Bernadette. However, we hope that you will feel welcome in either of our communities, and encourage you to come to whichever Masses and activities work best for your family.

### 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 best way to prepare for Confirmation as a whole family is by regular prayer, including the Eucharist.

Please join us for Mass	
<b>St Anne</b> <b>268 East Ave</b> Saturday 4 pm Sunday 9:30 am	<b>St Joseph</b> <b>148 Madison Ave S</b> Saturday 5 pm Sunday 11 am



Our Youth Group for grades 5-8+ continues to meet online each Friday night from 7-8:30. Join us for games, prayer, and sharing. New members are always encouraged! The link to join is available by request – just email [mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com)

As soon as it is safe again, we look forward to resuming our in-person evenings. These include movie nights, service projects, prayer, field trips, and social gatherings.

### PASTORAL STAFF OF ST ANNE AND ST JOSEPH

Parish Priests:	Father Brian Quigley Father Mussie Keflezghi	Youth Minister:	Mary Forcier <a href="mailto:mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com">mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com</a>
Deacon:	Rev. Mr. John Andrade		

### CONTACT INFORMATION

	St Anne	St Joseph
Parish Phone:	519-745-5302	519-745-9302
Parish Email:	<a href="mailto:stannekitchener@hamiltondiocese.com">stannekitchener@hamiltondiocese.com</a>	<a href="mailto:stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com">stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com</a>
Parish Website:	<a href="http://stanneskitchener.ca">stanneskitchener.ca</a>	<a href="http://stjosephkitchener.org">stjosephkitchener.org</a>
Youth Twitter:	@stannekyouth	@stjosephkyouth
Youth IG:	@stannekitcheneryouth	@stjosephkitcheneryouth

Questions or concerns? Contact Mary: [mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com)

# 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 more than an honour or a temporary commitment. A 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.
- 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.

