

St. Gerards Parish - Confirmation 2012

Hello fellow Gerardians, Gerardtonians?? Paul Negenman here, I am the coordinator for this year's Confirmation program.

Whether you are new to St. Gerards parish or a "regular", I welcome you to our faith family and our program for Sacramental Preparation. By enrolling your child in this program, you are helping him/her to fulfill the promise made on his/her behalf at Baptism to lead a life of Christian fellowship, modeled after our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Please ensure your child is registered for this program with our church office. Registration night is set out on the attached page or you can contact Doreen @ (403) 253-2251 for more details on what forms need to be filled out and what documents the church requires. After the appropriate paperwork is complete, you will be given a copy of the booklet entitled *Confirmation*. Those of you who attended the registration night will already have your booklet.

Please take the time to go through the Confirmation booklet with your child to ensure that he/she understands the significance of Confirmation as a sacrament and the various Gifts we are to model after Jesus Christ. This portion of the program is self directed and I know from personal experience how easy it is to forget to actually sit down and read the thing. We are all very busy and the booklet can seem like homework. However, when I went through the booklet with my two oldest boys a couple of years ago, I approached the task as perhaps the last chance I would have to sit and read out loud to them, before they became too grown up to listen to my voice anymore. As added incentive, you should know that the Bishop oversees the Confirmation ceremony in June, and he has been known to quiz the kids on these points!

Along with the preparation done at home, there are a small number of events your child is expected to attend at St. Gerards. Some are meant to further their understanding of the sacrament (such as the Retreat); some are meant to introduce them to a life of stewardship (i.e. assisting with the mass); and some are simply meant to encourage fellowship with their peers. All currently scheduled events appear on the next pages. **All of these events are important: so please try to attend as many as possible.**

Yours in Christ,

Paul Negenman

If you have any questions, my contact info is below. Email is by far the best way to get my attention.

paul.negenman@enerlaw.ca

403.303.9157 - Work Phone

403.253-8586 - Home Phone

403.305.5629 - Cell

Confirmation 2012: Schedule of Events

[TENTATIVE OUTLINE AS OF OCT 12, 2011]
[FINAL OUTLINE TO BE PROVIDED ON REGISTRATION NIGHT]

Parent Meeting and Registration Night

Date: Friday November 25, 2012
Meeting Place: In the Church hall
Time: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Registration. Pick up materials. Brief introduction for parents.

There will also be an activity for the kids. Please bring a small picture of your child that we can keep and use in a banner for the Church.

Our Journey Begins

Date: Friday May 4, 2012
Meeting Place: In the Church hall
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

Kids introduction and craft. Likely tee shirts.

PowerPoint review of Confirmation Materials. Kids are expected to have read the materials prior to this evening.

Our Journey Continues - Youth Lead Retreat

Date: Saturday May 12, 2012 [TBD - DATE NOT YET CONFIRMED]
Meeting Place: In the Church hall
Time: 9 am to 2 pm

A group of young adults from Calgary's RC Diocesan office will lead the Confirmation group in games, song and team-building exercises. They will cover much of the material to be gleaned from the *Confirmation* booklet.

Try to have your confirmation name, sponsor and patron saint identified before the retreat.

Donuts in the morning and pizza and pop for lunch will be provided.

Prayer Shawl Preparation

[TBD - REQUIRES PARENT VOLUNTEERS TO HAVE THIS ACTIVITY]

Date: Friday May 25, 2012
Meeting Place: In the Church hall
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

Kids will prepare a confirmation prayer shawl and we will walk through the Apostles Creed.

Also, I would like to have a quick discussion of sponsors and confirmation names with parents and kids at the end of the meeting. This is the time for parents to ask all the questions they have about the Confirmation Mass.

Pop, chips and all shawl materials will be provided.

Kids Activity Night

Date: Friday June 1, 2012
Meeting Place: Church Parking Lot - we will car pool to site
Time: Evening activity - Time TBD

Activity TBD.

[TBD - FUN OFF SITE ACTIVITY SUCH AS PAINT BALL OR ZIP LINE WILL BE ORGANIZED]

Please note - you must have attended **all** prior events to participate in this activity (or have spoken to me regarding why you could not attend).

Confirmation

Date: Saturday June 2, 2012
Meeting Place: Church Narthex (gathering area as you enter the Church)
Time: Meet at 4:30 to get ready for 5 pm Mass

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated at St. Gerard's during the 5:00 pm mass on Saturday June 2, 2012.

Confirmants and Sponsors, please arrive at around 4:30 just to make sure everyone is ready. Please wear your prayer shawl.

Sponsors will sit with the Confirmants and will walk up for the blessing from the Bishop.

The Bishop oversees the Confirmation ceremony. Be ready to answer questions.

Confirmants are responsible to perform all appropriate duties for Mass. I will be seeking (selecting) "volunteers" for:

- be the readers for the 1st and 2nd readings and intercessions
- Bring up Gifts (4 kids)
- Greeters and Handing Out Bulletins

Sandwiches and drinks to follow in hall following Mass. Family and friends welcome to attend.