

Confirmation

Gift of the Holy Spirit

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and the EUCHARIST comprise the SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION. Confirmation completes Christian initiation, and strengthens the Candidates by the gift of the Holy Spirit. They are witnesses of Christ, bound to spread and defend the faith by their words and deeds.

Origins of the Sacrament

The Old Testament prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the awaited Messiah for his saving mission. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his Baptism in the Jordan by John was the sign that this was the expected one: the Son of God, who would communicate the Spirit to the entire messianic people. On Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, the Apostles began to proclaim the mighty works of God, and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be a sign of the messianic age.

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the doctrine on Baptism and the Laying on of Hands is listed among the first elements in Christian instruction. The Laying on of Hands is recognized as the original sign of the Sacrament of Confirmation, which perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church.

The Bishop

The original ministers of Confirmation are the Bishops, the successors of the Apostles. They have received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. (The Bishop may transfer this mandate to the local Parish Priest.) The Sacred Chrism used for the Anointing was blessed at the Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral during the previous Holy Week.

The Sponsor

The Sponsor is a fully-initiated member of the Church who:

- ❖ Represents the community; ❖ Will support the parents;
- ❖ Testifies that the Candidate will be a witness for Christ.

The original Godparent may perform this duty; or another adult who serves as an example of Christian living.

The Name

The Confirmation Name is the Christian *Baptismal* name, or the name of another *Saint* who will serve as a lifelong patron and prayer partner to the newly-confirmed.

Effects of Confirmation

The purpose of the Sacrament is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as it was given to the Apostles on Pentecost:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind...divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability. (Acts 2.1-4).

The entire Church benefits by Confirmation: it conveys the grace of *Pentecost*, enabling us to live with the fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Generosity, Goodness, Perseverance, Mildness, Faith, Modesty, Continenence, Chastity.

Confirmation has several important effects:

- (1) **It makes us more aware of God;**
- (2) **It releases the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:** Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Understanding, Courage, Piety and Reverence of the Lord.
- (3) **It unites us more firmly to Christ;**
- (4) **It binds us more perfectly to the Church;**
- (5) **It gives us strength to spread and defend the faith by our words and actions in order to:**
 - ✘ be true witnesses of Christ;
 - ✘ confess the name of Christ boldly;
 - ✘ never be ashamed of the Cross.

Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism, and imprints a spiritual mark or permanent, indelible character on the Christian's soul. A Candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith; be in the state of grace; desire to receive the Sacrament; and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both in the Church and in the world.

The Liturgy

Confirmation is ordinarily celebrated within the context of the Holy Mass. Following the Proclamation of the Word of God, the Sacrament is administered in this order:

Presentation of the Candidates

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*Laying On of Hands*¹

*Anointing with Sacred Chrism*²

¹ LAYING ON OF HANDS: The Bishop faces the people and introduces the prayer. Then he (and any concelebrating Priests) extend their hands over the Candidates, and ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon them.

² ANOINTING WITH CHRISM: Candidates walk to the Sanctuary. The Bishop goes to them individually, takes some Chrism, addresses them by their Confirmation Name, and makes the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads.

Bishop: “ _____ , be sealed
with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Newly Confirmed: “AMEN.”

Bishop: “Peace be with you.”

Newly Confirmed: “AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.”



Parish Week ☩ Sunday, 30 July 2023

Saturday, 29 July / Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus

8.00 am Mass: † Corazon Camacho (family)

5.00 pm Mass: † Mina Kapadia (Mukesh)

SUNDAY, 30 JULY / 17-A

■ Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

■ 2nd Collection: Maintenance

9.00 am Mass: † Camila Maulion (Maria Rodas)

10.30 am Mass: † Fernando & Beatriz Remedios (Jose)

12.00 pm Mass: † Olympia Macabali (family)

7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday 31 July / St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest

8.00 am Mass: Int. Bill & Marg Cyr (Robert Bentley)

7.00 pm Mass: † Joseph Candappa (Lillian D'Souza)

Tuesday, 1 Aug. / St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop & doctor

8.00 am Mass: † Jose & Arline Gochoco (Corine Maulion)

Wednesday, 2 Aug. / St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop

8.00 am Mass: † Moises Sardua (Chita & Josefa)

Thursday, 3 Aug.

8.00 am Mass: † N.V. John (family)

Friday, 4 Aug. / St. John Vianney, priest

8.00 am Mass: † Flori Noronha (Ivan & Cherie)

6.00 pm Holy Hour

7.00 pm Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (John's family)

Sat., 5 Aug. / Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major;

- also Blessed Frederic Jansoone

■ Fr. Elias Chachati, birthday (1955)

8.00 am Mass: † Ramon Umali (family)

5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday (Fr. Elias Chachati)

SUNDAY, 6 AUG. / TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

■ Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo

9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)

10.30 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Birthday (CWL)

12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Dominic & Anita)

7.00pm Mass: Pro Populo

RCIA, RCIC Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults and Children

Coming Up:

RCIA meetings: 4 Aug., 1 Sept.

RCIC meetings: 5 Aug., 2 Sept.



Family Fun Night 19 August, 6-10 pm

Our Parish Ministries are holding a FAMILY FUN NIGHT, Saturday, 19 August, 6-10 pm. This is a fundraiser for our Parish *ShareLife* Appeal, with Karaoke, Bingo, Door Prizes, Line Dancing and a 50/50 draw. Tickets are limited, and include a meal. Pick up yours at the FUN NIGHT table in the Vestibule after any Sunday Mass.

For more details, call: **Peter**, 647-679-9649, 10 am-9 pm.

Focus on the Word

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.28-30; Matthew 13.44-52

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundances your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Amen.

Liturgy Notes



Feast of the Transfiguration: 6 August

Parishioners may be interested to know that this year, a major liturgical feast falls on Sunday, 6 August: the Feast of the *Transfiguration of the Lord*. This Feast takes precedence over the sequential Ordinary Time Sunday. Our liturgical ministers, and especially our Lectors, should note that it is not the "18th Sunday in Ordinary Time." Please prepare for the correct Readings.

World Youth Day 2023 1-6 August

Parishioners are asked to remember in their prayers the Youth from Canada and around the world who will be participating in the WORLD YOUTH DAY events in Lisbon, Portugal, 1-6 August.

Catholic Cemetery Masses

7.00 pm, 16 August



The annual CATHOLIC CEMETERY MASSES in our diocese this year will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 16 August. The celebrants at the closest cemeteries to us will be:

CHRIST THE KING, *Markham*: **Bishop Vincent Nguyen**

HOLY CROSS, *Thornhill*: **Bishop John A. Boissonneau**

Maintenance Collection 30 July

The 2nd collection on Sunday will be for the support of our major parish projects through the *Maintenance Collection*.

COMING UP

7017023

1-6 Aug.

► WORLD YOUTH DAY, Lisbon, Portugal

1-3 Aug. ► 141ST ANNUAL SUPREME CONVENTION, K.O.C., Orlando, Florida

5 Aug. Feast of the Dedication of the **Basilica of St. Mary Major** (*Rome*);

- **Fr. Elias Chachati**, Anniversary of birth (1955)

7 Aug.

Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)

12 Aug.

Finance Council (3.30 pm)

13 Aug.

2nd Collections: **Canadian Missions**

15 Aug.

Feast of the **Assumption of Mary**

19 Aug.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT (6-10 pm)

25 Aug.

Wedding: Grisales – D'Souza (10:30 am)

26 Aug.

Wedding: Kranz – Lago (2:00 pm)

27 Aug.

2nd Collection: **Maintenance**

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more details on Parish activities, see the website bulletin.



Cardinal Matteo Zuppi meets with President Joe Biden

In the context of **Pope Francis' Peace Mission for Ukraine**, **Cardinal Matteo Zuppi**, Archbishop of Bologna and President of the Italian Episcopal Conference, went to Washington D.C. from 17-19 July to continue his peace endeavour, after his visits earlier this year to Ukraine (in early June) and Russia (in late June).

A note from the Holy See Press Office states that the "visit took place in the context of the mission to promote peace in Ukraine and to exchange ideas and opinions on the current tragic situation and support initiatives in the humanitarian realm, to alleviate the suffering of the most affected and fragile people, especially the children.

Cardinal Zuppi was accompanied on this visit by an Official of the Secretariat of State.

Pope Francis to install 21 new Cardinals 30 September

Pope Francis will formally install 21 new Cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican on 30 September.

One of the Cardinals-designate is Archbishop Robert Prevost, 67, who was born in Chicago, and served as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, for more than 8 years before he was appointed to lead the Vatican dicastery responsible for identifying candidates to fill the office of Bishop in the Latin-rite dioceses of the world. Recommendations made by the dicastery are presented to the Pope. Archbishop Prevost has been a member of the dicastery since November 2020. He also oversees the *Pontifical Commission for Latin America*, established in 1958 by Pope Pius XII to study the Church in Latin America, where nearly 40% of the world's Catholics reside.

The cardinal-designate holds degrees from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a doctorate from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. An Augustinian friar, he joined the Augustinian mission in Peru in 1985 and

worked in the country until in 1999, when he was elected head of the Augustinians' Chicago-based province. From 2001 to 2013, he was prior general of the worldwide order.

In 2014, Pope Francis named him bishop of Chiclayo, in northern Peru, and also the administrator of Callao, Peru. The pope then appointed him to succeed the retiring Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in early 2023.

The new cardinals represent more than a dozen countries on five continents. Three of the new cardinals are current Vatican officials, three are current or retired apostolic nuncios, 13 are current or retired heads of archdioceses around the world, one is a rector major of the Salesians and one is a 96-year-old confessor in Buenos Aires. Six belong to religious orders; two of them are Jesuits.

Here is the list of the new cardinals:

- U.S.-born Archbishop **Robert F. Prevost**, prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, 67.
- Italian Archbishop **Claudio Gugerotti**, prefect of the Dicastery for Eastern Churches, 67.
- Argentine Archbishop **Víctor Manuel Fernández**, La Plata, Argentina, incoming prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. He will turn 61 July 18.
- Swiss Archbishop **Emil Paul Tscherrig**, the apostolic nuncio to Argentina, 76.
- French Archbishop **Christophe Pierre**, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, 77.
- Italian Archbishop **Pierbattista Pizzaballa**, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, 58.
- South African Archbishop **Stephen Brislin**, Cape Town, 66.
- Argentine Archbishop **Ángel Sixto Rossi** of Córdoba, 64. He is a member of the Society of Jesus.
- Colombian Archbishop **Luis José Aparicio**, Bogotá, 61.
- Polish Archbishop **Grzegorz Rys** of Łódź, 59.
- South Sudanese Archbishop **Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla** of Juba, 59.
- Spanish Archbishop **José Cobo Cano** of Madrid, 57.
- Tanzanian Archbishop **Protase Rugambwa**, coadjutor archbishop of Tabora, 63.
- Malaysian Bishop **Sebastian Francis** of Penang, 71.
- Bishop **Stephen Chow Sau-yan** of Hong Kong, 63. Born in Hong Kong, he is a member of the Society of Jesus.
- Bishop **François-Xavier Bustillo** of Ajaccio in Corsica, France, 54. Born in Spain, he is a Conventual Franciscan.
- Portuguese Auxiliary Bishop **Américo Alves Aguiar** of Lisbon, 49.
- Spain-born Salesian Father **Ángel Fernández Artime**, rector major of the Salesians, 62.
- Italian Archbishop **Agostino Marchetto**, a retired papal nuncio, a former curial official and a respected historian of the Second Vatican Council, 82.
- Retired Archbishop **Diego Rafael Padrón Sánchez** of Cumaná, Venezuela, 84.
- Capuchin Father **Luis Pascual Dri**, confessor at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompei, Buenos Aires, 96.

St. Charbel Maklouf 24 July

Youssef Antoun Makhlof was born on 8 May 1828, in Bekaa Kafra, Lebanon. He had a true Christian upbringing, which gave him a passion for prayer. He followed his two hermit uncles in the hermitage of the St. Antonious Kozhaya monastery and joined the monastic and hermetical life.

In 1851, he left his family village and headed for Our Lady of Maifouk monastery to spend his first monastic year, then went to the St. Maron monastery in Annaya, taking the name Charbel, the name of one of the Antioch Church Martyrs of the 2nd century. He was ordained a Priest in the Maronite Patriarchate on 23 July 1859. He lived the life of a hermit, who spent his time praying and worshipping. He rarely left the hermitage, where he followed the way of the saintly hermits in prayer, life and practice.

On 16 December 1898 he was struck with an illness while celebrating the Holy Mass. He died on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1898, and was buried in the St Maron monastery cemetery in Annaya.

Parents credit St. Charbel for saving their baby

Charbel Fadel, who lives in Alberta, is, in most ways, like any other young boy. He can't sit still. He likes soccer. He gives high-fives to anyone who asks.

That he can do all this, however, is a miracle, according to his parents Said and Dolly. Their son was not expected to survive a traumatic birth. They attribute his survival to the intervention of his namesake, St. Charbel Makhlouf.

"We were hoping for a miracle from God." Mr. Fadel said in an interview. "Since he's been born, we've had to tell the story of St. Charbel. Through him, we have our son."

The Fadels belong to *Our Lady of Good Help* Lebanese Catholic parish in Edmonton. Charbel Fadel was born 22 October 2015. It was a difficult birth. Without oxygen for the first nine minutes of life, he was given only a four percent chance of survival. He was put on life support. Dolly recalled, "They said, 'There's nothing we can do.'"

Dr. Anan Hanna, a family friend who teaches at the University of Alberta medical school, was asked to review Charbel's medical records. He said, "From the start he came with no reflexes, almost dead." As an act of faith, the parents hung a picture of St. Charbel by their son's incubator and a rosary on the light next to him. Young Charbel started to breathe on his own; within a month, he was sent home.

The doctors warned the Fadels that Charbel might have seizures or developmental disabilities. He didn't cry for three weeks, and initially was fed from a tube. Said recalled, "His body wasn't functioning properly. His brother would bring drums and play, but he wouldn't hear anything."

Late one night during the 2015 Christmas holidays, alone in his basement, Said prayed for a miracle. "I was just sitting there, praying, and telling the Lord, 'Give me the pain. My

son is a baby. He doesn't deserve to be this way.' " I heard a voice come to me, "Take my picture and put it on the top of your son's head." Said went into his own father's room, saw a picture of St. Charbel, took it and put it above the crib. "I prayed, and then I went to our bedroom and told my wife, 'You know what? Everything is going to be OK. Someone told me to place the picture above his head, and I did it.' "

The next morning Dolly was amazed to see her baby looking at the picture. "He was, all the time, looking to the picture. You could see his face smiling and he didn't move his head from the picture. Every time we moved him, his eyes remained on the picture."

Charbel's condition improved rapidly. The Fadels took him for medical tests, and all his vital signs indicated that he was a normal, healthy baby. Since then, Charbel's checkups indicate that his walking, talking and medical and neurological development are progressing normally.

When Dr. Hanna is asked if he believes, as a medical professional, that a miracle occurred, he is unequivocal.

"Definitely. In two stages. Nine minutes without enough oxygen? No way. Something unbelievable happened."

The pastor of the Fadel family, Fr. Joseph Salame, said, "In Lebanon, St. Charbel is known as an intercessor for the sick." He believes that's what happened in this case. "Every Lebanese Christian goes to visit the shrine because they have a strong belief in St. Charbel," Salame said. "But the strong belief is that God is our healer through His Saints."

Charbel's medical records and other documentation were sent to Edmonton Archbishop Richard Smith and to St. Charbel Church and Shrine near Beirut, where all miracles attributed to the Saint are recorded.

The Fadels know in their hearts that a miracle occurred. "We believe in St. Charbel," Dolly said.



Parish Bazaar

A HUGE Thank You to our Parishioners and friends for your support of our Annual Bazaar, held on 23 July. The organizers, benefactors, volunteers, vendors and passersby all collaborated in making the day a success. The *Quilt Raffle* was held as advertised. The winning number is: **0682310**. *Congratulations!* Please call **Lillian** to claim the quilt: 647-909-6425.



Samuel Santamaria, Aldrin Rozario, Peter Carnie, Fr. Edwin, Mario Francis, Anthony Mendonca, Lorna Gomes at one of the Parish sales tables.





*Mission Co-operative Sunday, 23 July. Some of the Mission Hospitality Committee with **Fr. Jude Sampath**, of the diocese of GALLE, Sri Lanka.*

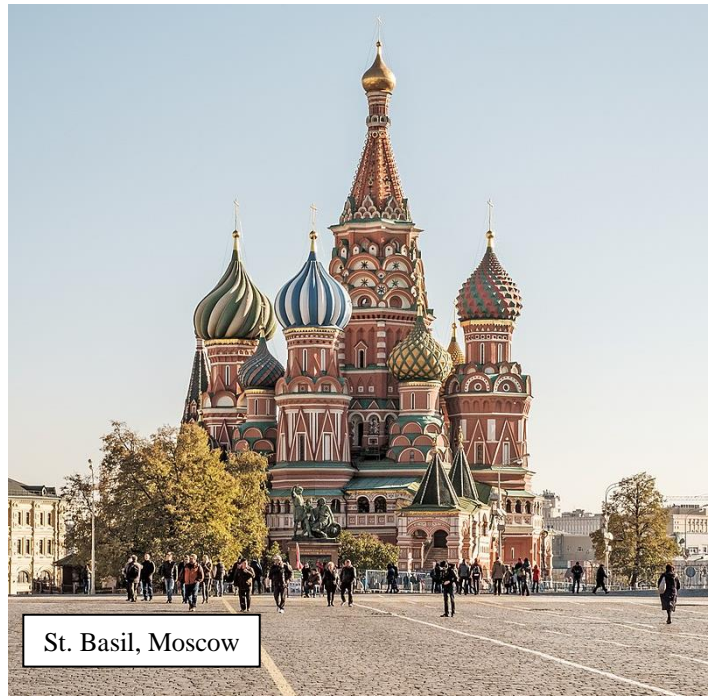


Thanksgiving at St. Francis Table, 15 October 2019.

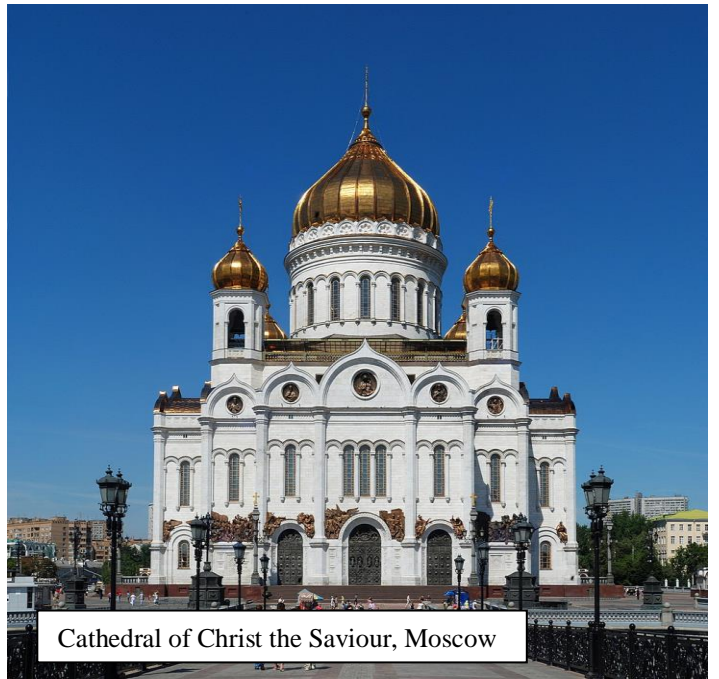




Sagrada Família, Barcelona



St. Basil, Moscow



Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Moscow



St. Lucia Cathedral, Colombo



Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Manila