

# 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, Continence, 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*<sup>1</sup>

*Anointing with Sacred Chrism*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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, 12 August 2018

**Saturday, 11 Aug. / St. Clare of Assisi, virgin**

8.00 am Mass: † Luigi DiCicco (Emma)

5.00 pm Mass: † Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)

**SUNDAY, 12 AUG. / 19-B**

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Canadian Missions*

9.00 am Mass: † Rosie Lobo (family)

10.30 am Mass: Int. Dorie Thomas 81<sup>st</sup> birthday (Dahlia)

12.00 pm Mass: † Felicisima & Jose Turiano Sr. (family)

1.00 pm Knights of Columbus

1.30 pm Infant Baptism

7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

**Mon., 13 Aug. / Ss. Pontian, pope & Hippolytus, priest, martyrs**

8.00 am Mass: † Rohodirie Estrada Aquinty  
(Sigmund & Ocasion family)

7.00 pm Mass: † Ivy Rose Russell (St. Maria Goretti Ushers)

**Tuesday, 14 Aug / St. Maximilian Kolbe, priest & martyr**

8.00 am Mass: † Antonio Silva & family (Aldevina Henriques)

**Wednesday, 15 Aug. / Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary**

8.00 am Mass: † Cyril (Caroline)

7.00 pm ► Annual Catholic Cemetery Masses

**Thursday, 16 Aug. / St. Stephen of Hungary**

8.00 am Mass: † Rocco Aldorasi (John)

**Friday, 17 Aug.**

8.00 am Mass: Int. Irene Orr,  
Blessing on her 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Valerie Fritz)

11.00 am ► Ina Grafton Nursing Home Mass

7.00 pm Mass for European Friends

**Saturday, 18 Aug.**

8.00 am Mass: † For the unborn (Audrey)

3.00 pm Wedding: Rex Arrieta & Krystle Entea

5.00 pm Mass: Int. Antonipillai (family)

**SUNDAY, 19 AUG. / 20-B**

■ *Homilist: Fr. Gregor Schmidt*

■ *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Mission Co-op*

9.00 am Mass: † Ed Flood (Patrick De Caires)

10.30 am Mass: † Angela de Caires (Son & Daughter)

12.00 pm Mass: Int. Joanna Patricia for Healing  
(Zenaida Santiago)

7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Finance Council, R&R Committee

The next Finance Council and R&R Committee meeting will be at 10.00 pm on Monday, 20 August. The engineers from MORRISON HERSHFIELD and the contractors from RENOKREW will review the progress of the work underway on the Rectory basement.

## The New Trees

Many thanks to the parishioners who signed up to help plant the new trees that are being donated by the Arab Community Centre, at 1855 Lawrence Ave. E. Due to the very hot and dry Summer we have had so far, the implementation schedule has been delayed by several weeks. The ACC will keep in touch with our parish, and let us know when it is appropriate to move forward. If anyone missed the announcement last week and is interested in helping, go to the Office after Mass and ask to sign the Tree List. You can also check out the ACC website: [acconline.ca](http://acconline.ca)

## Focus on the Word

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**1 Kings 19.4-8; Ephesians 4.30-5.2; John 6.41-51**

*Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Amen.*

## Catholic Cemetery Masses 15 August

As on the Vestibule posters, the CATHOLIC CEMETERY MASSES this year will be at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 15 August.

The Catholic Cemeteries most used by our parishioners are:

☐ *Christ the King* (near Steeles & Markham)

This year's celebrant – **Msgr. Vid Vlasic**

☐ *Holy Cross* (near Steeles & Yonge)

This year's celebrant – **Bishop Robert Kasun**

## November Pilgrimage to the Historical Centre of Mexico, and the Guadalupe Shrine 15 – 21 November 2018



See the notices on the Vestibule bulletin board, and the PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE in the website bulletin.

\$2,199.00 Canadian per person; includes all taxes and tips.

For more info, contact: **Michael Kwadrans**, 647-887-4069.

There will be a MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE at 7.00 pm on Friday, 24 August.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: 12 August, *Canadian Missions*

On 12 August, the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection is for the *Canadian Missions Shared Collection*.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA (CMIC) was established in 1908, to provide support to Catholic missionaries - priests, sisters, brothers & lay people – who dedicate their lives to proclaim the Gospel throughout the poorest regions in Canada.

CMIC and some selected DIOCESES IN NORTHERN CANADA, help sustain and extend the Catholic faith to isolated and hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada. They will benefit from your generosity. In these areas, a Mission Church or Parish can be the only community place for the faithful. Your support is a blessing for those who take up the challenge of keeping the Catholic faith alive and strong in the remotest parts of our country. Thank for your support of this important work!

## COMING UP

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25 Aug.

Wedding: Pinlac – Carreon (1:30 pm);

- 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary: Girle & Mailo Padillo (3:30 pm)

26 Aug.

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: *Maintenance*

## Website [stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org](http://stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org)

See the story of Alfie Evans, and the *Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe*: page 3 in the website bulletin.



## Alfie Evans, 9 May 2016 – 28 April 2018

In December 2016, at six months of age, Alfie Evans was assessed at the general pediatric outpatient clinic at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in his hometown of Liverpool, England. He was found to have hypsarrhythmia.

Alfie's parents wished to remove him from Alder Hey and seek further care at the Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome. In September 2017, Italian doctors from Bambino Gesù Hospital produced an assessment report on the possibility of transferring Alfie to Italy. According to their report on the case, they could offer prolonged ventilator support, with a surgical tracheostomy and would remove a nasogastric tube, replacing it with a gastrostomy. Alfie remained in Alder Hey Hospital for the duration of 2017, with no improvement in his condition. At the end of the year, the hospital applied to have life support switched off. The High Court ruled in favour of the hospital on 20 February 2018.

Alfie Evans' case drew significant public attention in the United Kingdom and overseas, with his parents establishing "Alfie's Army," an online campaign group dedicated to seeking further treatment and opposing the withdrawal of life support. Supporters established a petition to allow Alfie Evans to be transferred to a hospital of his parents' choice. His parents also approached Dr. Michio Hirano, a US-based neurologist who had offered treatment in the case of Charlie Gard. Alfie's parents claimed a parental right to make decisions about their son's care.

Alfie's father said that Alfie was wrongly "detained" at Alder Hey. High Court judge Hayden dismissed that complaint; appeal judges upheld his decision. On 17 April Mr. Evans asked the Supreme Court to consider their case again. Their application to appeal was refused on 20 April.

On 18 April 2018 Alfie's father flew to Rome for a 20-minute meeting with Pope Francis. The Pope stated his "sincere hope that everything necessary may be done in order to continue compassionately accompanying little Alfie Evans, and that the deep suffering of his parents may be heard." The President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, also

expressed his support. On 23 April, Alfie was granted Italian citizenship. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it hoped Alfie would be allowed "immediate transfer to Italy."

On 23 April, Alfie's life support was withdrawn. Alfie continued to breathe after the removal of his breathing tube. On 26 April, Mr. Evans issued a statement, thanking supporters, and staff at Alder Hey Hospital. He stated the family wished to "form a relationship, build a bridge and walk across it" with the hospital where their son has been treated and work with staff on a "plan that provides our boy with the dignity and comfort that he needs."

Alfie died at 2:30 a.m. on 28 April 2018. Later that day Mr. Evans released a statement announcing his death: "My gladiator lay down his shield and gained his wings."

## The Lowest Trees

*The lowest trees have tops, the ant her gall  
The fly her spleen, the little sparks their heat;  
The slender hairs cast shadows though but small,  
And bees have stings although they be not great.  
Seas have their source and so have shallow springs;  
And love is love, in beggars as in kings.  
Where rivers smoothest run, deep are the fords;  
The dial stirs, yet none perceives it move;  
The firmest faith is in the fewest words;  
The turtles cannot sing, and yet they love  
True hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak:  
They hear and see and sigh, and then they break.*

- Sir Edward Dyer, England

## Prayer to our Lady of Guadalupe

### O Virgin of Guadalupe,

Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child. Help expectant parents to welcome from God the priceless gift of their child's life. Console parents who have lost that gift through abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing through the Divine Mercy of your Son. Teach us to cherish and to care for family and friends, until God calls them home.

Help us never to see others as burdens. Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

