

St. Mary of the Purification

230 Queen St E. Mount Forest, ON

N0G 2L3

(519) 323-1054

Dear *Confirmandi*,

I pray this finds you well.

If you have received this letter, it is because you are a Parishioner of *St. Mary of the Purification Church*, Mount Forest; *St. Thomas Church*, Harriston; or *St. Peter Church*, Ayton; and are of a sufficient age to discern your calling from God to the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the planning for the celebration of this Sacrament is well underway. Accordingly, **Sunday 24 May, 2026 at 3:00 PM** has been set as the date and time to celebrate this joyful occasion.

As pastor it is my responsibility to organise this event and ensure that you are adequately prepared for the reception of this most important Sacrament. In organising, both the Parish and School are working together to provide a meaningful and prayerful experience for you. In preparation, I offer you and your parents my full support. Your parents are the primary educators of your religious instruction, so please take every opportunity to discuss what this next step in your spiritual life means. Again, I strongly urge you to make full use of all the advantages you have been given.

As it is by your request that you are to receive this sacrament I am willing to accept your word at face value. If you feel you are ready to accept the rights and responsibilities that accompany *Confirmation* I will not question your decision. At the same time, I urge you to consider prayerfully your readiness to receive this sacrament. This is not something to be taken lightly. The Church is entrusting you with something very serious and has every confidence that you have what it takes to make a good integral decision for yourself; a decision that once made cannot be undone.

To help you understand what being ready means please consider the following:

- A person is eligible to receive *Confirmation* when she/he: has been baptised according to the Rites of the Catholic Church; has reached the appropriate age; and understands that *Confirmation* is the receiving of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It is provided for us as a gift that is made available to us through the saving work of Jesus in our lives and our world.
- A person is fully prepared for the reception of *Confirmation* when they appreciate the need for Sacramental Reconciliation (Confession), and seek it out on their own accord. This means that they understand that there is a deep connection between what they believe and how they live their lives. They must understand that should there be any disagreements between the two, changes need to be made in favour of the sacramental life. Furthermore, it is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we learn God's love and mercy is available to help at every step of life's journey.
- A person is even more prepared for the reception of *Confirmation* by regular (weekly) attendance at Mass. Because *Confirmation* is a Sacrament of Initiation, by which a person is invited to enter into the deepest mysteries of our Faith, its fruitfulness can only be expected by those who cooperate with the graces available to them at all times. Weekly participation at Mass is, by far, the best way to keep your faith alive. Please be reminded that even if you find that you have not been practicing this essential element of your faith you are always welcome to come back to the church and pick up where you left off.

Again I offer my full support and am most willing to discuss any questions you may have about your readiness. Please feel free to use the information given above to contact me with your parents' permission.

On the topic of **Sacramental Reconciliation**, it is a well-established tradition that a person intending to receive **Confirmation**, or any sacrament, should make an opportunity for Sacramental Reconciliation sometime before. The *Sacrament of Reconciliation* is held regularly between 5:30 and 6:30 PM every Tuesday at St. Mary of the Purification Church. It can also be booked by appoint (at a time that will works best for you).

In order to help you make a good confession it may be helpful if you:

- Understand the difference between right and wrong; good and evil, and the reality and danger of sin.
- Understand that your actions, both good and bad, have real life consequences and that you are accountable for them.
- Understand that God is patient with us for the sake of our salvation and that he desires to forgive the sins we confess and that we must confess them to a priest in order to be forgiven.
- Demonstrate sorrow for wrongs done and show a willingness to guard yourself from doing these things again.
- Demonstrate a willingness to do penance as a means of growing deeper into your relationship with God and that it is not punishment for sins or a way of paying for them.
- Understand that what is said between you and the Priest is under the *Seal of the Confessional* and will never be discussed again under any circumstances.

It is also helpful if you know an *Act of Contrition*. The one I am most fond of is "**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner**". Frequent recitation of this during prayer time is often beneficial.

Lastly, I ask you and your parents to take some time to fill out the **Registration** sheet that follows and return it to me as soon as possible. There is record keeping to be done and this information will help ensure that an accurate sacramental record is kept for you. If the registration form is not submitted it will be understood that it is your intention to **not** participate in the celebration planned for **24 May, 2026**.

The DEADLINE for registration is 3:00 PM Friday 01 May, 2026

If the dates given for the reception of these sacraments do not work for your family, please contact me so that we may discuss options. Once a child is prepared, they can receive the sacrament at the Easter Vigil with the permission of our Bishop. This year the Easter Vigil is to celebrated on the evening of Saturday 04 March, 2026. Please note if this option is chose the required material will need to be handed in well before the above deadline. You must contact me before selecting this option.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael Anderson P.P.

Confirmation Registration Form

(Please print in all fields)

Name of Confirmandi as it appears on their Baptismal Certificate:

_____ Age as of 01 January, 2026: _____

Name of Parent(s)/ Legal Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Church Attending: (Check One)

St. Mary (Mount Forest) _____ St. Thomas (Harriston) _____ St. Peter (Ayton) _____

Church of Baptism: (Check One)

St. Mary (Mount Forest) _____ St. Thomas (Harriston) _____ St. Peter (Ayton) _____

If you were not Baptised in our Parish, please provide a copy of your Baptismal Certificate with this registration form.

If you were Baptised in our Parish and have indicated the church of Baptism above, no further action is required.

Please Note: A copy of your Baptismal Certificate is required for registration. You may not participate in this celebration without proof of Baptism. To attain a copy of your Baptismal Certificate please contact the church at which you were baptised. The certificate should have the name and address of the church clearly displayed.

If you have not been Baptised in a Catholic church you will not be eligible for this Sacrament unless you are received into The Church by profession. If you wish to do this, please have a conversation about becoming Catholic with your parents and have them call me to discuss options.

If you are not Baptised, other arrangement will need to be made for you to be initiated into The Church. Please have your parents call me to discuss the possibilities.

Office Use Only

Verification of Baptism: (X) _____ Verified by: _____

Sponsor Registration

Name of Sponsor: _____

Church of Baptism*: _____

***A copy of the Sponsors Baptismal certificate is required for our records. Non-Catholic Christians and unbaptized persons may not be sponsors.**

Name of Child Being Sponsored: _____

Is the sponsor of this child their God Parent from Baptism? Yes: _____ No: _____

Role of the Sponsor:

The sponsor is to testify to the Faith of the candidate. They are chosen by the candidate, and must, in the judgment of the Pastor, be qualified to carry out the proper liturgical function.

Qualifications of a Sponsor are as follows:

1. Be designated by the Candidate or the Pastor and have the intention and aptitude to carry out their responsibilities
2. Be mature enough to fulfill their responsibilities. A person 16 years or older is presumed to have the required maturity.
3. Be initiated in the Catholic Church with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and be living a life consistent with the Faith and the role of a God Parent.
4. Be neither the father or mother of the Candidate.
5. Be in good standing with the Catholic Church.

The DEADLINE for registration is 3:00 PM Friday 01 May, 2026