



ARCHDIOCESE of KINGSTON

6 August 2023

The Solemnity of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Dear Families,

Grace and peace to you. How blessed we are by the Holy Spirit!

In St. Matthew's gospel we read the account of Jesus and the Children. The "people brought their little children to him, for him to lay his hands on them and pray." (Matt 19:13) Parents and grandparents alike, brought their little ones to meet Christ and receive his blessing.

Not many years ago, you brought your daughter or son to your parish and requested the Sacrament of Baptism. In the waters of Baptism, they received a second birth as a child of God. The Holy Spirit poured out the saving graces of Our Redeemer. As your child reaches the natural age for the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and Reconciliation we are charged with the sacred task of preparing their hearts and minds to celebrate the Sacraments with knowledge, understanding and faith.

"The family is a domestic church, that is, a community where faith, hope and love are taught and lived by word and example in union with the larger family of the parish church." **Together with the pastor and faith community, parents and families serve as the primary catechist for the immediate preparation of sacraments.** Parents have been entrusted by Christ and His Church with the task of teaching their children how to live the Christian life. You are your child's primary educator in matters of faith. The rationale for this policy is outlined in the Sacrament Preparation for School Aged Children: The Role of Families, Parish and Catholic Schools. You will find the full text of the policy on our website: [www.https://romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/](https://romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/)

The sacraments are both a personal and communal encounter with Christ. The family's active participation in the preparation provides a unique opportunity for parents to engage spiritually with their children. "Daily, you model and witness to the love, mercy, and grace of our God." The schools will continue to teach the religious education curriculum but the catechesis for the sacraments is the privilege and obligation of the faith community particularly parents and guardians.

The local parish, together with the Pastor, will offer their warm welcome, care, and prayerful support and direction for you as a family. The sacraments graft us to Christ and unite us to the faith community and its sacramental life. Weekly participation in the Holy Eucharist, on the Lord's Day, is the best preparation for the sacraments. It is our privilege to accompany you in the preparation of your children for the Sacraments of Initiation. We remind all parents and guardians that you are qualified, able, blessed and called to prepare your son or daughter by your love, faith, sincerity and especially by your God given privilege of having your child entrusted to you by Him.

Prayerful best wishes,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston

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