



April 1, 2026

To: Parish Priests, Parish Life Directors, Catechetics/Religious Education Coordinators, Confirmation preparation teams, Confirmation Catechists

From: Koreen Hrizai, Coordinator of Catechetics and Adult Faith Growth

Topic: Information regarding the Celebration of Confirmation 2026

I am happy to provide you with this 2026 package of information which includes some important details for you and the candidates to have a most meaningful celebration of the sacrament. Please find included in this package:

- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions
- ❖ Some details for the celebration of Confirmation with Archbishop Albert LeGatt presiding
- ❖ Sample letter to Candidates/Parents to assist in writing a letter to Archbishop LeGatt
- ❖ Short biography of Archbishop Albert LeGatt. D.D. and heraldry (coat of arms)
- ❖ A copy of the First Reading Second Reading and Gospel Reading to be used (except Sundays & Solemnities) are included 1st Reading Joel 2.23a.26;30a 2nd Reading Saint Paul's letter to the Romans 5.1-2. 5-8 Gospel: John 14.23-26 *Note: The Psalm may be chosen from the Rite Book pages 55-59.*

I encourage you and your parish community to keep these candidates in your prayers and to support and encourage them and their families; not only in the days leading up to Confirmation, but throughout their lifelong journey of discipleship. As we journey together through this year dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi, I offer you his simple and enduring greeting: *Pace e Bene* "peace and all that is good". In his life and witness, St. Francis reminds us that the Gospel is lived most powerfully through humility, fraternity, and joyful service. I also invite you to continue engaging in meaningful synodal conversations and to become familiar with the [Final Document of the Synod on Synodality](#). Let us strive to be a listening Church, one that responds to the call to "Enlarge the space of your tent" (Is 54:2), walking humbly and authentically in hope alongside all.

May Christ, through the Holy Spirit, continue to reveal the boundless mystery of God's infinite love, filling us with hope and strengthening us to share that hope generously in all we say and do.

Yours in Faith,

 Koreen Hrizai



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface 2026

Do Confirmation candidates write a letter to the Archbishop and what should it say?

During their time of preparation, the writing of a letter to the bishop is highly recommended. As noted by Archbishop Albert LeGatt (September 2021), this step allows confirmands to express personally why they desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Attached is a template letter for catechists or coordinators to adapt, along with guidance to support candidates in writing their letters. It is recommended that catechists, pastors, or coordinators collect all letters and submit them together with a cover letter to the Office of Archbishop LeGatt at least two weeks prior to the Confirmation date.

Digital submissions are also accepted and due at least two weeks in advance.. Please scan all letters and send them in a single email from the parish (not individual candidates), clearly identifying the parish, to khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca.

Attn: Archbishop LeGatt, D.D. Re: Confirmation Letters

151 de la Cathédrale Avenue Winnipeg, MB R2H 0H6

The cover letter should indicate the parish, some description of the confirmation group and a brief description of preparation. It may include personal witnessing or examples of growth in the candidates, families, or catechists through the process.

Does the Archbishop sign the certificates given for Confirmation?

Certificates may be signed by Archbishop LeGatt. Certificates (fifteen or less) may be signed at the parish just prior to the Confirmation Mass. A larger number of certificates (sixteen or more) should be sent to Archbishop LeGatt with the letters two weeks before with a contact name and number. Archbishop LeGatt's Executive Assistant, Claire David, will contact you by phone when the certificates are signed and may be picked up at the reception desk 151 de la Cathédrale Avenue. Please ensure the contact's name and number is included.

I heard that Confirmation candidates visit the archbishop, please tell me more about this.

We have reinstated the in-person visits of the candidates grouped together with other parishes. Your parish has received the date assigned, if you require some candidates to attend another date please plan with Koreen Hrizai in advance. It is important to note that candidates must be accompanied as they are minors, this is not a drop off gathering. For French candidates, please contact Diane Bélanger dbelanger@archsaintboniface.ca directly.

What about readings for the Confirmation Mass, how do we know which readings will be proclaimed?

The readings for Confirmation Masses are included as a second attachment. Readings on Sundays or solemnities will be the readings of the day. Please take time with the candidates and their families to reflect on the readings prior to the Mass. They will also be uploaded in the Catechetics section of the archdiocesan website. The psalm options are in the Rite Book.



Will Archbishop LeGatt use the sprinkling rite during the Confirmation Mass?

Blessing the assembly with holy water: His Grace will respect what the priest has done at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, i.e.

- If the priest has blessed the assembly, His Grace will also bless the assembly either by walking through the aisle or simply from the sanctuary, depending on the desire of the priest and the person who is coordinating this celebration.
- If the priest did not bless the assembly, His Grace will also not do it.

Therefore, if the sprinkling rite is preferred, please have holy water in a vessel and aspergillum (sprinkling tool) prepared and available.

How should the candidates dress for the Confirmation Mass?

Candidates are expected to dress in a clean and appropriate manner to gathering within the Christian community. In some parishes the use of albs or gowns has been the practice. This practice may continue as is with the suggestion that albs or gowns be white in colour in remembrance of the baptismal garment. This is also a visible way to emphasis the connection of baptism and confirmation.

Will there be an entrance processional?

Yes, an entrance processional may take place in the usual manner of the parish. Candidates may be part of the processional or may be in the pews, it is at the preference of the parish.

The liturgical procession follows this order:

- Processional Crucifix or Cross
- (Optional) Candidates (candidates may go to the pew or remain and bow in unison to the altar with the celebrant, this should be determined prior)
- Book of the Gospels or Lectionary (Book of Gospels carried by deacon or Lectionary by lector)
- Concelebrating priest(s)
- Bishop, with deacon(s), if present

Is there a seating preference for the Confirmation candidates?

Seating will vary depending on the architecture of the church. During the homily Archbishop LeGatt will dialogue with the candidates so seating should be conducive of this.

What about the use of masks?

Public Health orders at the time of preparation of this document do not require the wearing of masks for indoor spaces. Please follow public health orders, if in place. Candidates, sponsors, parents, and others may choose to wear a mask if they wish.

Will pictures or video be taken?

This is a prayerful celebration and all those gathered are invited and entitled to engage fully without distractions. During the Mass pictures and/or video will only be permitted by one person designated by the parish. This person should be available to meet briefly with



Archbishop LeGatt before the Confirmation Mass. Immediately following the Mass, catechists or coordinators will organize one group photo and one individual photo for each candidate with Archbishop LeGatt. This must be done in a timely and organized fashion. If a confirmand is not comfortable with a group photo that must be respected as usual. One photo per candidate with Archbishop Albert will be permitted.

Is there a gathering planned after the Confirmation Mass?

A gathering afterwards in the parish hall may take place. Archbishop LeGatt may or may not be able to attend the gathering depending on the demands of the archbishop's schedule.

How will the laying of hands take place?

Candidates will stand in their designated area. The bishop and concelebrants will pray the laying of hands from a suitable distance.

For the anointing with chrism, how will this proceed?

Candidates with sponsors will come to Archbishop Albert for the anointing with chrism oil. Sponsors place their right hand over the right shoulder of the candidate. For the anointing with the sacred chrism, His Grace will touch the candidate's forehead. Archbishop Albert will dip his thumb in the Sacred Chrism oil and anoint the candidate in the usual manner. The candidates will be invited to grasp the crosier at the beginning of this part of the rite.

Sponsor (with right hand on right shoulder of candidate) : " I present <NAME OF CANDIDATE> "

Candidate reaches for and holds the crosier with Archbishop Albert

Archbishop Albert: "<NAME OF CANDIDATE> Be sealed with the Holy Spirit." (while anointing)

Candidate: "Amen."

Followed by the anointing a verbal exchange of words for the sign of peace will take place.

Archbishop Albert: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

Candidate: "And with your spirit."

*****How should be we proceed for the Communion Rite?**

Please proceed in the usual manner.

These commonly asked questions and answers are meant to assist you as you prepare within your individual parishes. Any specific questions or comments may be directed to the Koreen Hrizai, Coordinator, Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, Office of Catechetics and Adult Faith Growth.

Following are some details for the celebration of Confirmation within the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface with Archbishop Albert LeGatt presiding:

How is Confirmation celebrated?

Confirmation will be celebrated within the Mass. Please refer to the **Rite of Confirmation**, a copy should be in your parish, or you may contact the Office of Catechetics and Adult Faith Growth for the English sector.

Liturgy of the Word

If confirmation is celebrated at a Sunday Mass, the Sunday readings are used. If confirmation is celebrated at another time, the bishop may choose from a large and rich selection of readings for celebrating confirmation. It is recommended that families and candidates study and pray with the readings that will be used in the celebration. You may receive the reading references from your catechist, coordinator, or parish priest during your preparation time once they are sent by Archbishop LeGatt.

Presentation of the Candidates

The celebration begins to focus on confirmation right after the gospel. Someone from the parish presents the candidates (refer to the “Rite of Confirmation”). If the group is not too large their names are announced. The candidates are asked to stand and remain standing until all candidates’ names are called.

Homily or instruction

Archbishop LeGatt then gives a homily, in the form of a dialogue with the candidates. *Many resources are available on our archdiocesan website to supplement the Confirmation program resources.*

Renewal of baptismal promises

After the homily, the candidates are asked to renew their baptismal promises. They might remember doing this at the Easter Vigil, at Easter Sunday Mass, or when infants are baptized at a regular Sunday Mass. It is done here to highlight the link between Baptism and Confirmation and Eucharist. The candidates will be asked to stand. Together the candidates answer, “I do” clearly and confidently to each question.

Laying on of hands

The bishop (or priest) then invites everyone present to pray with him on behalf of the candidates and everyone prays silently for a short period of time. Then he and any other priests extend their hands over the group and pray for them. The prayer asks the Holy Spirit to guide the candidates and asks for seven special spiritual gifts, known as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Refer to the “Rite of Confirmation”.



Anointing with chrism

When the candidates come forward to the bishop, their sponsor and families accompany them. Next the sponsor places their right hand above their candidates' right shoulder and clearly tells the bishop the candidate's name (name tags clearly visible may also be used). Candidates may be reminded to make eye contact and be sure that their response is clearly audible throughout the ceremony.

Note: the rite permits singing during the anointing. However, consideration should be given to silence so that all the faithful gathered may hear the words as candidates are anointed. Soft instrumental music may accompany the anointing. A hymn reflecting 'anointing' may follow immediately after the anointing has been completed.

Sign of peace

Finally, the archbishop (or priest) says the word that Jesus said to his disciples the first time he saw them after he rose from the dead, when he breathed in them and bestowed the Holy Spirit on them saying, "Peace be with you." The candidate will answer, "And with your spirit." The candidates will receive instructions prior from the catechist, coordinator, or pastor about when to return to their seats.

General intercessions

The community then prays for the needs of the candidates and of the world using the same form as at Sunday Mass.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The liturgy of the Eucharist begins. At communion time the reception of communion will follow that which is practical to the seating arrangements in the church.



SAMPLE FOR LETTER (Copy and paste text, edit for your own community onto your own letterhead)

Dear Candidates, Sponsors and parents,

The candidate seeking to be confirmed in the faith is encouraged to write a letter to Archbishop LeGatt.

The points that should be considered when writing this letter are as outlined below:

1. The letter should be neatly handwritten or clearly printed; it may also be typed. If typed, candidates are welcome to include simple graphics or photos to help personalize their letter.

The purpose of the letter is to reflect and share with Archbishop Albert why they wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is also an opportunity for him to come to know the candidate and their relationship with Jesus. Candidates might consider sharing how they live their faith in daily life, their experience of prayer (including favorite prayers), what they have appreciated in catechism, Mass, or religion class, or a Scripture passage or story that is meaningful to them and why.

Above all, the letter should be sincere and come from the heart. Candidates are welcome to discuss their ideas with their parents, sponsor, or catechist as they prepare to write.

2. The letter can be written in either English or French, whichever you prefer. It should not exceed two pages. You should address it: Dear Archbishop Albert LeGatt, or Dear Archbishop LeGatt, or Your Grace.

3. Some ideas to help you get started...

- Share about your relationship with Jesus and your faith. Why is Confirmation important to you personally? Who is Jesus for you? Why do you desire to be confirmed? How do you hope to live your faith now and in the future?
- You might also reflect on the gifts God has given you to share with your family, friends, parish, and the world. You can draw from the Gifts of the Spirit (see Isaiah 11:2–3; Catechism of the Catholic Church #1831) or the Fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22–23; CCC #1832), and name other qualities or strengths you recognize in yourself that reflect the life of Jesus.
- Finally, consider sharing your hopes and dreams: how you want to live as a baptized Christian, and your hopes for the future of the Church and the world.

4. You may want to thank him for reading your letter, or for the visit at the Cathédrale (you may thank him for praying for you or ask him to pray for you or someone you know (you may tell him you will pray for him or that you have prayed for him!))

Please give the letters to me by the next meeting date so that I may give them to Archbishop LeGatt with the letter I have describing our group.

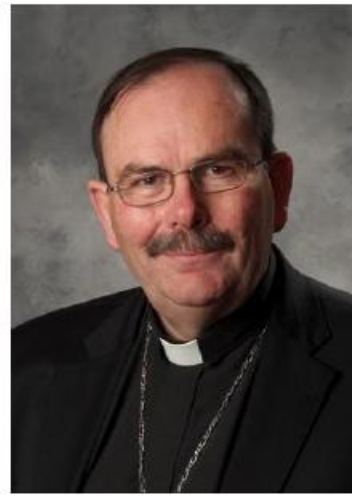
It is my hope that if you have any questions or concerns you will contact me or Father. The church community is here to support and encourage you to live out your call to Christ in baptism and spread the Gospel message as parents and young people.

The journey of faith we share leads us to witness in our parish community and our homes the goodness of God and peace of Christ to each other. May this time of preparation within your family give each of you the strength and desire to continue to seek out ways to deepen your own journey of faith. May it bring you greater awareness of the Holy Spirit ever present in our midst.

Yours in Faith,



Short Biography: Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, D.D. Archbishop of Saint Boniface



Most Reverend Albert LeGatt was born on May 6, 1953 in Melfort, SK, to Joseph and Emma LeGatt and attended school at St. Brieux (1959-1967) and at Le Collège Notre Dame, St. Louis, SK (1967-1971).

He studied at Le Collège de St. Boniface (University of Manitoba) obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (with majors in Philosophy and French) in 1974.

For the next three years he served as a CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) volunteer in Ghana, Africa, teaching French in a secondary school.

He entered Le Grand Séminaire de Québec in 1977 pursuing studies in theology at l'Université Laval. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 1983 by Bishop Blaise Morand in St. Brieux, SK. He served as assistant pastor, then pastor in a number of parishes in Prince Albert (1983-2000).

He pursued his studies in Pastoral Liturgy at the University Notre Dame, Southbend, Indiana, USA (2000-2001). He was involved in the Diocese of Prince Albert as co-ordinator of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Director of Vocations and Consultor.

He was named Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatoon on July 26, 2001 by Pope John Paul II and ordained on October 5, 2001 in St. Patrick's Church, Saskatoon, by Bishop Blaise Morand. He has served on the Catholic Aboriginal Council, the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy and the Episcopal Commission for Catechesis of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. He currently serves on the Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue.

On July 3, 2009 he was appointed Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, Manitoba.



Heraldry Description of the Coat of Arms of His Grace Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, D.D. Archbishop of Saint Boniface



The **Colour Blue** evokes the Virgin Mary, principal patroness of the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It also represents the blue prairie skies.

The **Ermine** is found in the coat of arms of Brittany, the home of Archbishop Albert LeGatt's ancestors. This represents the heritage of Christian faith and Breton culture passed on from generation to generation.

The **Sheaf of Wheat** highlights Christ's teaching, *"Unless a grain of wheat dies, it remains only a single grain, but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest"* (John 12:24). It also highlights the Church's Eucharist wherein the scattered grains are brought together and made one bread to be shared so the Church itself might be brought together from the ends of the earth into the Kingdom. It also represents the prairie

provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Archbishop LeGatt's early farm background.

The **White Band** at the middle of the coat of arms represents the Red River. It was on the banks of the Red River that Bishop Joseph Norbert Provencher, first bishop of Saint-Boniface, established the first Catholic mission in the Canadian West. It also represents the waters of baptism and the abundance of new life in Christ given to us through this sacrament wherein we are made members of the Body of Christ forever.

The **Dove** is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, source of the Church's unity in its faith, hope and love (Ephesians 4:2-6).

The Motto: **Ut Unum Sint, "That They May Be One" (John 17:22)** highlights the prayer of Christ and the ministry of the Archbishop called to be servant and presider of the Church's unity in Christ. This motto was chosen at his ordination to the priesthood in June 19, 1983 and has always guided his ministry.

The **Hat with Ten Tassels** on either side of the Metropolitan Cross is an emblem of the hierarchical status of the archiepiscopal office.

The **Pallium** is the sign of the archiepiscopal ministry in union with the Holy See of Rome.



First Reading Joel 2.23a, 26-30a

I will pour out my spirit on my servants..

A reading from the book of the Prophet Joel.

O children of Zion,
be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God.
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, I am your God, and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your elders shall dream dreams,
and your young people shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth.

The word of the Lord.



Second Reading Romans 5.1-2.5-8

*God's love has been poured into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace
in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
And hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person –
though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.



*The Gospel Reading **John 14.23-26***
The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our home with him.
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
and the word that you hear is not mine,
but is from the Father who sent me.
I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.