

*St. John Cantius Parish  
4415 Almond Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19137*

*Phone 215-535-6667*

*Fax 215-535-7107*

*www.stjohncantiusparish.org*

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Dear Parents,

Greetings in the Lord!

In baptism, your child was claimed by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, became a child of God and a member of the Catholic Church. As your child grew they learned of the love of God in the "first school of faith, the family." As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason, the family home is rightly called 'the domestic church,' a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity" (No. 1666).

When your child became of school age, however, the Church provided religious instruction through the parish religious education program or Catholic school. This formation in faith includes sacramental preparation for First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The primary object of this catechesis is to put your child into an intimate communion with Jesus Christ by knowing, loving and serving Him in this world to be happy with Him for all eternity. This education in conjunction with the domestic church is more than simply learning about Jesus; it is a spiritual formation which challenges your child to become a model of the faith and a disciple of Christ for their lifetime. The Sacrament of Confirmation gives grace for the spiritual journey.

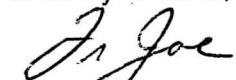
Over the past two years, the Archdiocese conducted a study regarding the grades for Confirmation. Overwhelmingly, bishops, pastors, principals and directors of religious education noted there is a much better understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation by older grade school students.

**On January 18, 2018, the Archbishop determined with the Council of Priests, that the new grades for the Sacrament of Confirmation are 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have determined that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered in the 7<sup>th</sup> level to children attending PREP. Children will be required to attend PREP until they reach the 7<sup>th</sup> level when they will be prepared for Confirmation. The sacrament of Confirmation will not be conferred upon children who have not attended all PREP levels.**

**Therefore, beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, we will confirm in LEVEL 7.**

As pastor, it is my desire for your child to be spiritually equipped to face the challenges of this world and bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am confident that this change, with your familial support, will allow for a deeper apprenticeship in the faith and stronger relationship with God for your child.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Joseph J. Zingaro  
Pastor