

2-YEAR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASSES REQUIREMENTS AND TIMELINE

Confirmation preparation is a 2-year process of developing a deeper understanding of the faith before the 6-hour "immediate preparation" for receiving the sacrament the following fall.

The following guidelines are to support you, as parents, the primary educators of the faith for your children. This information and all the forms needed are also available on the parish website. Please call the Faith Formation Office if you have any questions.

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

- ~Attending parent/child meetings and signing the Confirmation Covenant
- ~Regular attendance at Sunday Mass
- ~Regular attendance at faith formation classes (no more than 2 excused absences and an email or phone call to the office explaining any absence)
- ~Completion of the Chosen workbook, levels 1 and 2 (7th and 8th grade)
- ~Completion of 20 hours of community service with the service form and reflection completed (service must always be for NO compensation and should include service to the parish)
- ~Research and completion of the saint report, following guidelines on the saint report form
- ~Completion of the sponsor form (follow the guidelines for a sponsor and write a paragraph explaining why you have chosen this person) and submit a Sponsor certificate.

TIMELINE

Level 1 (7th Grade)

~One parent will be expected to attend a short meeting with the confirmand at the end of the first day of class

~Parents and confirmands must sign a Confirmation Covenant on the first day of class

~Community service may begin in 7th grade

Level 2 (8th Grade)

~One parent will be expected to attend a short meeting with the confirmand at the end of the first day of class

~**March:** Hand in the Saint Report (choose the saint you will be taking the name of at your Confirmation)

~**April:** (A sponsor should have been chosen) A sponsor form and certificate along with paragraph explaining WHY the sponsor has been chosen should be submitted

~**May:** A reflection about your preparation and why you want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation needs to be completed and submitted to the office

IMMEDIATE PREPARATION (9th Grade)

~**September:** All Works of Mercy (Community Service) hours and a reflection about your service experience must be completed and brought to your first class meeting.

~**Retreat:** 3 hours of Adoration (please see retreat expectations)

CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME

You have been called by name. (Isaiah 43:1)

At Confirmation, you will choose a saint's name that will become your patron and a role model for you to follow all through life. As Catholics, we believe in the Communion of Saints so we are all spiritually united with each other and those who have died and gone to heaven. At your baptism your parents chose your name, but now *you* have the opportunity to choose a saint that you can emulate and ask to intercede for you. The saint you choose should have significance to you, and also have a holiness you would like to have as you go forward on your lifelong faith journey.

On another paper, write a report about your saint (at least three paragraphs and 200 words). It must be typed and turned in hard copy to your Confirmation teacher by the due date. Your essay must include the following points:

1. The name of the saint and the reasons why you chose this saint's name
2. A brief biography about this saint (at least one paragraph)
3. What this saint did that inspired you and why you would want to emulate this saint

WORKS OF MERCY

(COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS)

Works of Mercy are the good works we do to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Corporal Works of Mercy are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy are: admonish (correct) the sinner, instruct (teach) the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, and pray for the living and the dead.

Complete the "Works of Mercy Log of Service Hours." Twenty hours of service is the minimum, with five hours performed at St. Michael's parish. (Keep your eyes peeled. There is plenty to volunteer for throughout the year at the parish. The pasta dinner night and the parish picnic to name a few) All work must be VOLUNTEER with no compensation for the service. There must also be the signature of the supervisor for the service performed.

Write a reflection about your service. You may choose to write a general reflection about the experience of giving to others or write about how a particular service you performed affected you. Your reflection must be a paragraph of at least 100 words. Attach your reflection to your service log and return them to your teacher at the first class of immediate preparation in the fall.

SPONSOR FORM

According to the *Code of Canon Law*, "As far as possible the person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to make sure that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament."

A sponsor has a great honor and responsibility to be a witness of Christ and help you throughout your lifelong faith journey. When you are choosing a sponsor, you should keep the following guidelines in mind:

- A sponsor must be **actively** practicing the faith and a registered member of a parish
- A sponsor, if married, must be in a validly recognized marriage in the Catholic Church
- A sponsor should set an example as a good practicing Catholic
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old and a confirmed Catholic
- Only one sponsor may be chosen. If a sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation Mass, another person (by-proxy) may act as a substitute. A parent may NOT be a by-proxy or a sponsor.
- A letter or sponsor certificate needs to be signed by the sponsor's pastor showing they are active members of their church.

Write a paragraph neatly typed, (minimum 100 words) explaining **why** you have chosen this person as your sponsor. Be sure to include the following information: sponsor's **name and parish** and **relationship to you**.

RETREAT EXPECTATIONS

We are very blessed at St. Michael's to have a church that is open and available to us all day and into the evening, 7 days a week all year. People can come and sit quietly to pray with Christ in the Eucharist at any time. In lieu of a retreat and in order to prepare yourself spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will be making a "personal retreat" by spending time with Jesus in prayer and adoration.

You will receive a gift of an adoration guideline booklet, and for three hours between now and November, you should go to adoration and pray. **It is imperative that you maintain complete silence!!** You should make your visits with an adult (parent, grandparent, parent of a friend, etc.) at any time convenient for you and your family. Use your adoration book as a guide for your private prayer time.

During each visit that you make, keep a log of your experience. On one of your visits you must go to confession and write down the date you attended. Complete the form for adoration visits and submit it to the office by October 29th.

PLEASE TAKE THIS TIME VERY SERIOUSLY TO CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT STEP THAT YOU ARE TAKING, WHEN YOU ARE FULLY INITIATED INTO THE FAITH AT YOUR CONFIRMATION AND WHEN YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE.