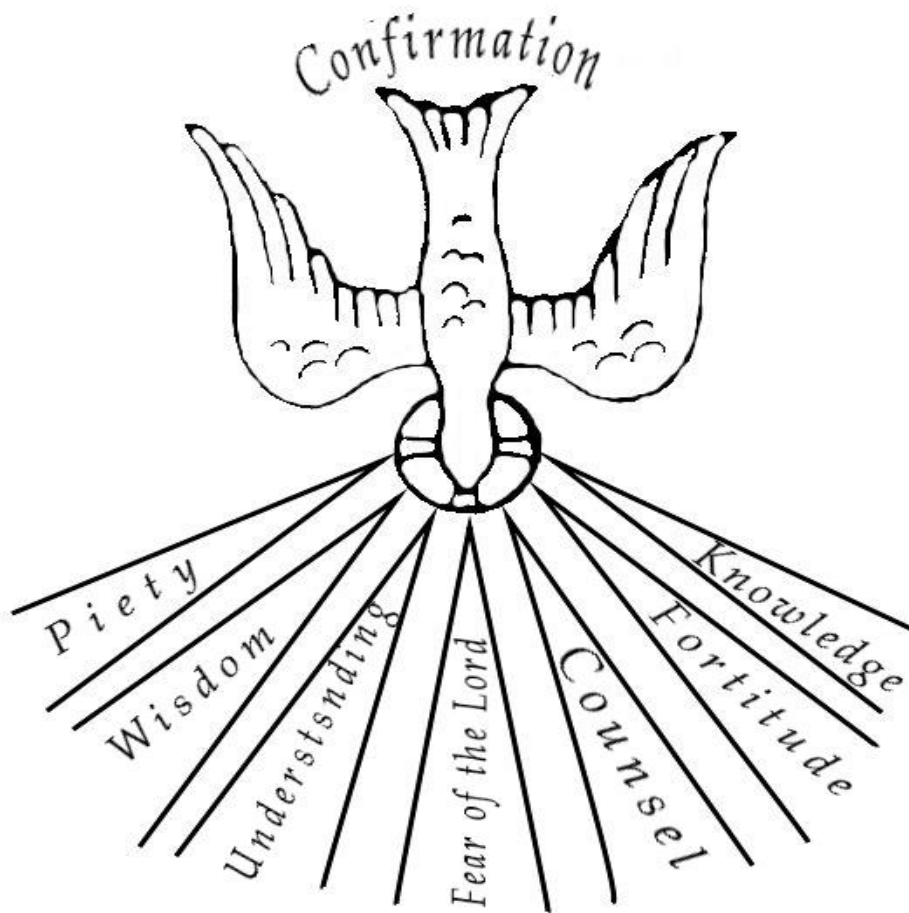


St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Confirmation/Middle School Youth Ministry

Confirmation Parent Information Packet 8th Grade

2020-2021



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church Confirmation/Middle School Youth Ministry

Welcome!

All of us on staff at St. Catherine of Siena want to welcome you, your Confirmation candidate, and your entire family to the second year of the Confirmation preparation process! Your teen has now completed their first year of preparation and is going to continue learning about their faith, along with actively serving others and getting to know their sponsor.

With that being said we are here to help with that process as much as possible! We want to make sure that we are providing all the necessary tools, experiences, and communication to make this as meaningful of a process as possible. Please never hesitate to contact myself either by phone call or email to help in any way I can.

Within this packet of information you will find various important pieces of information that you will want to keep track of throughout the entire year. Please make sure you take the time to cover this information with your Confirmation candidate and store it in a place where you both can locate it. The following information will be covered:

- Confirmation Requirements Outlined
- Cost/Schedule of Sessions
- Service Component Explained
- The Confirmation Retreat
- Candidate/Sponsor Activities
- Choosing a Confirmation Name
- Confirmation Interview
- Confirmation Rehearsal
- Confirmation Mass

May the blessings of our loving Heavenly Father be poured out upon your candidate and your entire family during this process. I am so excited to embark on this journey towards Confirmation with each Candidate.

Many Blessings,

Ashley Blank

Ashley Blank
Coordinator of Faith Formation
607-257-2493/ ashley.blank@dor.org

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CONFIRMATION PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

The Confirmation preparation process at St. Catherine of Siena contains multiple parts in order to help the candidate experience as many aspects of faith as possible. The preparation for this sacrament is a two-year catechetical process. The requirements to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation are as follows:

1. Required to be a registered member of St. Catherine of Siena Church and registered for Middle School Youth Ministry (these are two separate forms).
2. Must be in *at least* 7th grade and have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, and First Eucharist.
3. Attend Mass weekly.
4. Attend the required topic sessions outlined by the Diocese of Rochester for 7th and 8th Grade.
5. Community Service – Integrated in Middle School Youth Ministry and/or special Service Projects outside of the MSYM sessions.
6. Attend a Confirmation Retreat – Required for 7th and 8th graders
7. Perform a Confirmation Interview – Spring of 8th grade year
8. Write a letter to Bishop Matano stating their desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation – Spring of 8th grade year
9. Participate in some Sponsor/Candidate activities, outside of session times, with the Candidate's Sponsor. There will be a total of two activities to complete throughout the candidate's 7th grade year and four activities during the candidate's 8th grade year.

These requirements are more clearly laid out throughout this packet and in the Diocesan Brochure.



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COST

The Middle School Youth Ministry fee of \$70 will cover the costs for Confirmation preparation. A fee of \$40 will be required for 8th graders for their retreat.

YEAR 2 - TOPICS AND SESSION DATES

The Diocese of Rochester has provided us a list of 14 topics that must be covered this year. These topics have been implemented into the Middle School Youth Ministry Sunday sessions from 1:00-2:30pm and 4:00-5:30pm. Below are the required session dates for the Confirmation topics. There are other session dates scheduled throughout the year that are not Confirmation topics that focus on service, social, community, and advocacy. *We encourage our Confirmation candidates to attend all of the MSYM sessions, not just the required Confirmation sessions*

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Session Date</u>
Beginning the Journey	October 11 th
God as the Source	November 8 th
Made in His Image – Called to Protect	December 6 th
Salvation History	December 13 th
Divine Revelation – Faith and Reason	January 10 th
Mission of Christ	February 7 th
Foundation of the Church	February 21 st
Choosing a Sponsor	March 7 th
Anointing and Last Rites	March 21 st
The Sacraments	April 25 th
Baptism	May 16 th
Power of Reconciliation	June 26 th

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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SESSIONS:

- Confirmation candidates are required to attend/cover all topics that have been mandated by the Diocese. If they are ill, or are unable to attend a session, you must contact Ashley Blank to receive questions about the topic session. The questions must be completed by the candidate. *Attendance will be taken at every session.*
- PLEASE try to have your candidate to the sessions on time. If we are unable to start on time, we will be unable to end on time. According to the diocese, if a candidate is more than 15 minutes late to the session, they will be considered absent from that topic and it must be made up.
- I understand that life happens, and there may be other activities that impede the youth either being to the sessions on time or prevent them from attending. Please talk with Ashley Blank about the scenarios. Each scenario will be discussed and we make decisions based on an individual basis.
- We are asking the parents to sign up to assist in *at least* one Middle School Youth Ministry Session for the 2020-2021 year. Ashley Blank will send out a Google Sheet for sign-up if we are able to gather in-person for outdoor or, eventually indoor, activities and sessions.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHY COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK IS NECESSARY:

- Throughout Scripture we are called to love our neighbor and stand up for justice as well as peace. Since service and justice are so important to who we are as Catholic Christians, performing service work is essential to our lives. Therefore, we ask that each candidate takes his/her service work seriously and as a priority.
- It is important to keep in mind that service to others isn't something that we do "to check it off our list" rather it is something we do because we know that the presence of Jesus is in all persons and in all of God's creation.

HOW MUCH TIME IS NEEDED TO BE COMPLETED AND BY WHEN:

- There is no set amount of service hours required by the diocese.
- St. Catherine of Siena will provide opportunities to participate in service projects within the Middle School Youth Ministry sessions and opportunities for service work outside of the MSYM sessions (i.e. – Loaves and Fishes, Salvation Army, etc).



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SPONSOR-CANDIDATE ACTIVITIES

WHAT ARE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR-CANDIDATE ACTIVITIES:

- In order to help the Confirmation candidate and sponsor become comfortable talking about their faith with each other we have created some activities that create discussion.
- The activities can be done in-person, over the phone, Facetime, or Skype.
- The activities will also help to dig deeper into topics that are discussed in formation classes allowing candidates the opportunity to fuller understand their Catholic faith.

WHEN ARE THE SPONSOR-CANDIDATE ACTIVITIES DUE:

- The Confirmation candidates and sponsors will have plenty of time to complete the activities. This allows the candidate and sponsor ample amount of time to get together and discuss these questions.
 - The goal is for candidates and sponsors to get together and spend time together throughout the course of the preparation process in order to strengthen their relationship.
- Candidates and Sponsors will need to complete four activities throughout the candidates 8th grade year.
- Activity Packets will be handed out at the beginning of the school year.
- Sponsor packets will be mailed to them at the beginning of the school year.
- Candidate packets should be completed and handed in by April 25th.

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CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Our faith tradition offers countless examples of people who encounter God and are given a new name (Abram becomes Abraham, Simon becomes Peter...). The Sacrament of Confirmation offers us a new opportunity to take on a name of faith. As such, all those preparing to receive the sacrament will take on a saint's name as they continue living for Christ. Saints are models for us, and candidates should choose a saint that will inspire them. Confirmation names must be of canonized saints (not "blessed" ...), and it is perfectly acceptable for a candidate to use his/her own name or baptismal name for Confirmation. Please take time to investigate the lives of different saints and identify ways you can emulate your saint in daily life.

To decide on your new name, spend some time reading about the saints and decided which one you would like to imitate. You can research online. There are tons of saint's websites. If one intrigues you, read more about him/her and decide if that one is right for you and you connect to. Use the follow questions to help you understand a saint and their life.

1. Where did the saint live and what time period?
2. What was more intriguing about the saint's life?
3. What is the saint a patron of?
4. What is your saint most known for?
5. What would you like to imitate about this saint?



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CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Confirmation Retreat Dates:

- 8th grade candidates will participate in a retreat this year. This retreat will take place on Saturday, March 27th..
- The retreat will run from 10:00am – 4:30pm. A pizza lunch will be served at 12:30pm and is part of the retreat fee.
- Holy Mass will be celebrated at 5:00pm. We encourage parents and families to join us for this celebration.

What To Bring:

- Comfortable, casual clothes. (jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, tennis shoes, etc.)
- Any medications that they may need during the retreat will need to be labeled and given to an adult leader at retreat.

Not To Bring:

- Spending money- All meals will be provided. Participants will not need to buy anything.
- Valuable items- do not bring anything you don't want to get damaged or misplaced. You are responsible for your own belongings
- More information will be provided as we get closer to the retreat date.

Important Reminders:

- **PARTICIPATION:** Participants will not be allowed to leave during the retreat. Once participants are dropped off, they will be expected to stay for the entire duration of the retreat.
- **CLOTHING:** Anyone who is wearing immodest clothing will be asked to change. Dress comfortably, but please cover up!
- **CELL PHONES/ IPODS:** **Participants will NOT be allowed to use cell phones, iPods,** or other electronics during the retreat. A participant may use his/her cell phone only if permission is given by an adult leader. This is to ensure participants are not distracted during important times of the retreat.

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CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

What is The Confirmation Interview?

- We will take a few minutes in the weeks leading up to the Sacrament of Confirmation, during the candidate's 8th grade year, to sit down with each one of the candidates in order to talk about the preparation process they have gone through. This gives us the ability to know where candidates are at and whether they are truly ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- In order to help ease the nerves of candidates we will mail the interview questions to allow each candidate the chance to review and to fully prepare. Reviewing the questions with sponsors is another great way to help strengthen the candidate-sponsor relationship.

The Basic Details:

- Interviews will take place in the spring of 8th grade, around a month prior to Confirmation. Dates will be sent out once we receive the date of the Celebration of Confirmation from the Diocese of Rochester.
- Parents and Candidates will receive a list of dates and times available to schedule an interview. The candidate will be expected to call the Parish Office and schedule their interview by the designated deadline.
- Interviews will be performed by Ashley Blank
- Interviews will be held at the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center.

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PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW

We invite you to reflect on the following questions that will be part of the interviews.

Please note – these are not questions that have a right or wrong answer that you need to practice for. In fact, **honest answers are the correct answers**. Your true responses will help you reflect on your readiness for the sacrament and assess what help you might need from your family, your sponsor and the parish staff.

Interview for Sacrament of Confirmation

1. In what ways has your choice to be confirmed affected the way you live and make decisions; and how will your Confirmation continue to influence your life and decisions?
2. Who is the Holy Spirit? What is the Spirit's role in the Church? In your life?
3. What Confirmation name did you choose? Why did you choose this name?
4. Which Saint do you hope to imitate in your life, and why?
5. Of all that you have done so far to prepare for Confirmation, what has had the strongest impact on you and why? Consider class sessions, retreats, service activities, Mass attendance, sponsor conversations, or other aspects of formation.
6. Has your prayer life changed in anyway during the preparation process? If so, in what way?
7. How has your participation in service as part of being a disciple of Christ impacted you and why?
8. If someone asked you why you chose to be confirmed, what would your answer be?
9. In what way will continued weekly participation in the celebration of the Eucharist help you live as a confirmed Catholic?



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CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL

Process of Scheduling the Confirmation Rehearsal Date:

- Once the Diocese assigns us our Confirmation date, we will then schedule the date for the Confirmation Rehearsal.
- It will be held at St. Catherine of Siena.
- Our goal is to have the Confirmation rehearsal the week of Confirmation.
- Sponsors are asked to attend the Confirmation rehearsal.

Who Needs To Attend The Rehearsal?

- The Confirmation rehearsal will be held for candidates and their sponsors. Parents are welcome to attend as well. It is very important for both the candidates and their sponsor to attend the rehearsal. A parent may stand in for the sponsor, **only** if the sponsor is **absolutely unable** to attend the rehearsal. The parent or sponsor must notify Ashley Blank before the rehearsal if this is the case.

What Will Happen at The Rehearsal:

- We will be walking through the Rite of Confirmation in order to familiarize the candidates and sponsors with the roles they will play on the day of Confirmation.

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CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Process of Scheduling A Date:

- The Diocese will give us our official date around the end of October/beginning of November.
- It has been held in May for the past three years – around the 2nd week of May.
- It will be on a weekday – most likely a Monday or Thursday.

Celebration of Sacrament Date Notification:

- As soon as we receive information about our assigned date of Confirmation, an e-mail will be sent out in the mail notifying parents, candidates, and sponsor of this date.
- The e-mail will let the candidates and sponsors know the time and date of the rehearsal.

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DRESS CODE FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Ladies:

- Dress Shirt with Skirt or Dress Pants or Modest Dress
- Dress Shoes (please no flip-flops)
 - Skirt/ dress must be to your knees or longer
 - Tops/dresses must have sleeves- no strapless or spaghetti straps please! If you have a sleeveless shirt or dress, you will need to wear something over it to cover your shoulders.

Gentlemen:

- Dress pants
- Dress shirt with collar (tie preferred)
- Dress shoes
 - We asked that you don't wear jeans, low ridding pants, tennis shoes, or t-shirts please!

We encourage youth to try to incorporate the liturgical color for Confirmation (red) in their attire, however, this is not required. We want to see you wearing your Sunday Best please!