



St. Mary's Parish Family
Faith Formation

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Information for Parent(s), Guardians and Confirmation Candidates

- The Parish Confirmation Program, following Diocesan Regulations, is a two year program of study and formation. It begins with grade 8 as Confirmation I Religious Education instruction either in our program or at a Catholic elementary school and concludes with grade 9 as Confirmation II.
- Candidates for Confirmation must be a registered and participating parishioner of St. Mary's Parish Family.
- Classes for Confirmation I and II will be held every other Sunday from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM (please refer to your calendar). Candidates who attend a Catholic Elementary or High School are excused from attending the bi-weekly sessions, however, they must attend the mandatory retreats, complete all service requirements and complete written requirements in order to become a recipient of Confirmation.
- Candidates are required to attend and participate in all classes. If the candidate cannot attend a class, it is required that the parent or guardian email the Director of Faith Formation at the above email address stating the reason for the absence. Excused absences would be considered for sickness, hospitalization, death in the family or vacations with parents or guardians. Babysitting, Sports/Band/Dance (practices, games, recitals) parties or social events are not considered acceptable reasons for missing class. Excessive absenteeism may result in the postponing of the reception of the sacrament.
- Disrespectful, rude or abusive behavior toward the teacher, adults, and/or other students will not be tolerated and may be sufficient grounds for the candidate to be dismissed from the Confirmation Program.
- Confirmation candidates are required to complete a two-year Parish Liturgical Ministry in addition to 4 hours of a Community Service activity. You may choose from approved possibilities found on the Service Ministry Selection Sheet. The Liturgical Service Form for **Confirmation I Candidates** is to be submitted at their first class session. Your service will begin in January and continues through the summer months, ending with the reception of Confirmation. **Confirmation II Candidates** are required to resubmit an updated Service Ministry Selection Sheet at their first class session. Confirmation II Candidates will continue their current assignment until a new schedule is generated.

- It is expected and understood that the Candidates are practicing their faith by attending Mass **WEEKLY**. This is a pre-requisite for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates may attend the Mass of their choice; either the 4PM on Saturday or the 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM or 7PM on Sunday and are to sit with their families. Candidates are required to sign the *Confirmation Mass Sign-In Book* which is located on the table in the Memorial Chapel, closest to the door facing Tarkiln Hill Road. If, for special circumstances you attend Mass at another church other than St. Mary's you are required to submit a Bulletin from that parish.
- A copy of the Baptismal Certificate must be on file in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This document should have been provided when a student was first enrolled in our Faith Formation Program and would have been recorded on their permanent record form. If the student was Baptized here at St. Mary's, the information will be obtained directly from our records by our staff. All certificates for students in Confirmation I and II are due in the Faith Formation Office by October 14th.
- The Sponsor Selection Form for students in Confirmation I must be completed and submitted to the Faith Formation Office by October 14th, as well as the Confirmation Name Form for students in Confirmation II.
- The role of the sponsor is very important to the formation and support of the Confirmation Candidate and should be made only after careful consideration of the following qualifications. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who attends Sunday Mass, has received the Sacrament of Confirmation, cannot be divorced and remarried OUTSIDE the Church, and cannot be the parent of the candidate. Sponsors MUST complete a Sponsor Certificate.
- Students in Confirmation I and II must attend a Retreat Day of Recollection. The Retreat for Confirmation I will be held in the Fall of 2018 and for Confirmation II in the Spring of 2019. If, for whatever reason, you are not able to attend the Retreat Day of Recollection, it is your responsibility to call a local parish and see if you can attend their confirmation class Retreat Day of Recollection. You cannot receive the Sacrament of Confirmation without completion of these Days of Recollection.
- Each Confirmation II Candidate must write a letter in his/her own words to our Pastor, Father Dan, requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This letter is to be typed and submitted by February 10, 2019. **REMEMBER** Sacraments cannot and should not be forced. The individual must FREELY request the Sacrament without coercion.

“Let the children come to me...” Luke 18:16