

CONFIRMATION
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA



Information Packet
2019-2020

Youth Director: Ed Snyder
esnyder@scswf.org

Contents:

	PAGE
1. For Parents.....	1
2. General Information.....	2
3. Confirmation Requirements: Year I.....	3
4. Confirmation Requirements: Year II.....	5
5. Explanation of the Requirements.....	7
6. Appendix A: Communication.....	10
7. Appendix B: Classroom Conduct and Procedures.....	12
8. Appendix C: Service Opportunities.....	13
10. Appendix D: Prayers to Memorize.....	15

For Parents:

This is an exciting time for your family! Your child is preparing for Confirmation, a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit meant to strengthen them for a life of following Jesus as a disciple. It is our privilege to help you during this time with your ministry to your child. In that spirit, it is important to note that this is not a process that takes place solely in class. This is a process that involves you. It is a continuation of the work you've done throughout your child's life to bring them to Jesus.

Please, take some time to review this packet and then have a talk with your child about Confirmation and what will be required. Catechists will go over the packet at the beginning of the year in class, but it should not be assumed they will do so again. The best use of their time is really being present with your child and going through the material they need to teach. It will be your responsibility as a parent to ensure that the information in this packet is understood and completed by your child.

PARENT NIGHTS:

In order to better communicate with you as a parent, and support your work, we will have three "Parent Nights" this year. During these nights, parents will get to know the catechists for their child, meet other parents and take part in a talk meant to help support you in raising a disciple of Christ.

At least one parent should be present for each candidate, but ANY adult (an aunt, uncle, grandparent, sponsor, etc.) may come in the place of a parent if a parent cannot attend. **Attendance will be taken on these nights and absences will count toward the two absence maximum for all candidates.** If parents have more than one child in the Confirmation program, simply choose one class/meeting to attend and that will be fine. No minors will be allowed to attend parent nights due to the subject matter.

Parent Night Dates: September 15, November 17, and February 16

When/Where: Go to your child's classroom at the same time they normally have class.

General Information

Times and Pickup:

When:

Year I (7th Grade): Sundays, 4-5:15PM

Year I (8th and 9th Grade): Sundays, 6:45-8:15PM

Year II (10th-12th Grade): Sundays, 6:45-8:15PM

Class calendars will be posted online for your convenience by mid-August.

Pickup:

When youth are being picked up from class, we ask that you enter through the lower lot, go around the Church, and form a queue along the sidewalk.

Submitting Forms (Very Important)

Forms should be submitted via email to the Assistant Youth Minister at mallison@scswf.org. A clear, full-size picture of the form is fine. This is the best way to ensure your form reaches our office. If this is not possible, contact the Youth Director for an alternate method.

Attendance:

Keeping in mind that unexpected or unavoidable situations do occur in our lives, **TWO absences** per year are allowed. Parents should notify the Youth Director when possible of the upcoming absence so that it may be logged. Excessive illness, or some other great hardship should be discussed with the Youth Director at an appropriate time and will be taken into consideration.

Tardiness: It is an act of CHARITY to be on time for class and pick-up. Arriving late disrupts the flow of class and causes delays for everyone. **Two late arrivals, of more than 5 minutes, may be counted as one absence.**

Cancellations/Severe Weather:

In the case of inclement weather, a Flocknote text/email will be sent out. Please do not assume classes are cancelled unless a message is sent out. Always use your own judgment as to whether it is safe to travel. Nobody will be penalized for missing a class due to safety concerns.

Confirmation Requirements: Year I

“During Year I, catechists are to give special attention to assisting the candidates in their evangelization, exposure to the essentials of the faith, experiences of conversion, community, liturgy and prayer.” – General Norms for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Year I:

1. Attendance:

- a. Candidates should attend all classes on Sundays
- b. Parents should attend all “Parent Nights”

2. Year I Confirmation Retreat. You may select from the options below:

a. 7th Grade

- i. Saturday, October 5 (9am-6pm), Off Campus, Cost: \$25 OR
- ii. Saturday, March 28 (9am-6pm), Off Campus, Cost: \$25

b. 8th and 9th Grade

- i. Saturday, November 23 (9am-6pm), On Campus, Cost: \$25 OR
- ii. Saturday, May 2 (9am-6pm), On Campus, Cost: \$25

You must register for a retreat in advance.

There is a cap on the number of youth that each retreat can accept. Do not wait.

To register, please go to the “Confirmation” section of the parish website. **Click the**

“Register for Retreat” link and fill out the form. To request financial assistance, email Ed Snyder at esnyder@scswf.org.

On Campus: The retreat will be at St. Catherine’s. Candidates should meet in the school lobby.

Off Campus: The retreat will be at Falls Lake. The address is 4201 Baptist Rd, Durham and we meet in the Community Building. Just follow the signs.

3. **20 Community Service Hours** (Due: May 3)
4. **Patron Saint Essay** (Due: May 3)
5. **Sponsor Form** (Due: May 3)
6. **Make-up Work from Absences** (This does NOT excuse absences.)

SCS SCHOOL STUDENTS: You do not need to attend classes outside of your normal school classes. Confirmation paperwork, including service hours, the saint essay and the sponsor form, will be submitted through the school. Your retreat, however, is the same retreat that everyone attends. You will need to register for this online as outlined above.

Catholic High School Students: If enrolled in a Catholic high school, you do NOT need to attend classes in Year I. However, you must still fulfill all the other requirements in order to complete Year I, including all paperwork, service hours and the patron saint essay. You must register your child, but there is no fee in Year I for youth in a Catholic school.

Confirmation Requirements: Year II

"In the Diocese of Raleigh, a two-year formation program is required prior to the celebration of Confirmation." –General Norms for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. **Attendance:**
 - a. Candidates should attend all classes on Sundays
 - b. Parents should attend all "Parent Nights"
2. **Confirmation Workshops** (Attend with your sponsor/mentor.)
 - a. November 20, 6:45PM-8:15PM

AND
 - b. March 18, 6:45PM-8:15PM
3. **Letter to the Pastor** (Due: September 29th)
4. **Baptismal Certificate** (Due: September 29th)
 - a. If baptized at St. Catherine of Siena, please email the year and month of baptism to Mary Allison. (mallison@scswf.org)
 - b. The Youth Ministry Office does NOT keep baptismal certificates from 1st Holy Communion OR St. Catherine of Siena School. Unless you have submitted the baptismal certificate to Mary, our office does not have it.
5. **Interview with the Pastor.** (TBD- We are working on dates for this requirement.)
 - a. To sign up for your interview:
 - i. Go to the Confirmation page of the parish website.
 - ii. Click "Schedule My Interview"
 - iii. Pick a time and sign up

6. **Year II Confirmation retreat.** You may select from TWO options:

- i. Saturday, October 19, 9AM-6PM (Off Campus) Cost: \$25 **OR**
- ii. Saturday, March 14, 9AM-6PM (Off Campus) Cost: \$25

You must register for a retreat in advance. There is a cap on the number of youth each retreat can hold. Do not wait.

To register, please go to the “Confirmation” section of the parish website. **Click the link “Register for Retreat”, scroll down to “Confirmation Year II Retreat” and click the date you want to sign up and pay.** To request financial assistance, email Ed Snyder at esnyder@scswf.org.

Off Campus: The retreat will be at Falls Lake. The address is 4201 Baptist Rd, Durham and we meet in the Community Building. Just follow the signs.

- 7. **20 Community Service Hours** (Due: February 29th)
- 8. **Make-up Work from Absences** (This does NOT excuse absences)
- 9. **Mystagogical Catechesis** (after Confirmation) **DATE TBD**

CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS: For Year II in high school, there is NO difference between Catholic school students and anyone else. All classes and other requirements are necessary in order to complete the program.

Explanation of the Requirements:

Patron Saint Essay:

By the end of Year I, candidates should choose a patron saint for their Confirmation name. This will be the name of a saint whom the candidate particularly identifies with and wants to model their life after. Candidates will research their chosen patron and write a short (about one page, double spaced) essay on their life. Candidates must explain in this essay why they identify with or feel drawn to this saint. The reasons given should strive to go deeper than, “she is the patron of music and I play the piano.” The candidate should want to be like this saint and model their life after them.

Service Hours: (See Appendix C for Opportunities)

Current Year I: All current Year I candidates are required to complete 20 hours of community service before the end of Year I. They will require an additional 20 hours in Year II, for a total of 40 hours.

Current Year II: All current Year II candidates are required to complete 20 hours of community service (in addition to the 20 hours they did during Year I) before Confirmation.

Service hours should be submitted by the deadline scheduled above. Hours must be submitted with the service hour form (found online) and signatures. It is the candidate’s responsibility to maintain a log of their own hours.

Please use the “Works of Mercy” as a guide to whether something qualifies for a service hour.

Service hours may not directly benefit the candidate. As such, school or team fundraisers would not normally qualify.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. To Feed the Hungry
2. To Give Drink to the Thirsty
3. To Clothe the Naked
4. To Shelter the Homeless
5. To Visit the Sick
6. To Ransom the Captive
7. To Bury the Dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. To Instruct the Ignorant
2. To Counsel the Doubtful
3. To Admonish Sinners
4. To Bear Wrongs Patiently
5. To Forgive Offences Willingly
6. To Comfort the Afflicted
7. To Pray for the Living and the Dead

Interview with the Pastor:

To prepare for the interview, candidates must be ready to answer the following:

- a. Why did you choose your patron saint?
- b. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? (Be ready to define them.)
- c. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
- d. Know how to take part in the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)
- e. Candidates should have memorized: (See Appendix D)
 - i. Our Father
 - ii. Hail Mary
 - iii. Glory Be
 - iv. The Creed
 - v. Prayer to St. Michael
 - vi. Morning offering

Letter to Fr. Bill John:

A letter (about one page) requesting the sacrament of Confirmation should be submitted to Fr. Bill John by the deadline. This letter must be typed, double spaced and include the following:

1. Candidate's Name
2. A formal request for the sacrament
 - a. "I am writing to request the sacrament of Confirmation."
3. The Candidate's patron saint and why they chose them
4. A short explanation of why the candidate is requesting the sacrament
5. A short explanation of what the candidate has done to prepare for the sacrament

Sponsors and Mentors:

Sponsor: “The sponsor sees that the one confirmed acts as a true witness to Christ and fulfills the obligation of the sacrament. Specifically, the sponsor 1) helps the candidate live the Catholic life, 2) serves as a role model of faith for the candidate and 3) in the case of a candidate who is a child of catechetical age, supports the candidate’s parents in their child’s faith development.”

As such, Sponsors are expected to work with their candidates to prepare for Confirmation throughout the year and to pray regularly for their candidate. Sponsors must also, when possible, attend all Confirmation Workshops.

Qualifications to be a Sponsor:

1. A member of the Roman Catholic Church
2. A minimum of 16 years of age
3. Recipient of the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
4. A Catholic in good standing
6. Currently in a marriage recognized by the Church as valid, if married
7. Living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Church, if unmarried
8. Parents may not serve as sponsors for their children.

In order to confirm that these requirements are met, a completed “Confirmation Sponsor” form must be submitted to Mary Allison via email by the date assigned. Forms must be signed by the Sponsor’s Pastor.

Mentor: If a Sponsor, due to distance or some other unavoidable circumstance, cannot attend the workshops, then a Mentor must be chosen to help the candidate prepare throughout the year. This person should meet the same requirements of a Sponsor.

Appendix A: Communication

Contact Information

Ed Snyder, Youth Director: esnyder@scswf.org

Mary Allison, Assistant Youth Minister: mallison@scswf.org

FLOCKNOTE MESSAGES: (VERY IMPORTANT)

Flocknote messages are the primary way in which the Youth Director will send announcements to parents and youth throughout the year. This free service allows texts and emails to be sent to youth and parents when they sign up. Many opportunities for service, youth events and gatherings are distributed via this service. We will also send reminders of upcoming deadlines. It will be important for parents and youth to make use of it.

To sign up for Flocknote messages:

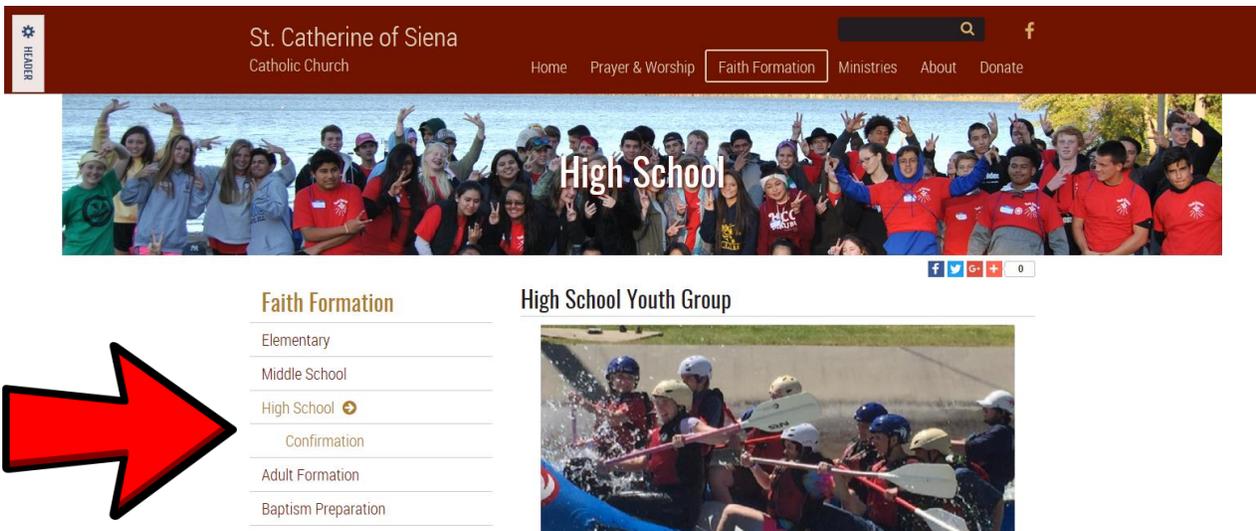
Text saints520 to 84576.

After doing this, you will get a link to complete the process. Click on the link and follow the directions. While signing up, choose any parish groups that you are interested in joining or learning more about. At any time you may join or leave new groups.



Website:

All essential information, forms and calendars will be posted online by mid-August, on the CONFIRMATION page of the parish website: www.scswf.org. This year, there is a middle school and a high school Confirmation page. To find these, choose “Faith Formation” on our parish home page and then select either “Middle School” or “High School”. Then, on the page you’ve chosen, click “Confirmation” on the left-hand menu.



Appendix B: Classroom Conduct and Procedures

Cell Phones:

No cell phones are allowed. If a candidate takes out a cell phone, or a cell phone rings during class, the phone will be taken. A parent must come to the parish office in person to reclaim the phone.



DISCIPLINE:

In order to provide a good experience for all youth and volunteers, the following will be implemented regarding discipline:

- 1) Catechist Warning: A candidate is informed that they are not behaving in an appropriate way.
- 2) Call Home: If a candidate continues to act out, the Youth Director will call parents and the Pastor will be notified of the situation.
- 3) If a second call home is necessary, the candidate will either:
 - a. Be required to have a parent sit with them during each class.
 - OR
 - b. Be asked to return next year.

Appendix C: Service Opportunities

DTS: Dead Theologians Society is a group of high school youth who meet for dinner, prayer and to learn about a saint in order to better live out their call to holiness. Every meeting counts for TWO service hours. DTS meets on Wednesdays (about twice a month) from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the gym. Meeting dates are found in the DTS brochure in the Narthex and online.

No registration required. FREE.

Wood Cuts: High school youth chop wood to heat the homes of families in need from October to March. Lunch is provided. Youth need to **register in advance via signupgenius.com** and bring a permission slip and work gloves. New dates will be added to signupgenius.com as the year progresses. You will be outside all day, so dress appropriately. We meet behind the church at 8am and work until 2pm. **Select Saturdays, Monthly, FREE**

Bingo Buddies: Visit the residents of a nursing home and play bingo. Youth must register on **signupgenius.com** and bring a permission slip with them to the event. Dates will be added toward the end of summer. **Select Saturdays, Monthly, FREE**

Battalion Leaders: Youth at or above the 10th grade may act as mentors to middle school youth in the Companions of St. George and St. Joan of Arc. The Youth Director determines the suitability of volunteer mentors. All mentors receive 20 hours for their efforts. Email the Youth Director for more information.

Frightening Friday: Travel to a cemetery and pray for the dead. Enjoy dinner and then go to a haunted house. Could it be any easier to do a work of mercy?

When: October 25th Time: TBD Cost: TBD

March for Life: Travel to Washington D.C. for Mass in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with our Diocese, and to march with people from all over the country for the right to life!

When: January 24th Cost: \$50

Catholic Parish Outreach: Help to provide those in need with access to food.

Contact George Blasiolo at 919-435-7230 for more information. .

Miracle League: Be a buddy to youth with disabilities. Help them run the bases, play catch and cheer them on! Our youth group usually goes once in the Fall and once in the Spring, but you may also participate as an individual. Go to miracleleagueofthetriangle.com for details and to volunteer as individuals.

Operation Harvest: Deliver food to dozens of individuals in Wake Forest. Contact Anthony Nacional at 919-637-7752 to participate. **When:** Every Saturday, 9:15 am **Where:** Trinity Center

Appendix D: Prayers to Memorize

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

Glory Be:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence
He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.
Amen.

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works,
joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions
of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world,
in reparation for my sins,
for the intentions of all my relatives and friends,
and in particular
for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Amen.