



Confirmation Preparation 2021 SCHEDULE

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| <p>Sunday, January 31
Confirmation Class #1
6:00-7:00pm, Zoom</p> | <p>Sunday, August 29
Confirmation Class #7
6:00-7:00pm, St. Francis</p> |
| <p>Sunday, February 28
Rite of Enrollment
11:30am Mass in Church</p> | <p>Sunday, September 12
Confirmation Class #8
6:00-7:00pm, St. Francis</p> |
| <p>Sunday, March 7
Confirmation Class #2
6:00-7:00pm, St. Francis</p> | <p>September 2021
Confirmation Interviews TBD</p> |
| <p>Sunday, March 14
Confirmation Class #3
6:00-7:00pm, St. Francis</p> | <p>Sunday, September 19
Confirmation Retreat
9:00am – 5:00pm</p> |
| <p>Sunday, March 21
Confirmation Class #4
6:00-7:00pm, St. Francis</p> | <p>Late September / Early October
Confirmation Mass
TBD by the Archdiocese</p> |
| <p>Sunday, April 11
Confirmation Class #5
6:00-7:00pm, St. Francis</p> | |
| <p>Sunday, April 18
Confirmation Class #6
6:00-7:00pm, St. Francis</p> | |



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM

Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, seals and confirms the baptized in union with Christ, and calls them to greater participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church.

Registration & Baptism Certificate

The registration form and a copy of your teen's baptism certificate (if he/she was not baptized at St. Francis) is due before **September 27th** for Public/Private School Students and before **January 17th** for Catholic School Students. If you are unable to locate your teen's baptismal certificate, please contact the parish where the baptism took place.

Classes

In Fall 2020, all classes will take place from 6:30-7:30PM virtually on Zoom. Classes will shift to in-person class in Spring 2021 and meet from 6:30-7:30PM in the Parish Center. Please see the schedule for all class dates. It also includes dates for other meetings, events, retreats, etc. Please be sure to put these dates on your calendar as soon as possible. Attendance at all classes and the retreat is mandatory. Absences are only allowed only for serious reasons (illness, family emergency, etc.). *Saints games, festivals, etc. are not considered excused absences.*

Classes will include large group reflection, small groups, games, speakers, videos, worksheets, and prayer experiences. Materials used for the program include:

- *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* (St. Mary's Press)
- *New American Bible Revised Edition*
- *Decision Point* (<http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation>)

Parent volunteers are needed to help with classes, service projects, and the retreat. Please consider helping in some way. Adult volunteers who work directly with youth are required to complete a background check and 1.5 hour Safe Environment seminar through the Archdiocese.

Homework

In preparation for class, students are asked to please read the chapter(s) to be covered before the next class. This allows for a fuller grasp of the material and a deeper class discussion. In addition, the Sponsor Form, Saint Assignment, and Service Record are due in class. These must be turned in on or before the date listed on the class schedule.

Service Experiences

The sacrament of Confirmation calls candidates to a greater participation in the life of the Church and to put their faith in action. This includes reaching out in service to others.

Candidates must complete service in three areas: 1) at home, 2) through the local church parish, and 3) in the wider community. Candidates who participate in service through school may count this towards their service in the community. A service record is included with service suggestions and is due on or before **August 29, 2021**. It is highly recommended to complete all three service projects as soon as possible. Please do not wait until August to begin. An opportunity to complete a parish service project will take place during a regularly scheduled class in November.

Mass Attendance & Prayer

Like anything else, confirmation requires preparation and commitment. Learning to live a Catholic life comes from example and consistent practice, study, and prayer. If not already doing so, students are asked to attend Mass regularly with their family and establish a practice of daily prayer.

Sponsor

Candidates are asked to choose a sponsor, usually a godparent, friend, or relative who helps guide the candidate to live a life of faith and holiness. Sponsors must complete a Confirmation Sponsor Form. The form is on or before **March 7, 2021**.

Candidates are encouraged to meet regularly with their sponsor (3-4 times) before the sacrament takes place. This ideally would take place in person but can also be done via phone, FaceTime, Skype, etc. A Confirmation Sponsor Guide with suggestions is included; *please give this sheet to your sponsor*.

Saint Assignment

In Confirmation, candidates are asked to take on the name of a saint, either the one given at Baptism or a saint with whom they admire. Candidates must complete a one page paper on the chosen saint and be prepared to present it in class on **March 21, 2021**.

Confirmation Enrollment

The Confirmation Enrollment Ceremony will take place on **Sunday, February 28, 2021 at the 11:30 am Mass**. All candidates and their families are asked to attend and sit together in the reserved pews at the front of church. During Mass, Father Michael will present the candidates to the community and give them a special blessing as they begin formal preparation for the sacrament.

Confirmation Interviews

Interviews will take place in **September 2021**. Interviews typically last around 15-20 minutes and take place with the pastor, one of the deacons, or a Confirmation catechist. They are meant to help the parish get to know the candidates better and allow candidates to ask any questions they may have. Candidates should fill out the Interview Questionnaire and bring it with them to the interview. **A parent**

or the student's sponsor must also attend. An interview schedule will be sent home in August. If you need to reschedule, please contact the person you are interviewing with as soon as possible.

Confirmation Retreat

A Confirmation Retreat for all candidates (Public/Private and Catholic School students) will take place **Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 9:15am - 5:00 pm.** We will gather for the 9:30 a.m. mass at St. Francis and the retreat will take place at the Newman Center on the University of New Orleans campus. Transportation and lunch are provided. Further details and permission slips will be available in August.

The Archdiocese requires all candidates to attend a Confirmation retreat prior to the sacrament. It is an important part of preparation for the sacrament and an opportunity to reflect, pray, and spend time away with God and each other. ***If for any reason the candidate is unable to attend, he/she must contact the parish office immediately as very few parishes offer retreats in early fall.***

Confirmation Rehearsal

A rehearsal for candidates and their sponsors will take place the Sunday before the Confirmation Mass from 6:00-7:00pm in Church. This will most likely take place in late September / early October. If the sponsor is unable attend, a parent or sibling can stand in during the practice.

Confirmation Mass

In the past the Sacrament of Confirmation has taken place sometime between the last week of September and first week of October. The date is scheduled by the Archdiocese and mailed to the parish in early summer. Please do not make final travel plans during these weeks until the date is set. Candidates meet in the Parish Center 30 minutes prior to the start of the mass and a reception will follow in front of the rectory.

CONFIRMATION SAINT ASSIGNMENT

As a child, your parents chose a name for you. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, you take on the name of a saint or holy person as a sign that you have grown in your relationship with Christ, wish to be fully initiated into the Church, and reaffirm the promises made for you at Baptism.

As you pray about this choice, remember that you have two options:

- 1) to keep the name given to you at Baptism or
- 2) to choose the name of an outstanding Christian man or woman who has been declared a saint by the Catholic Church and with whom you closely identify or admire.

Whether this saint is your baptismal name or a new name, **you must turn in a one page paper about the saint and be prepared to share it in class on March 21, 2021.** The paper should be one full page, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and include the following information *in your own words*:

- Your saint's name, birthplace, and date of birth
- 3 qualities that you admire in the saint and why
- Your saint's date of death and the manner in which they died
- Any special devotions to your saint and something unique about him/her
- Why you have chosen to take this saint's name as your own
- Why do you admire or identify with this saint
- Describe how you feel that this saint's example will help you grow in faith



**Confirmation Preparation 2020-2021
Candidate Service Record**

Name: _____

*The sacrament of Confirmation calls candidates to a greater participation in the life of the Church and to put their faith in action. This includes reaching out in service to others. Preparation for Confirmation includes an opportunity to serve in three different areas: our families, the church parish, and the wider community. **Service Record is due on August 29, 2021.***

Type of Service	Date/Time/ Location	Description	Signature of catechist/parent present
<p>FAMILY <i>Service done for family that is not part of candidates' normal chores and responsibilities</i></p>			
<p>PARISH <i>Service done within St. Francis Church parish –Food Ministry; help with parish programs and ministries</i></p>			
<p>COMMUNITY <i>Completed through your high school service hour requirement or a local community service organization</i></p>			

Service Project Ideas

Family Service Project Ideas:

- Cook a family meal or help prepare Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner and clean up afterward
- Clean out the attic or garage
- Care for younger siblings/cousins
- Help a parent, grandparent, or elderly neighbor with yardwork and repairs around the house
- Complete a service project together with your family or sponsor

Parish Service Project Ideas:

- CCD Teacher's Assistant (Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:20am throughout the school year)
- Children's Church Helper (once a month during the 9:30am Sunday Mass)
- Altar server or choir member
- Help with the Children's Nativity Program during Advent, the Living Stations of the Cross during Lent, or Parish Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning.
- Volunteer with Matthew 25 to help pack groceries for needy families in St. Francis Parish (meets the last Thursday and first Saturday of each month)
- Serve as a small group leader during Vacation Bible School (July 2019)

Community Service:

- Completed with a community service organization or through your schools' service hour requirement



CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete this form and bring it with you to the interview. The interview allows you candidates to reflect on the sacrament of Confirmation and ask any questions they may have. It lasts around 15-20 minutes and a parent or sponsor must also attend.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Why do you want to be Confirmed?
2. How do you feel your faith has grown since beginning this process? What have you enjoyed? What have you found challenging?
3. Do you experience God at work in your life? How?
4. What do you like about being Catholic? What might you find difficult or challenging?
5. What is prayer? How do you normally pray? (how often, when, where, etc.)
6. What saint name did you choose? Why?
7. Who did you choose to be your sponsor? What do you admire about this person?

8. How will you live out your faith and remain active as a confirmed member of the Church? What talents or gifts has God given you that will help you do this?
9. How do you intend to grow in your faith after you've been Confirmed? What are some concrete things you can do to continue growing in faith?
10. What service projects have you participated in? What did you learn from this experience?
11. If you were to meet someone who had never heard of Jesus, who would you say he is? How would you describe your relationship with him?
12. Think about the following statements. If a friend were to ask you these questions, how would you respond?
- a. *"Why are you Catholic?"*
 - b. *"What difference does it make to be a Catholic?"*
 - c. *"Is it really that important to go to Mass every Sunday?"*
 - d. *"I don't really need the church. I just follow my conscience and do something if it feels right. How can that be wrong?"*
13. Explain your current feeling towards becoming a full member of the Catholic Church.
- _____ I definitely want to be Confirmed
 - _____ I think I might want to be Confirmed
 - _____ I am not sure I want to be Confirmed at this time
 - _____ I do not want to be Confirmed
 - _____ Other _____
14. What questions do you have?



CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

Candidate's Name: _____

The Sponsor's role is to assist the candidate for Confirmation, to present him or her for the Sacrament, and, together with the parents or spouse, help guide the candidate to live a life of faith and holiness. Being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend, relative, or godparent. It implies a real appreciation of the Catholic faith, a lifestyle that proclaims the truth, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being confirmed.

PLEASE READ THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORSHIP BEFORE SIGNING

Canon 874 and 892 of the Code of Canon Law lists these requirements for the valid and lawful sponsorship in Confirmation:

A SPONSOR:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
2. Must have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
3. Must be at least 16 years of age.
4. Must know the fundamental truths of the faith and be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sunday and receives the Sacraments regularly.
5. May not be the parent or spouse of the one to be confirmed.

THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE FILLED OUT BY THE SPONSOR

I declare that I am a registered member of the parish listed below, that I fulfill the requirements to be a sponsor, and that I pledge to guide this candidate in living a life of faith and holiness.

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Phone Number: _____

Sponsor's Email: _____

Church Parish where Sponsor is registered: _____

Address of Sponsor's Church Parish: _____
