



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2020-21

Dear parents and students,

We are excited to continue this important journey of your student's faith formation with you. While we at St. Michael the Archangel Parish offer a two-year program for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation (freshman year participation is a prerequisite), it is important that parents understand that they are, in the mind of the Church, the first and foremost educators of their children's Catholic faith. Families of teens seeking to receive the sacrament of Confirmation should be registered members of the parish.

We also encourage parents to participate in the various adult faith formation programs offered at St. Michael to help them grow in understanding of their own faith and become better educators to their children. It is our mission to support you as you take an active role in preparing your child for Confirmation.

Within the following packet, you will find information regarding our Confirmation Program here at St. Michael Parish. Below we have outlined the areas of formation that are encouraged and offered at St. Michael. Teens will meet with an adult catechist individually at the end of their freshman year to walk with them along their journey. Each year, every teen will be asked to complete a **Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Record** with their adult catechist. The preparation record will serve as a "check in" for teens so that we can verify that teens are actively participating in formation for the Sacrament.

Knowing that COVID-19 has altered some families' plans this year, we have provided alternative methods of formation. Please refer to our website for further details: stmichaelsauburn.com/confirmation.

At St. Michael Parish, we are pleased to be part of this exciting time with your families. Please contact Sarah Wiese, Director of Youth Ministry, with any questions or concerns: swiese@stmichaelsauburn.com or 334-887-5540.

SUMMARY

1. You must register for Religious Education each year, available in the church office or at stmichaelsauburn.com/religious-education. The deadline for Registration for the 2020-21 year is September 17. This ensures that we have your son or daughter's most current contact information.
2. Confirmation candidates must be registered members of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Parish.
3. A copy of the Baptismal Certificate is required before the beginning of the junior year.
4. Confirmation is a two-year program. Regular attendance and participation at CYO Nights during freshman year is a prerequisite for participation in the Confirmation Program.
5. Confirmation Candidates are required to 'check-in' twice during the sophomore year and once during the junior year with a Confirmation Catechist. At this time, the Confirmation Candidate should be prepared to discuss what they are actively doing to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. To show that they are taking ownership and responsibility for growing in their faith, the candidate will spend about ten minutes talking about their prayer life, service, spiritual reading, and faith formation practices they have taken part in over the last semester.
6. Regular attendance and participation in Mass is expected.
7. Two retreats are required before Confirmation: opening Fall Retreat during the sophomore year and Winter Retreat during the junior year.
8. All information is kept up to date on the Confirmation webpage: stmichaelsauburn.com/confirmation

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SYLLABUS

PREPARATION AND SACRAMENTAL GOALS

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. (CCC §1309)

It must be explained . . . that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. (CCC, §1285)

EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

FORMATION | Completion of this sacramental preparation program includes the following:

- Freshman Year (prerequisite):
 - Regular attendance at CYO Nights, featuring teachings and small group discussions, on Sunday evenings (6-8 PM) throughout the school year
 - Meet with a catechist to complete Sacramental Preparation Record at the end of the spring semester
- Sophomore Year:
 - Attending the Confirmation Retreat at the end of summer before the 10th grade to build community and a shared spiritual vision of discipleship
 - Regular attendance of Confirmation classes, featuring guest speakers and Core Team-led small group discussions, meeting during CYO Nights on Sunday evenings (6-8 PM) throughout the school year
 - Meet with a catechist to complete Sacramental Preparation Record at the end of the fall and spring semester
- Junior Year:
 - Completion of 10 hours of community service (or parish service) during the fall semester prior to receiving the sacrament in the spring semester
 - Attending the Junior Retreat during January of the 11th grade year to personally reflect on what it means to be a Confirmed disciple of Christ.
 - Meet with a catechist to complete Sacramental Preparation Record before sacrament is received
- Continuous:
 - Regular attendance and participation at Mass, including all Holy Days of Obligation
 - Regular participation in Confession
 - A sincere effort to develop a sustained personal prayer life

We strongly encourage those involved to stay involved in CYO and parish life after Confirmation through the end of their high school career. This is an incredible opportunity to grow in understanding of what we believe and will give students the opportunity to explain their faith to anyone who might have questions about it. Religious formation is a life-long process, not a one-time event in the life of a young Catholic. The program is designed to foster an ongoing education of faith, which makes long-term participation so beneficial.

ATTENDANCE | Attendance is taken at each meeting. Please expect to meet with a priest or the Confirmation Coordinator if you have excessive absences. Students should make up a lesson by emailing swiese@stmichaelsauburn.com to find the appropriate week's materials and complete the assignment listed.



MATERIALS | Guest speakers will use YDisciple from Formed.org for the basis of their presentations. Those who are learning independently or who have missed a lesson should create a free Formed account and access these materials online (<https://watch.formed.org/ydisciple>). Directions to create a free Formed account can be found on the parish webpage: <https://stmichaelsauburn.com/formedorg-1>. A calendar of topics and dates will be provided to those who will be learning virtually.

2020 VIRTUAL/INDEPENDENT LEARNING

OPTION 1: GROUP VIRTUAL CLASSES

Students who wish to virtually participate in regularly offered Confirmation classes during CYO Nights, which include a teaching and small group discussions, should register with Religious Education and plan to be available Sunday nights from 6:30-8 PM in accordance with the CYO Calendar.

OPTION 2: INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Students who wish to do their own independent study will use the same resources available on Formed.org and the provided worksheets. Students should submit the worksheets to swiese@stmichaelsauburn.com to show proof of completion. A calendar of topics and dates will be provided to those who will be learning independently.

If your student needs an alternative education method, resources, or support due to special educational concerns, please let us know.

OTHER INFORMATION

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Candidates will select a sponsor for Confirmation. Teens should select someone that serves as a model of the faith. The sponsor requirements are as follows:

- have qualifications and the intention of performing this role
- have completed the sixteenth year of age
- be a confirmed Catholic and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist
- be an active, practicing Catholic
- be receiving the sacraments of Penance and Communion frequently
- be married in the Catholic Church, if married
- lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken
- plan to maintain an ongoing relationship with the candidate in order to promote lifelong spiritual growth
- may not be the child's parent

A Sponsor Agreement/Information Form must be turned into the parish office by December 1 of the 11th grade year.

CONFIRMATION NAME

As part of the process, Confirmation candidates are asked to adopt a saint name, that they will carry with them throughout their life. On the day they receive the sacrament, the bishop will confirm them using their chosen saint name. When deciding on a Confirmation name, the goal is to pick the name of a saint you admire, can relate to, or aspire to be like. This saint will be bonded to you spiritually and will be your model in life and can be the one you turn to for guidance and protection.