

CATHEDRAL *of the* HOLY SPIRIT



Confirmation Preparation Handbook

8th Grade

About This Year

A Note to Parents

For 8th grade students, we are utilizing a program called "*Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*" and a series of discipleship videos. The goal of these programs is to offer the candidates a powerful, life-changing experience as he or she prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It is our hope that our program will not only offer your candidate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, but will also win over their heart at this critical time in their life. The program has been carefully designed to address and answer your candidate's fundamental questions about life, and to challenge him or her to embrace a life of faith.

Let's face it—our world is full of distractions and detours that can easily set a young person on the wrong path. Nothing can take the place of a strong faith in God: not friends, money, or education. It is our faith that gives us our identity and our direction in life.

The Church recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children in matters of faith and morals—and our program offers parents a unique opportunity to join their candidate as he or she journeys through the Catholic faith.

Our program also provides unique ideas and tools to confidently engage candidates and parents with encouragement during their preparation. Cathedral looks forward to growing in faith with you!

Objective and Mass Obligation

The goal of Cathedral's Confirmation preparation is to help our youth fall in love with the truth, beauty, and joy of Jesus Christ and His Church.

This program is not designed to stand alone.

All candidates are expected to attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. This tremendous privilege and obligation flows from baptism and is the primary way in which one lives out their baptismal promises. If one is not living out baptism, one is not ready to live out Confirmation.

Class Attendance

Attendance at all classes offered is a strict requirement; any **unexcused absence in excess of three warrants an additional make-up class** to cover the material missed. This make-up class must be scheduled within one week of the missed class.

Important Dates

The Year at a Glance

Event/Assignment	Deadline/Date	Time	Location
Sponsor Information Due	Wednesday, October 30	Have Sponsor mail to Mrs. Martinek	
Saint Name Paper	Wednesday, November 20	Hand in to your teacher	
Boys Confirmation Retreat	Saturday, February 29	2:00pm to 9:00pm	Cafeteria
Girls Confirmation Retreat	Saturday, March 14	2:00pm to 9:00pm	Cafeteria
Letter Requesting Confirmation	Wednesday, April 22	Hand in to your teacher	
Attend Cor Christi Institute	July 13-17 or July 20-24, 2020	TBA	University of Mary
Confirmation Rehearsal	Wednesday, September 23, 2020	6:30pm	Church
Confirmation Liturgy	Sunday, September 27, 2020	2:00pm	Church

Required Events

Eighth grade candidates are **required** to attend the Spring Retreat which is held in the cafeteria.

Spring Retreat

Boys: Saturday, February 29, 2020
2:00pm to 9:00pm

Girls: Saturday, March 14, 2020
2:00pm to 9:00pm



Your Sponsor

A Sponsor's Role

Sponsors are those who will help the Confirmation candidate live his or her baptismal promises. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to:

- † Help the candidate understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Confirmation and have the right intentions for receiving it.
- † Assist the candidate in completing the following assignments during the 8th grade year: Saint Name Paper and Letter to Fr. Vetter.
- † Help the candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to pray, to participate in the sacraments—especially the Eucharist—and to become actively involved in the life of their parish community.
- † Present the candidate for Confirmation and continue to assist the confirmed person in living a Christian life.

Sponsors will be given a “Sponsor Packet” that includes all assignments they are expected to assist with; dates; and other information they will need to know for the 8th grade year. **Sponsor information needs to be turned in by October 30, 2019.**



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created,
and You shall renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray, O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit
did instruct the hearts of the faithful
grant that by the same Holy Spirit,
we may be truly wise and ever rejoice
in His consolation,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Discipleship

Confirmation calls the individual to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, manifested through membership in the Catholic Church. As a disciple—a follower of Christ—one is called to put all of one's gifts and talents at the service of Christ in order to build the Kingdom of God within the parish, the local community and the world at large.

As Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation, we see that discipleship is the very meaning of initiation—it is not passive reception of information but the active living our life in Christ! Confirmation candidates will be sent forth from Confirmation to go and share all that God has given them. It will not be enough to say, “Yes, Lord, I want to follow You.” **Confirmed Catholics are called to put these words into action.**

Prayer

Without prayer as the foundation of our faith, our lives cannot bear the fruit we are capable of. Each student is encouraged to pray on a daily basis and, as part of Confirmation preparation, **all candidates are required to attend five hours of Eucharistic Adoration.** Completion of this requirement will be on the honor system; parents and/or sponsors are encouraged to attend these holy hours with their candidate.

The hours of Eucharistic Adoration are as follows:

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Sunday	1:00pm to 9:00pm
Monday-Thursday	9:00am to 9:00pm

Spirit of Life (Mandan)

24/7 - Contact Deb Rath at 663-1660 for a key to get in after normal business hours.



*Your life
must be
woven
around the*

Eucharist.

*Direct your eyes to Him,
who is the Light;
bring your hearts very
close to His Divine Heart;
ask Him for the grace
to know Him,
for the charity to love Him,
for the courage to serve Him.
Seek Him longingly.*

—Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Discipleship

Serving Our Neighbor

Through a prayerful foundation, candidates ask the Lord how to serve him with joy in our neighbors, through fulfilling the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Candidates are to participate in the works of mercy through *The Banquet*. Other opportunities to serve will be offered for candidate participation, but are not required. In addition, candidates are encouraged to fulfill these works of mercy in their own way, on their own time: in their family, parish, school, and wider community.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- † Feeding the hungry
- † Giving drink to the thirsty
- † Sheltering the homeless
- † Clothing the naked
- † Caring for the sick
- † Visiting the imprisoned
- † Burying the dead

The Banquet

The Banquet was founded in the spring of 2005 as a community-based organization formed to provide a weekly meal as well as companionship for individuals in the communities of Bismarck and Mandan. Each week a volunteer group plans, prepares and serves the meal. Volunteers also eat with the guests. The meal is served every Thursday from 5:30pm-6:45pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall (on 3rd St. and Avenue A in Bismarck).



Eighth grade students, along with a parent or other responsible adult (over the age of 21), are responsible for set-up, serving, greeting and escorting *The Banquet* attendees to their tables. Each month, the students participating will receive a reminder and additional instructions.

If you are unable to participate in the date assigned to you (see next page), you may swap dates with another student from a different month, at least two weeks before your scheduled date. Contact Deb Martinek at 223-1033 or email dmartinek@cathedralparish.com if you have any questions about serving or if you need to swap your date with someone else.

Discipleship

Serving Roster for *The Banquet*

October 3, 2019	November 7, 2019	January 9, 2020	February 6, 2020	March 5, 2020
Joclyn Barone	Austin Arman	Maria Barrett	Henry Barry	Owen Barth
Shane Bender	Lucia Baumgartner	Elizabeth Birnbaum	Katelyn Boots	Bradley Bosch
Lucy Brodeur	Jessica Botsford	Elizabeth Cave	Ingri Celis-Montes	Sophia Churchill
Ashlyn Davison	Brenna Curl	Annie Dickhut	Luke Dockter	Katja Dojs
Samuel Fedorchak	Landen Dvorak	John Fleischacker	Alexis Gerving	Kaleb Gonzalez
Carlee Roshau	Katherine Gruman	Mary Fleischacker	Aleah McPherson	Tyler Heen
Jameson Johnson	Easton Heinert	Ben Hoke	Joseph Hutzenbiler	Sidney Ihla
Owen Hancock	Macey Kruger	Isabella Johnson	Libby Kadrmas	Dru Kautzman
Cameron Naslund	Fiona Kelly	Kelson Kudrna	Hailey Lahr	Koen Matt
Lonnie Runnels	Ben McDonald	KaraJean Mercer	Kennedy Mertz	James Nagel
Latrell Delorme	Kane Nelson	Zoe Nelson	Nicholas Roemmich	Ashlyn Hagerott
Logan Wetzel	Dalton Rouse	Zachary Schmidt	Alexander Schmitz	Lucas Schoepp
	Isaac Schroeder	Sommer Schweitzer	Alex Ternes	Molly Two Crow
	Bryce Vatnsdal	Daniel Wojciehowski	Ashlyn Schumacher	Carter & Carson Henke

*Try to fulfill each day's tasks steadily and cheerfully.
The life of a true Christian should be a perpetual jubilee,
a prelude to the festivals of eternity.*

-St. Theophane

Choose Your Saint Name

► DUE DATE:

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

In the rich history of the Church, there are countless saints to whom we pray for intercession or look up to for the example of faith in the lives they lived. Candidates will choose the name of a saint for their Confirmation name: these saints are chosen as a person that the candidate wants to be like, and from whom we can ask their intercession and prayers.

Please follow these steps to choose a Confirmation name for yourself:

- † Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you make this decision.
- † Investigate your own first or middle names to see if there is a saint name that is the same as yours. If so, read about this saint to see if it is a good match for you.
- † Are there any saints that you have looked up to or have been inspired by?
- † Investigate your sponsor's or a loved one's name to see if there is a saint for their name.
- † Do you have a vocation or interest that is a passion in your life? There are saints that are patrons of different careers and causes.
- † If you would like to use some of the resources about saints in the Office of Faith Formation, call or stop in to check out the books on our Saint Shelf.

Why do we choose a saint name?

Through the process of canonization, when someone is declared by the Church to be a saint, the Church is proclaiming that this member of the faithful practiced heroic virtue during their life on earth. It is important to remember that as members of the Church, we are never alone, as St. Paul said, "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). These witnesses are the saints who continually intercede for us (CCC 956); ***in choosing a Confirmation saint, we are choosing a special friend to intercede for us in heaven and after whom we can model our lives while here on earth.*** (Lifeteen.com)

Writing Assignment

Your information should be one page typed, single-spaced with 12 point font using the format below. Your sponsor can assist you with this assignment. Please remember to include your name!

At the top of your page, type the name of the saint you chose. In complete sentences, answer the following questions in paragraph form:

Paragraph 1: When and where did your saint live? Was your saint a priest, religious (name the Order), or a lay person? Write a brief biography of your saint. Include *at least* the following: When was he/she born? When did he/she die? When is their feast day celebrated? You can write more than one paragraph for this.

Paragraph 2: Why would you recommend this saint to your classmates as a Confirmation saint/name? Give at least three reasons.

Paragraph 3: How can you imitate this saint as you strive to live a Catholic Christian life in the days and years to come? Give at least two examples of how you plan to imitate this Saint's life or virtues.

Paragraph 4: What else would you like to share about your saint?

Cor Christi

Cor Christi (“The Heart of Christ”) invites high school students to a living encounter with the foundational teachings and practices of the Catholic faith. This initiative is born from the desire of a group of young priests and other dedicated believers to offer a new generation—through an intensive summer experience—the basics of the adventure of faith. Cor Christi takes place at the University of Mary, and housing and meals are provided. Candidates are to attend one of the two offered weeks. The week includes recreation, various talks, daily Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, Adoration, Reconciliation, fellowship and community building.

Week 1: July 13-17, 2020 **Week 2:** July 20-24, 2020

“Option B”

If the candidate cannot attend either of the two weeks of Cor Christi, they are to listen to provided Lighthouse CDs and write a one-page summary on each CD and turn it in to the Office of Faith Formation.

Request Confirmation

► **DUE DATE: Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to our Rector, stating your desire. Your sponsor and/or parents can help you with this letter. Your letter should be one page typed, single-spaced using 12 point font. Follow these guidelines:

Begin your letter with the greeting, Dear Fr. Austin Vetter,

- Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, your background.
- Paragraph 2: Request the sacrament. Give three reasons why you would like to be confirmed.
- Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life; your celebration of the other sacraments; your participation in the classroom; your service for others exercised at home, within the parish, in the community; and so on.
- Paragraph 4: Write about the saint you chose and why.
- Paragraph 5: Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future. Tell how you plan to remain close to Jesus after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Conclude the letter and write your complete signature.

Liturgy Details

Rehearsal

Rehearsal for all candidates and sponsors will be held Wednesday, September 23, 2020 in the main body of the church. If sponsors cannot attend this rehearsal, one parent can fill that role.

Dress Code

For Candidates *and* Sponsors: Choose modesty when selecting your outfit for the Confirmation Liturgy. Red is an appropriate color choice for what you will wear, as it is the color associated with the Holy Spirit.

Gentlemen options: Suit OR sport jacket and dress pants (NO jeans), OR dress shirt and tie; dress socks and dress shoes (NO sneakers)

Ladies options: Modest dress OR dress skirt and blouse; dress or skirt **must** be knee length or longer; chest, back and shoulders must be covered; dress shoes (NO flip flops)

Confirmation Liturgy (Mass)

The Confirmation Liturgy for your 8th grade candidate will be held on Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 2:00pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Bishop David Kagan will be presiding.

Group Photo

Candidates are to arrive at 12:55pm for our group photo, taken by d'Joyce Photography. You can place an order for an 8x10 photo at \$13/photo the day of Confirmation.

Bishop Kagan's Address to Candidates and Sponsors

Parents and families can take their seats in the church pews once the group photo has been taken at 1:00pm. Bishop Kagan would like to address the candidates and sponsors in the cafeteria beginning at 1:15pm. **Sponsors must arrive no later than 1:15pm in the cafeteria.** After his address, sponsors and candidates will line up in the cafeteria in preparation for the liturgy.

To Note

Please make sure your candidate and family has something to eat prior to coming for pictures. Pictures, time with Bishop Kagan prior to the liturgy, and then the liturgy itself will amount to over 2 hours. Their hour fast prior to communion will be observed due to the schedule in place.