

# Confirmation Guidelines

## Confirmation Class of 2019

### St. Bernard Catholic Church

#### Introduction

Confirmation is the sacrament by which we receive the fullness of our baptismal graces. According to the Catechism (#1285) Confirmation is the sacrament by which “the baptized are more perfectly bound to the church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” Therefore, we ask the student to show their readiness to receive this grace before the celebration of confirmation. While we know it is important to have knowledge of the faith, this knowledge is only valuable if we act according to our faith in Jesus Christ.

The following is a list of what we as a confirmation team, would call signs of readiness (requirements). We ask that these signs are fulfilled to show that a teen understands what graces they are going to receive, recognizes how these graces call them to participation and action within the community, and desires these graces (this Sacrament) which are a gift from God.

We also wish to bring to your attention a few things that are very important, so that each of our candidates might be best disposed to receive this sacrament. First, to prepare for one sacrament you must stay close to all other sacraments you are able to receive. Therefore, during confirmation preparation, it is expected that each candidate will have regular Mass attendance (every Sunday) and receive reconciliation on a regular basis, monthly is ideal! Also, as outlined below please be sure to attend Wednesday evening classes. Please know that this is for the purpose of submersing your teen more deeply into the Catholic traditions and teachings. This then gives them a fuller experience of the Catholic faith.

#### Service to the Parish: Due July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, Catholics should take an active role in their parish communities. The following projects are aimed to helping Confirmation Candidates find various opportunities to be an active member of the parish community. Two projects of significant time should be completed. Projects can include but aren't limited to:

- Helping set up for Parish Celebrations (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, ect)
- Helping with Parish Cleaning days
- Helping in the Parish office
- Helping with Parish Events

## **Service to the Community / Corporal Works of Mercy: Due July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

As a member of the Catholic faithful, we are called to care for our neighbors. Each Confirmation Candidate should complete two projects focusing on an area of the Corporal Works of Mercy which include:

- Feeding the Hungry (work at a soup kitchen, coordinate a food drive, etc.)
- Give Drink to the Thirsty (help with global water initiatives, give water bottles to the homeless)
- Clothe the Naked (work a clothing drive, help at a thrift store whose profits benefit the poor)
- Shelter the Homeless (Help elderly neighbors maintain their homes, volunteer at a homeless shelter,)
- Visit the Sick (visit a hospital, make cards for a children's hospital, visit a nursing facility, serve those with disabilities)
- Visit the Imprisoned (write letters to those in prison, collect toiletries for them, while praying for them)
- Bury the Dead (help with a cleanup at a cemetery, write letter to a grieving family, serve for a funeral, help with funeral dinners)

*Please note: projects used for other service requirements (school, Boy Scouts, etc.) will not be accepted for these projects.*

## **Service to Personal Faith Life: Due July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

Each confirmation candidate should be looking at ways to grow in their faith. Each candidate should participate in at least two of the following options

- Liturgical Ministry (serving, singing in the choir and other such involvement counts as 1)
- Mission Trip, (Prayer and Action is one option.)
- "Witness: Truth, Beauty, Goodness" Jr High Youth Rally February 24, 2019
- Signing up for a regular Adoration Hour
- Other activities as approved

## **Retreat: Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Our Confirmation Retreat will be a one day retreat taking place at Benedictine College. It will be led by a retreat team trained by the college and end that evening with a nationally known speaker, confession and adoration, and a vigil mass. There will be a cost of \$30 to cover food and expenses. This is an important part of the process as the candidate will have an opportunity to grow and deeper relationship with Christ. Parent volunteers will be needed for driving. Please note this will be a long day. We will meet in the morning to drive to Benedictine and return that evening around 10:30 or 11:00.

### **Saints Paper: Due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

The student will be asked to write a short paper (one page) on the saint they pick to be their patron saint. In writing this paper it is suggested that the candidate answer the following questions: Why you picked this saint to be your patron saint. What was their life like and what about it attracts you to them? How did this person's life reflect holiness? What is he/she the patron saint of? Are there any miracles related to this saint?

### **Confirmation Sponsor: Form Due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

A sponsor can be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, family friend, older sibling or godparent. The sponsor MUST be a practicing Catholic **in good standing\***, already confirmed themselves, and at least 16 years old. Parents are restricted from being their child's sponsor. It would be ideal to identify the sponsor soon, so that throughout the rest of the spring and summer their relationship can grow.

The Sponsor will need to complete a form found within this packet had have their pastor sign and date it.

\*Another parish in the Archdiocese summed up "in good standing" as follows: "Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. (This would indicate that Catholics publicly living an invalid marriage (not according to Church regulations) and those who are cohabitating (living together without marriage) are ineligible."

### **Letter to Archbishop Naumann: Due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

The student will write to Archbishop Naumann explaining why he/she wants to be confirmed, who the student's sponsor is, who the student picked for their patron saint and why, and they feel ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. This should be typed and limited to one full page. We have an outline available to assist the student.

### **Class Attendance**

Religious Education "classes" are on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:45pm for our 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. It is expected that you attend as many as possible. We do realize things happen and a missed class or two won't be the end of the world. However, a regular pattern of absence would be a concern and could be an indication or sign of lack of readiness. This could indicate the need for further catechesis by Jody and/or Father Mike.

## **Extra Sessions**

These sessions might be scheduled next fall in anticipation of Confirmation. This will be determined once the date for Confirmation has been given by the Archbishop's office. These would be limited in number and act as a means by which to wrap up our catechesis and insure that everyone is prepared intellectually and spiritually for Confirmation.

## **End of preparation meeting with Father**

As pastor of our parish, Father Mike is spiritually and canonically responsible for providing catechesis and sacramental preparation to his parishioners. Although Jody has been hired to do much of this, Father is very interested to know what is being taught and how effective this catechesis is at providing for our community's religious education needs. Therefore he wishes to meet with each confirmation teen. These meetings will happen next fall prior to Confirmation. It is expected that these meetings will be in small groups with other confirmandi. More details regarding these meetings will be given as they draw closer.

## **Confirmation Practice**

Approximately one week before Confirmation is celebrated we will have a rehearsal with Father to ensure everyone knows what to say and do throughout the liturgy.

## **Baptismal Certificate: Due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

If you were not baptized at St Bernard's or St. Joseph's then we will need a copy of the baptismal certificate. Please try and obtain these by the end of school this semester.

## **Quick Check List**

- Retreat on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Departure time from St. Bernard TBD
- Saints paper (Due May 1<sup>st</sup>.)
- Sponsor forms (Due May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Letter to the Archbishop (Due May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Baptismal certificate (Due May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- 2 projects in service to the Parish (Due July 31)
- 2 projects in Corporal Works of Mercy (Due July 31)
- 2 Acts of Faith (Due July 31)
- Class attendance
- Extra sessions attendance
- Meeting with Father
- Rehearsal attendance