

St. Charles Borromeo Religious Education

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January 2019

Dear Confirmation students and parents:

In the fall of your 8th grade year, you will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, however the preparation begins now. This sacrament is the final one of the 3 Sacraments of Initiation. *“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit, in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.”* (CCC 1316) Whew! That is a lot, so that is why several components make up the preparation for this most special sacrament. This packet contains all the information you will need to begin the preparation right now.

We are excited to announce that Confirmation 2019 will take place on **Monday, November 4 at 7:00pm**. Yes, if you caught the date, it is our parish patron’s feast day! How special it will be to be Confirmed on the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo! We are excited to have Bishop Rhoades with us that night to celebrate the Mass and Confirm our candidates with this Sacrament of Initiation.

In this packet, there is a schedule of the preparation program for Confirmation, information on the service component of Confirmation preparation, a service form, and all the information you need this upcoming year.

You will begin the preparation process by selecting a sponsor. This is a very important decision. Your sponsor should be someone you can easily talk to, someone you will be able to spend significant time with over the course of the next year, and someone who can be a good example of Christian living to you. The sponsor also needs to meet the guidelines provided by the Church that are included in this packet and will be discussed in class. At the end of this packet, there is a sponsor form that needs to be completed and returned by Monday, February 4, 2019.

Please read the section on the service requirement carefully. It is important that you understand the commitment that is being asked of you. Parents, you need to be prepared to support your child in this commitment. Doing service as a whole family is a great way to live out your Catholic Faith. If you have any questions about the service project, please contact me in the Religious Education Office or Mr. Heimann. You will be given the summer of 2019 as well to finish up hours. All 15 hours are due on September 16, 2019. A service log is attached to this packet, and it can be found on the parish website.

If you have any questions about Confirmation preparation, please feel free to call me or e-mail me at the address listed above. Information and updates can be found on the parish website at any time. Just go to the parish website, click on the menu in the upper right-hand corner, scroll down to “Faith Formation”, and click on Children’s Religious Education. Information pertaining to Confirmation can be found there at any time.

I look forward to working with each one of you as we begin the preparation process. It is an honor to be a small part of this special moment with you, your family, and your sponsor!

God’s blessings and peace,

Amy Johns
Co-Director of Religious Education

Confirmation Timeline 2019

<i>Monday, February 4, 2019</i>	<i>Confirmation Sponsor Form Due</i>
<i>February 2019-September 2019</i>	<i>Work on the 15 hours of service—Keep your log!</i>
<i>Monday, March 25, 2019</i>	<i>Confirmation Sponsor Certificate Due—Responsibility of the sponsor to get completed by his/her parish priest, unless you are a St. Charles parishioner.</i>
<i>August/September 2019</i>	<i>Work on Saint Project (Paced in class by the teacher in a step-by-step process. Outlines and information will be sent home as the project begins.)</i>
<i>Monday, September 16, 2019</i>	<i>SERVICE HOURS DUE TO TEACHER!</i>
<i>Saturday, September 21, 2019</i>	<i>Confirmation Retreat at St. Charles for Candidates only. 12:00pm-6:00pm. Ending with 5:00pm Mass in Church with the Rite of Enrollment.</i>
	OR
	<i>Diocesan Confirmation Rally @ St. Joseph HS, South Bend from 9:00-3:30. **Not required, but let the RE office know if you're interested in attending. An adult chaperone must attend with the candidates. There is a cost for this retreat.</i>
	<i>**A retreat experience is required of all candidates wishing to be Confirmed!</i>
<i>October 2019</i>	<i>Saint Project Presentations—Date of class presentation is set by the teacher.</i>
<i>Monday, October 7, 2019</i>	<i>Sacrament Request Letter Information and pre-write done in class</i>
<i>Monday, October 14, 2019</i>	<i>Sacrament Request Letter Due in Class</i>
<i>Week of October 21, 2019</i>	<i>Interviews by Parish Staff of Candidates (during RE Class time or during the school day for SCB students)</i>
<i>Sunday, November 3, 2019</i>	<i>Confirmation Practice at 6:15pm (after the 5pm Sunday Mass) meet in School Cafeteria then over to Church. Enter at Door 9/10. Park in Church Lot. Practice will last about 1 hour.</i>
<i>Monday, November 4, 2019</i>	<i>Confirmation Mass in Church at 7pm with reception to follow in cafeteria. There is no RE class this night, it has been cancelled.</i>

Confirmation Sponsor

Candidates will choose a Confirmation sponsor. The sponsor should be someone who has an active role in the candidate's life and is an example of committed Christian living. Since Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation candidates should consider one of their Godparents as their sponsor. However, if the Godparents reside some distance away or do not meet one of the criteria below, he or she may not be the best choice. The sponsor should be someone who the candidate will be able to have regular contact with over the year while preparing for the sacrament. Sponsors need not be the same gender as the candidate. Church law does not allow a parent to be a sponsor. The sponsor must fulfill the following requirements:

- A Confirmed Catholic over the age of 16, at the time of Confirmation.
- Attend and participate in Sunday Mass.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
- Have a marital status that is in keeping with Catholic teaching.
- Uphold the moral teaching authority of the Church.

Candidates should give prayerful thought to their choice of a sponsor and discuss this important choice with their parents. **At the end of this packet, there is a half sheet of paper—the sponsor information sheet. The slip and required information should be returned by FEBRUARY 4, 2019.** The students can turn them into his/her homeroom teacher or Religious Education catechist, place in the basket at church in an envelope with AMY JOHNS written on it, mail it in to me, or email it to us at scbreligiouseducation@gmail.com. Each sponsor will be mailed/emailed a letter explaining his/her role in the Confirmation preparation of her/his candidate. This letter will be mailed out in February. It will include a sponsor certificate that must be filled out by each sponsor and returned by March 25, 2019.

Service Requirement

Service is an integral part of our Christian life. Jesus commands us to "Love one another as I have loved you." As our candidates prepare for Confirmation it is vital that they live out this command of love and service. The service component of the Confirmation program is meant to instill in candidates the lifelong commitment of using the gifts and talents that God has given them in service to others. Service is not to be seen only as a requirement for Confirmation. It is a requirement for all Catholics who are serious about living out their Faith. A life of service should be modeled for candidates by their parents and sponsors.

Each Confirmation candidate will be required to fulfill a service commitment of a minimum of **15 hours** throughout the course of the year of preparation. The service commitment should be a regular (weekly or monthly) commitment to an act of service. We do not want to abandon our service, just because we met the minimum amount of hours—that would defeat the purpose of service. Candidates should consider their gifts, talents and interests when choosing a commitment. In order to set an example, that service is a part of our Christian life and not just a requirement for Confirmation, sponsors and/or parents are encouraged to serve with the candidate whenever possible. Groups of candidates are also encouraged to serve together, perhaps with parents or sponsors taking turns driving and chaperoning the group.

Some examples of service commitments that would be worthwhile are listed below. (Contact names and phone numbers are included for parish activities). The CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE should make the phone call to arrange service opportunities. This is his/her project, so the child should take the initiative and make the contact.

- helping out with Vacation Bible School, June 10-13, 2019, 9am-12pm (Miss Johns or Mrs. Schleinkofer 484-7322, needs to fill out a volunteer slip)
- washing windows in the Church on Saturdays (parish office 482-2186)
- assisting Religious Education, Monday evenings 6:30-7:45pm (Miss Johns in the Religious Ed. Office at 484-7322)
- serving in one of the Parish music ministries—**practice** counts as the service, but playing at Mass does NOT as it is your Sunday obligation to attend. (Contact Ms. Hope or Mr. Robison)
- visiting a nursing home to help with activities or crafts
- cleaning up a neighborhood park on a regular basis
- tutoring a fellow or younger student
- helping elderly neighbors with shopping, cleaning, yard work, etc.
- babysitting at Women's Care Center (contact the center of choice)
- contact a local pet store or the animal shelter to help care for the animals
- caring for the parish environmental garden (contact Sr. Genevieve at school)
- assist a teacher in the classroom as needed (cleaning, organizing, etc.)
- Volunteer Euell Wilson Center afterschool with their reading program
- Help out your local athletic team (Swim in the summer, Wildcat, Little League) with assisting the coach(es)
- Help out at a youth camp as a volunteer or counselor (Franke Park Day Camp and Scout Camps)
- Call St. Mary's Soup Kitchen to help with meals and lunches
- Call the Franciscan Center to see if help is needed
- Contact Franciscan Thrift Store to sort donations
- Make blankets for Project Linus and donate them
- babysit for a neighbor, family member, etc... without pay

If you are still struggling to find a service opportunity, talk to Mr. Heimann, Mrs. Schleinkofer, or Miss Johns who have a booklet that has more organizations looking for assistance in the Fort Wayne area.

Candidates are encouraged to develop their own ideas as well. They can also do a couple of activities throughout the year. The service must have direct contact with people outside of the candidate's family. The service can be to the parish, school, any service organization, or direct service to someone in need. Go outside your comfort zone! Before making a commitment, candidates and parents should discuss the candidate's ability to carry out the commitment. This discussion should include how the candidate's schedule will be impacted by sports and activities. ***Once a commitment has been made candidates will be expected to fulfill their commitment even if it becomes inconvenient.*** If you would like to discuss the appropriateness of a commitment please contact me at 484-7322.

Each candidate will keep a record of his/her service with a sign-off from the adult supervisor. The record log of service hours is attached to this information packet. ***The students are more than welcome to continue their service hours up to the due date in September.*** Budget your time and balance around your schedule. Know when you are the busiest and when you will have time to complete the required hours. **Be sure to take the log with you to each service event.** The candidate should fill out the information first, then ask the **supervising adult for his/her signature**—not your parent. Do not lose your log, as this is your proof of successful completion of the required 15 hours. The log sheet will be due before Confirmation on September 16, 2019.

Altar serving and ushering at Mass do NOT count as service hours, since it is already your Sunday obligation to attend Mass, as does singing or playing an instrument at Mass. If you sing, play an instrument, or join one of the music ministries, the **practice time is your service.** Your attendance and participation at Mass does NOT count, since it is your obligation to attend Mass every Sunday—the commandments say so!

SERVICE MUST BE DONE OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY!



Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation retreat is a time for fun, prayer, and fellowship among the candidates, but also their sponsors. The Confirmation retreat will be held this year on **Saturday, September 21, 2019.** It will be held for the Confirmation Candidates only. It will be held from 12:00pm–6:00pm throughout the St. Charles campus. The retreat will end with celebrating Mass at the 5:00pm Mass in the Church with the Rite of Enrollment. All parents, families, and sponsors are welcome to attend Mass and the Rite of Enrollment.

Confirmation candidates must attend the Confirmation retreat. This is a great way to grow closer to God through activities and talks. Various parish staff members and teachers will lead sessions on various topics that pertain to the candidates. Some topics include prayer, service, Confirmation 101, and making the transition to high school while living your Faith. We will also have some of our high school youth parishioners lead the groups throughout the retreat and participate in the sessions as well.

Candidates may also attend the diocesan-wide Confirmation rally, being held on the same day at St Joe HS in South Bend. Please contact the Religious Education Office if interested in attending this retreat experience rather than the parish retreat.

Saint Name Project

Each candidate will choose a saint that he/she admires, which will in turn become his/her Confirmation name. It is suggested to use the saint name given to them at Baptism, however, they may choose any saint they look up to and would like to make a part of their life. This offers a great discussion between the candidate, his/her sponsor, and the parents. There are many great websites and book resources that can be used when deciding upon a saint.



Each candidate will then do a research project looking into the life of the chosen saint. Research will be conducted to learn about the life, death, and hopefully the canonization of that particular saint. Each student will give a class presentation about his/her saint as well. Further details and directions will be given in the spring. All presentations will be completed before in the spring at a date assigned by the teacher.

Letter Requesting the Sacrament and Interview

Due on **October 14, 2019**, candidates will be asked to submit a letter with their reasons for either requesting Confirmation or requesting not to be Confirmed at this time. Each letter will be written to "Church Leaders" and describe their preparation for the sacrament and formally request it. An outline will be given to the students to assist in writing the letters in class on October 6, 2019. Candidates will be interviewed by a member of the parish staff prior to Confirmation during class time the week of October 21, 2019. This will be a chance to reaffirm their decision and give a few pieces of advice.

Confirmation Practice

Once the date for Confirmation is set, a practice will be scheduled within a week of Confirmation for both the candidate and his/her sponsor. If the sponsor is unable to attend the practice, a parent should attend with the candidate to take the spot of the sponsor. We will go through lining up, processing over to Church, how to come up to be Confirmed, and how to process out of Church. The logistics for the sacrament will be relayed to the students and it will give them time to ask any questions. We will also review what they are responsible for saying during the sacrament, which is listed below.



Sponsor: Bishop, this is Confirmation Name, she/he is ready to be Confirmed.

Bishop: N, be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmandi: Amen.

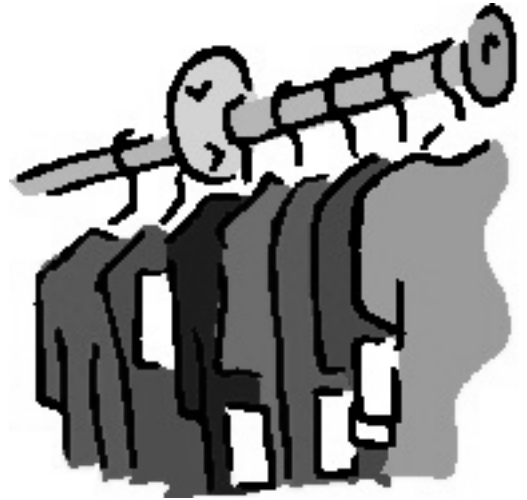
Bishop: Peace be with you.

Confirmandi: And with your Spirit.

Dress Code For Confirmation

Although the dress code will be enforced for the candidates, all others in attendance should adhere to the guidelines as well, including sponsors. Confirmation attire should be modest and appropriate to the celebration of the sacrament and being in a Church setting (guidelines received from the Office of the Bishop). The dress code for Confirmation is as follows:

- NO jeans, shorts, capris, sweat pants/shirts, t-shirts, mini skirts, formal gowns, halter-tops, or plunging necklines.
- Women are requested to wear dresses, skirts, or dress pants. Dresses and tops may not be strapless, have bare midriiffs, bare backs, spaghetti straps, or low-cut tops. Please wear a shawl, wrap, or sweater to show modesty in Church. Shoulders must be covered.
- Skirts and dresses must be no shorter than knee length. The skirt should touch the ground when kneeling.
- Men are requested to wear dress shirts with a tie, dress slacks, and dress shoes. Suit coats are optional.
- Men should have hair cut above the collar and no longer than half way down your ear. If necessary, be sure to be clean shaven.
- No flip flops, gym shoes, or heels higher than two inches in height. You must be able to walk!
- Men should not have earrings in.
- Women should not have makeup (foundation) on their face—especially on the forehead!



Professional Photo of Confirmation

We have hired a professional photographer, Tom Killoran, approved by Bishop Rhoades, to take a picture of each candidate as they are being Confirmed—sample to the right. Pictures will be available for purchase at the end of the Confirmation Mass in the Community Room (choir room) located in the Gathering Space. Photos are one for \$15 or two for \$25. We will practice the placement for the picture at the Sunday practice.

Attention Parents

It's my privilege to inform you that we will be documenting an important step in your child's spiritual life through Instant Event Photos.

Every Confirmandi will be photographed when they are being anointed by the Bishop.

Our high quality unobtrusive images are captured from afar without flash.

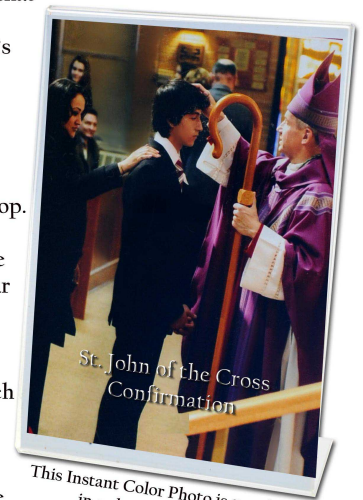
You will be able to witness the ceremony from your bench without fear of missing a memory photo.

These Photos will be available for purchase immediately after the ceremony. One photo is \$15.00 - 2 for \$25.00 Makes a great gift for the sponsors

Tips for Sponsors



Stand behind the Confirmandi not next to the Confirmandi



This Instant Color Photo is supplied in a clear plastic frame

Tom Killoran Photography
Instant Event Photos
11316 S. Harlem Ave.
Worth, Illinois 60482
708 361 0025

CONFIRMATION SERVICE LOG

Date	# of Hours	Description of Activity	Supervisor Signature (who oversaw your service)

Name _____ Room _____

Confirmation Sponsor Information—Please Print Clearly

Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor's Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone with Area Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

(Our preferred way to contact sponsors—be careful in the accuracy of the email! PRINT NEATLY!)

Parish of Registration: _____

Address of Parish: _____
(If outside of Fort Wayne) Street City State Zip

Return to the Religious Education Office by Monday, February 4, 2019!
****Can be sent through your homeroom teacher or through your Religious Education catechist!****

Confirmation Sponsor Information—Please Print Clearly

Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor's Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone with Area Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

(Our preferred way to contact sponsors—be careful in the accuracy of the email! PRINT NEATLY!)

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