

# **St. Charles Borromeo Religious Education**

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Dear Confirmation students and parents:

In the fall of your 8<sup>th</sup> 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 sacrament. This packet contains all the information you will need to begin the preparation now.

At this time we do not know the exact date of Confirmation. Bishop does not set that schedule until a later date. We will let you know the date as soon as we receive it from the Bishop’s office. It is my hope we will have it again around November 4... the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo! We will let you know the exact date as soon as we do!

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, October 9, 2017.

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 your Catholic Faith. If you have any questions about the service project please contact me. You will be given the summer of 2018 as well to finish up hours. All 15 hours are due on September 24, 2018. A service log is attached 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:  
<http://stcharlesfortwayne.org/sacrament-information.php>.

I look forward to working with each one of you as we begin the preparation process. It is a 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 2017-2018

<i>Monday, October 9, 2017</i>	<i>Confirmation Sponsor Form Due</i>
<i>September 2017-September 2018</i>	<i>Work on the 15 hours of service—Keep your log!</i>
<i>Saturday, October 14, 2017</i>	<i>Diocesan Confirmation Rally @ Marian HS **Not required, but let the RE office know if interested in attending. There will be another planned in the fall of 2018.</i>
<i>Monday, November 13, 2017</i>	<i>Confirmation Parent/Sponsor Meeting (optional for sponsor is chosen and able to attend.) Parish Hall 6:45-7:45pm-Park in Lot at corner of Reed and Trier. Enter at Door 13.</i>
<i>Thursday, November 16, 2017</i>	<i>OR Confirmation Parent/Sponsor Meeting Room 6 in the School 3:30-4:30-Park in Lot at corner of Reed and Trier. Enter at Door 13.</i>
<i>**Choose one of the above meeting times to attend. If you have had another child receive his/her Confirmation within the past 3 years, attendance is not a requirement, but recommended! We also invite sponsors to attend if they like.**</i>	
<i>Monday, December 4, 2017</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>Spring 2018</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>April/May 2018</i>	<i>Saint Project Presentations—Date of class presentation is set by the teacher.</i>
<i>Late September 2018</i>	<i>Sacrament Request Letter Information and pre-write done in class</i>
<i>Monday, September 24, 2018</i>	<i>SERVICE HOURS DUE TO TEACHER!</i>
<i>Saturday, October 6, 2018</i>	<i>Confirmation Retreat at St. Charles for Candidates only. 12:00pm-6:00pm. Ending with 5:00pm Mass in Church.</i>
<i>Early October, 2018</i>	<i>Interviews by Parish Staff of Candidates</i>
<i>TBD based on the date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Confirmation Practice meet in School Cafeteria then over to Church. Enter at Door 9/10. Park in Church Lot.</i>
<i>TBD by Bishop Rhoades</i>	<i>Confirmation Mass in Church with reception to follow in cafeteria.</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 OCTOBER 9, 2017.** 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](mailto: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 by the end of October. It will include a sponsor certificate that must be filled out by each sponsor and returned by December 4, 2017.

## **Parent/Sponsor Confirmation Meeting**

A parent of each candidate should attend one of the two meeting times listed below. If you have had a child who has received the sacrament within the last 3 years, your attendance is not required, however you are more than welcome to attend. The meeting is divided up into 4 major parts, background/theology of the sacrament, curriculum, how parents/sponsors can help at home, and the actual day. Sponsors are welcome to attend too. The meeting should last about 1 hour.



**Monday, November 13, 2017, 6:45–7:45pm,  
Parish Hall (door #13)**

**Thursday, November 16, 2017 3:30–4:30pm, Classroom 6 in School  
(door #13)**

## 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 11-14, 2018, 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)
- helping with Market Day pickup—only monthly (contact coordinator)
- 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 or 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...

If you are still struggling to find a service opportunity, talk to Mr. Heimann or Mrs. Schleinkofer and 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 24, 2018.

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, 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, October 6, 2018**. 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. 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. Please contact the Religious Education Office if interested in this event to get further details.

## **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**

In September 2018, before Confirmation, 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. Candidates will be interviewed by a member of the parish staff prior to Confirmation during class time. 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.

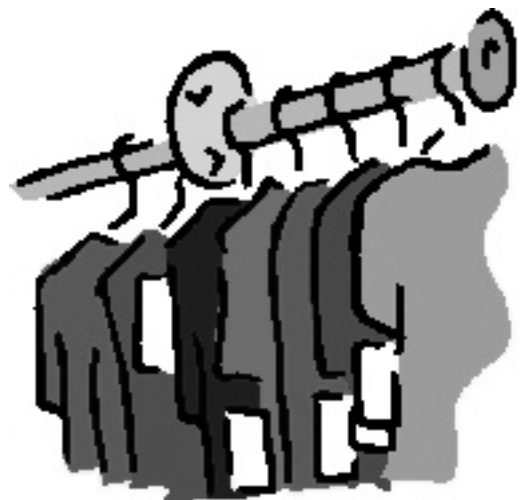
**Bishop:** Peace be with you.

**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 midriffs, 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.







## 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!)

Parish of Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Return to the Religious Education Office by Monday, October 9, 2017!**

**\*\*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: \_\_\_\_\_

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