

Dear Parents and Students,

Confirmation is an important step in the moral development and faith journey of your youth. It should not be entered into lightly. If you or your child decides he/she is not ready for this Sacrament, it is okay to wait. Your child will be required to attend class each week on Sunday evenings 4:30–6:00 p.m. They must attend 80% of classes, a retreat and the Seder Meal as well as complete a Saint report and service hours. It is expected that they will willingly practice their faith and celebrate it by their active participation in class and Mass each week. An understanding and knowledge of our faith is of utmost importance. In order to acquire this, the candidates must be practicing their faith, praying daily, and open to Christ.

This is their class and they are responsible for any and all assignments given, unless otherwise notified. Therefore, I will be sending them emails and texting them as well as you via Flocknote. I expect them to read the emails and correspond with me and not you. Meaning they should send assignments through their email, not yours. If for some reason they don't have an email address then please note that on the registration. You do need to check on them but you should not have to hound them or do their work for them. If they aren't ready to do the work, then don't put them in the class.

ASSIGNMENTS: All candidates will receive a folder at the first meeting. This folder will include all the handouts Monsignor Lofton goes over with them, blank copies of all required forms, and any other material relevant to Confirmation. They will be expected to review the material he gives them and will be quizzed periodically on the material. They are expected to bring the folder and a Bible to each class. Please make sure your child is keeping up with the material that is given to them outside of class.

Baptism Certificates: A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate must be submitted with your registration. **A REGISTRATION FORM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT ONE.**

Parent involvement: *There will be two mandatory events which will require at least one parent, but both are encouraged to attend. The parish Seder Meal, Monday of Holy Week, on March 29th at 6:00 p.m. and the Confirmation Retreat: February 6th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

Sponsors: A sponsor form is attached with this letter. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE SPONSOR PUTS THEIR GIVEN LEGAL NAME ON THE FORM.** For example if the sponsor's legal given name is Patricia then she has to put Patricia on the form; not Patty or Trish or any other shortened version of her name she goes by. A sponsor must be a practicing, baptized and confirmed Catholic. The sponsor form must be filled out and turned into their home parish for the priest to sign and seal. **ALL ST. THERESA SPONSOR FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE OFFICE FOR COMPLETION. DO NOT HAND THEM IN IF THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNED AND SEALED.** If the sponsor cannot be present during Confirmation you may stand in for them. Parents are not allowed to be sponsors. Please try to choose someone who will be able to attend the service, which is usually on a weeknight in the late spring or early summer. Also this person should be someone your son/daughter has a good relationship with and who will be there to pray for and mentor him or her in the faith.

Service hours: Confirmation candidates are asked to do **ten** hours of service prior to their Confirmation. A service hour record sheet is included in their folder. This sheet must be signed by an adult who supervised the activity and submitted to Leslie McGowan upon completion. Candidates will be asked to write a reflection on at least two services.

Retreat: Confirmation candidates and at least one parent are required to participate in a Confirmation day-retreat, which will be Saturday, February 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Seder Meal: All Confirmation students are required to attend our annual Seder Meal celebrating the Jewish Passover the Monday of Holy Week, Monday, March 29th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Make your coaches, instructors, etc. aware ahead of time.

Names: Confirmation candidates need to choose a Saint name for their Confirmation name. All candidates must turn in an assignment on their Saint. A guideline will be handed out at orientation. This assignment is due by the last class meeting in December 2020.

Attire: Confirmation is a very special day for the candidates. We encourage the boys to be dressed in blazers or suits, trousers and ties. The girls should wear dresses, which cover the shoulders and thighs, in either white or pastel colours. Candidates will be given a red sash to wear. No sneakers or flip-flops will be allowed.

USE OF CELL PHONES OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE ARE PROHIBITED during all classes and events. If your child is caught using them they will be confiscated and returned after class. If this becomes a problem, you will be required to come in and get them from an adult monitor.

As a final note, I realize some of you may have unique family situations. You may be divorced and share custody of your child/children, or you may be a single parent, or your spouse may have passed away and you are honouring your commitment to raise them in the Catholic Church. I need you to prayerfully consider your level of participation or lack thereof. If your former spouse does not share your commitment or desire for their child to receive this Sacrament you are only hurting your child. If they will not cooperate in making sure your child will attend class and/or other events while in their custody then please don't register. Also, if you are not committed to attending Mass please do not register. They are being confirmed in the Catholic faith, and that will be impossible to grow in if you don't attend Mass. If your work schedule or other situation will prevent a consistent attendance then please don't register. As I said, there is no reason it has to be done in the ninth grade.

Please read this carefully and sign and return the next page. The signed agreement is due with registration by August 3, 2020. Keep these handouts on requirements someplace where you can refer back to them if you have any questions or concerns during the year.

Thank you and God Bless,
Leslie McGowan, DRE



I have read and understand the information provided in this letter. We agree to the requirements outlined above and will do our best to assist and encourage our child during this Confirmation year.

Parent signature: _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Phone Number: _____

Turn this form in by August 24, 2020 to hold a spot in our Confirmation class.

You may drop it off at the parish office, or scan and email it to Leslie@StTheresaChurch.com



SAINT THERESA
THE LITTLE FLOWER
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Confirmation Sponsor Guidelines

A sponsor is a person chosen by the candidate as a mentor in the process of full initiation into the Catholic Church. The sponsor's role is to walk the journey as a companion to the youth being fully initiated. This person should have established good rapport with and be easy to talk to for the young person.

Requirements for a sponsor as specified in Code of Canon Law #874

1. One person chosen by the candidate
2. Be 16 years of age or older.
3. Be a fully initiated (all three Sacraments of initiation- Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) practicing Catholic in good standing who participates in Sunday liturgy, leads a life of harmony with the faith and able to participate with his/her candidate in the Eucharist.
4. Not be the mother or father of the candidate.
5. Ideally is the baptismal sponsor so that the link between Baptism and Confirmation is expressed clearly.
6. Maintain contact with the candidate before and after Confirmation.

Role of the sponsor:

1. Pray for your candidate regularly.
2. Maintain contact with your candidate.
3. Participate in the Confirmation Mass.

You as a sponsor hold a special place in a Confirmand's faith life. Please consider this carefully before agreeing to undertake this role.

SPONSOR FORM

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

First name (legal name)
Last name

CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP:

I realize that in accepting the role of sacramental sponsorship I become responsible to be a model and example of a committed and active Catholic and a support to the parents of the candidate for Confirmation.

I hereby assure that I am committed to my Catholic Faith, that I myself am at least 16 years of age **BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED.**

I meet my fundamental obligations as a Catholic by:

- Being a registered member of a Catholic Church _____ initials
- Attending Sunday Mass _____ initials
- By receiving the Eucharist as often as possible _____ initials
- Receive the sacrament of Penance as necessary _____ initials
- Being open to the Word of God as revealed in Scripture and taught by the Catholic Church _____ initials
- Seeking to be of service to others for the love of Him _____ initials

I promise to give my full support to the person I am sponsoring by the Christian example of my daily life, so help me God!

Print Name _____

Address _____ Street city State

Daytime telephone # _____

The following is to be completed by the SPONSOR'S Home Parish; if sponsor is a member of St. Theresa after completing the form drop it off at the office for Msgr. Lofton's signature.

Signature of Pastor: _____

Parish Name _____

Parish Mailing Address _____

Parish Telephone number _____

Parish Seal

