

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. Year One (8th grade) your child will be required to attend class each week on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:30am. Year Two (9th grade) your child will be required to attend class each week on Sunday evening from 6:00 – 7:30pm. 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.

While the focus of these next two years will be on preparing them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it doesn't end there. They will be responsible for participating in class, completing the assignments, attending a retreat each year, and completing service hours, but you need be involved too. Most of them are not only preparing for Confirmation but they are preparing for life as well. You need to pray for your child regularly, attend Mass as a family, and keep the door for communication open. Do not expect them to keep up with everything on their own. Look for ways you can encourage your child as they begin this new stage in their life.

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 mandatory events which will require at least one parent, but both are encourage to attend.*

Sponsors: The first year of their Confirmation process this person should be prayerfully considered. Your child should have a sponsor chosen by the end of the first year. This person should be praying for your child regularly and keep in regular contact. At the end of the first year we will send home sponsor forms.

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 **a minimum of five church related service** hours each year. A service hour record sheet is included in their binder. This sheet must be signed by an adult who supervised the activity and submitted to Leslie McGowan upon completion. Service hours can be earned by Altar Serving, which all students have to do at least once. One hour of service is granted for every Mass a student is an Altar Server.

Mandatory Retreat: Sunday, April 21, 2024 at St. Theresa the Little Flower Catholic Church.

Names: Confirmation candidates need to choose a Saint name for their Confirmation name. All candidates must turn in the [summer saint assignment](#) the by December 1, 2023.

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 before you register your child for Confirmation. Keep these handouts on requirements someplace where you can refer back to them if you have any questions or concerns during the year.

Confirmation date is April 30, 2024. Your student will need to go to Confession in the week prior to receiving Confirmation and it will be available at the retreat.

Thank you and God Bless,
Nancy Kuffel, DRE