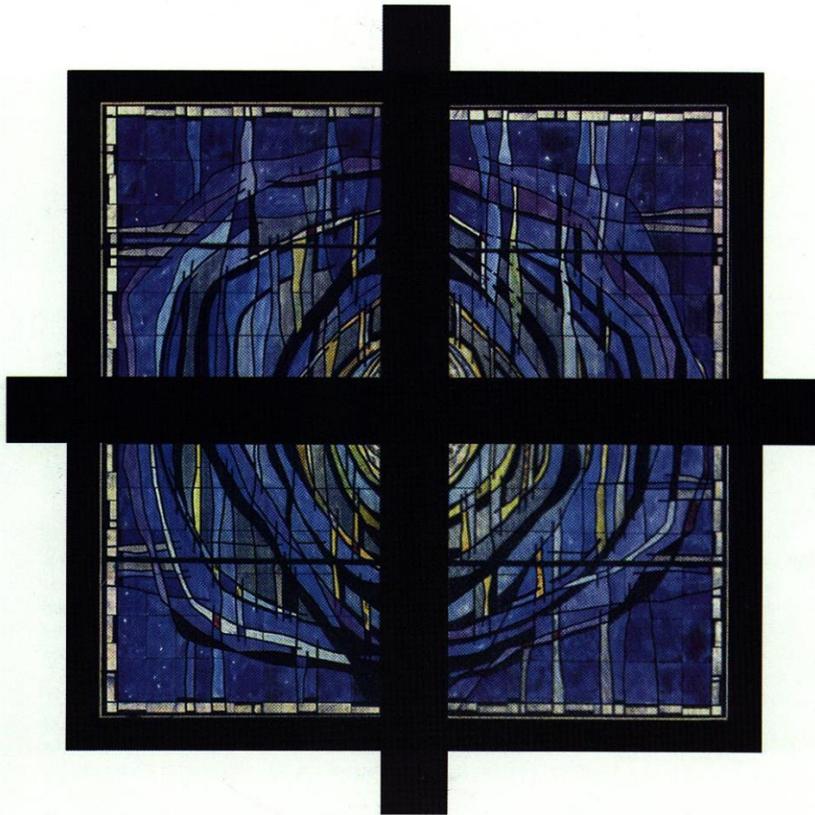


# Confirmation Preparation

## A GUIDE FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES, PARENTS, AND CATECHISTS



“...that their hearts may be encouraged as they are brought together in love, to have all the richness of fully assured understanding, for the knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Col 2:2-3

The Church of St. Gerard

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome! We are looking forward to walking alongside you as you prepare for Confirmation and sharing with you in this part of your faith journey. As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth, and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

### **What is expected of a Confirmation Candidate?**

- Participate in Mass every week.
- Participate in Confirmation classes. (Page 3)
- Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with him/her. (Page 3)  
(Select sponsor and fill out sponsor info form by **Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**)
- Participate in Rite of Welcome Mass and the sponsor/candidate meeting on **Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**  
(Page 4)
- Write a letter of intent. (Page 4) (**Due Dec. 3rd**)
- Choose a Saint's name as a Confirmation name and write a biography on that Saint's life and why you chose him/her. (Page 5) (**Due Dec. 3rd**)
- Participate in the Confirmation retreat on **March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**. (Page 6)
- Participate in at least one Parish group, event, or activity on a monthly basis throughout the Confirmation process and write a one-page reflection on your experience. (Page 6)  
(**Due March 18th**)
- Participate in the Rite of Sending Mass on **April 8<sup>th</sup>** and the parent/candidate meeting afterward. (Page 7)
- Participate in the Confirmation liturgy at the Basilica on **Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**  
(Page 7)

\*\*\* There is a schedule of Confirmation meetings and events on page 8.

### **Participate in Confirmation Classes**

Regular attendance at Confirmation classes is extremely important in preparing candidates for reception of the Sacrament. We understand that families and students are busy, but we expect that you will make classes a priority. If you do miss a session, you will be expected to complete the lesson on your own before our next meeting. Our Confirmation program is available online at

[http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/view-program/;](http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/view-program/)

there is also an app available for your phone that you can download. **Students are allowed to miss no more than 2 classes (except in the case of serious circumstances). Emily MUST be contacted if a student is going to be absent from class.**



### **Choose a Qualified Sponsor and Meet Regularly with Them**

Your Confirmation sponsor should be a person who is a strong role-model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in your faith journey both now and in the future. Your sponsor should therefore be able to meet regularly with you and help you prepare for Confirmation through prayer, study, service, and discussion. Sponsors must be able to attend the Confirmation Mass on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Requirements for sponsors:***

- Must be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly.
- Should know the candidate well and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Catholic influence on the candidate.
- Must be a fully initiated Catholic themselves, having received Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- **May not be the parents of the candidate.**

Once you've decided on your sponsor, you will fill out the Confirmation Sponsor Information Form which is due at the sponsor/candidate meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Participate in the Rite of Welcome Mass**

All candidates, parents, and sponsors should plan to **attend the Rite of Welcome Mass at 10:30am on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. During the Mass, the candidates will declare their intent to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Saint Gerard's community as witness. In return, the community agrees to support and pray for all those involved in this faith journey.

### **Participate in Sponsor/Candidate meeting**

The candidate and his or her sponsor must **attend a meeting together following Rite of Welcome Mass on October 29<sup>th</sup>**. We will go over expectations, what it means to be a sponsor, and talk briefly about the Rite of Confirmation.

### **Write a Letter of Intent**

The purpose of this letter is for the candidate to demonstrate in writing her/his desire to be Confirmed, and why making this commitment is important to them. This letter should be less than a page in length.

Please use the following as a guide for the letter:

**First-** Introduce yourself and share some information about yourself, such as your family, your interests and hobbies, and a little about your background.

**Second-** Explain where you are in your faith journey right now. Do you have a good relationship with God? Do you pray, go to Mass regularly, and live a Christian lifestyle? What are some things you struggle with about your faith?

**Third-** Explain why you want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. How will it strengthen your relationship with Jesus? How will it help you as you strive to live out your Catholic faith at church, at school, and in your everyday life?

**\*This letter must be turned in by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **Choose a Confirmation Saint Name and Write a Short Biography**

One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a Saint name. At Baptism, your name was chosen by your parents because you were too little to make the selection alone. Now, in Confirmation, another name, in addition to your first and middle names, can be added, or your original baptismal name may be used. **When you celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, this is the name you will be called by.** It must be a Christian name, such as a Saint or person from the Bible. If you decide to choose a new name, you might want to choose the name of a Saint who represents the type of Christian you want to be, or someone whose life you admire.

Here are some resources as you begin to pray about what name you would like:

Catholic Online-Saints: <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Patron Saints Index: <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

It is important to learn as much as you can about your patron Saint. After all, you are asking this Saint to be your friend and advocate. You'll then complete a short biography of that Saint; use the questions below as a *guide*. This is to be a biography, please do not just answer the questions below as your paper. **The Saint Biography is due by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

- Your Patron Saint's full name and feast day.
- Facts about your Saint such as birthplace, career, ministry, family, etc.
- In what ways did your patron Saint serve God?
- What qualities did she/he possess that you admire?
- What can you learn from the life lived by your patron Saint? How will learning about this Saint help you in the future to serve God and others?

### **Participate in the Confirmation Retreat**

**Candidates must attend the Confirmation retreat on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.** This will be an all-day event from 11:00am-6:00pm, and more information will be available as we get closer.

As attending a retreat is a requirement for Confirmation, if you are unable to attend the retreat on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, it is expected that you will make arrangements with another parish or Catholic youth organization to fulfill the obligation. **If you need help finding an alternate retreat to attend, contact Emily at least one month before March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **Participate with a Parish Group or Event**

You are required to participate with a Parish group, event, or activity **on at least a monthly basis.** Then, write a one-page reflection on your experience. Your reflection is due by **March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.** The goal is that you'll find a ministry that you're passionate about and continue to be involved in this ministry after Confirmation. There are many opportunities to be involved at Saint Gerard's. Just a few examples are:

- Be an assistant small group leader for Elementary Faith Formation (Monday nights), Pre-K (Sunday mornings during 10:30am Mass) Middle School Faith Formation (Wednesday nights), or Generations of Faith (Once a month on Wednesdays)
- Help with Elevate middle school youth group
- Attend high school youth group (Meets after Confirmation class)
- Assist with Liturgy of the Word for Children at Sunday Mass
- Participate in Mass as a Reader, an Usher, or a Greeter
- Help with hospitality (coffee and donuts) after Mass
- Run the PowerPoint slides for the screens during Mass
- Be an altar server
- Volunteer in the Nursery for Generations of Faith (Wednesdays once a month)
- Sing or play an instrument with the choir at Mass
- Volunteer at the burrito breakfasts or pancake breakfasts
- Prepare and serve meals with Loaves and Fishes or Sharing and Caring Hands

Here are several all day volunteer opportunities (Choosing one of these takes the place of volunteering once a month):

- Volunteer with Pumpkin Fest
- Help with Advent Tea
- Participate in Stretch, a youth ministry event where we start the day with Mass, complete a service project, and participate in a fun activity in the afternoon. Stretch events are scheduled over school breaks
- Help with Winterblast, our middle school lock in

Many of these opportunities need to be scheduled in advance, so don't wait until the last minute to make arrangements. Other opportunities will be listed in the weekly bulletin. Here are a few questions to help guide your 1-page reflection:

- What group or event did you participate with? What did you do? Any responsibilities or duties?
- What did you like/dislike about being a part of this ministry?
- Who are some of the other parishioners you met?
- Is this a group or event you would participate with again?
- How did participating in this event help you to grow in your faith?

### **Participate in the Rite of Sending Mass and Parent/Student Meeting**

On April 8th, at the 10:30am Mass at St. Gerard, we will have a Rite of Sending. This is an opportunity for the parish community to express its support for you, recognize your preparation, and to send you forth to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Following Mass, we will have a brief meeting to discuss the details of the Confirmation Mass at the Basilica.

### **Participate in the Confirmation Mass**

You will be Confirmed on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis.

**Confirmation Schedule:**

**Sunday Nights – 6:00pm-7:30pm**

**9/24/17** Parent/Student Meeting

**10/1/17** Session 1: Life is Choices

**10/8/17** Session 2: What's Holding You Back?

**10/15/17** Session 3: The Jesus Question

**\*\*\*10/29/17 Rite of Welcome Mass at 10:30am and Student/Sponsor meeting (No class in evening)**

**11/5/17 Safe Environment Training (This is a requirement of the Archdiocese) PARENTS MUST ATTEND WITH YOUTH**

**11/12/17** Session 4: The Prayer Process

**11/19/17** Session 5: The Bible

**12/3/17** Session 6: Relationships

**12/10/17** Session 7: The Eucharist

**12/17/17** Session 8: The Holy Spirit

**1/7/18** Faith Interest Connectors

**1/14/18** Faith Interest Connectors

**1/21/18** Faith Interest Connectors

**1/28/18** Faith Interest Connectors

**2/11/18** Session 9: The Church

**2/25/18** Session 11: Made for Mission and Session 12: Holiness is Possible

**\*\*\*3/3/18 Saturday Confirmation Retreat**

**3/18/18** I've been Confirmed: Now What? – A panel discussion

**\*\*\*4/8/18 Confirmation Rite of Sending at 10:30am Mass and Final Parent Meeting (No class in evening)**

**\*\*\*4/14/18 Saturday Confirmation Mass at the Basilica 10:00am-12:00pm**

**\*\*\*5/2/18** 6:30pm End of the Year Outdoor Mass and Social for all Faith Formation Families