

St. Mary's
Confirmation
Handbook

Year 2
2017-2018



CANDIDATE NAME

CONFIRMATION

General Information:

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in which the parish celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. You will learn about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as numerous other important facts about the Catholic Faith this year.

You will have the opportunity to help your neighbor through service in your community, church and family. You will participate in several activities and listen to speakers share their faith story with you. You will choose a Confirmation sponsor that will guide and help you along the path to Confirmation.

This time of your life is a vital process in achieving greater understanding, appreciation and devotion to your faith. Remember, Confirmation is a rite that you choose for yourself and one that you commit to yourself, not your parents, pastor or teachers. It will only be as richly rewarding as you choose to make it.

As a Candidate for Confirmation you:

- Must freely choose to be confirmed and make that desire known.
- Must be in the state of grace.
- Must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions.
- Must be practicing your faith
- Should attend Mass and received the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.
- Are responsible for completing all required home study and service projects
- Must be aware of the initiation aspect of the sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of your religion
- Must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program of prayer, retreat, communal celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation, etc.

When choosing a sponsor, remember, he or she must:

- Support you and your commitment to a Christian life
- Know you and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on you.

- Must belong to the Catholic church and be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- Obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of their parish
- Be a baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation
- Help the candidate prepare for confirmation
- Assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitments
- Be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- Accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- Not be the parents of the candidate
- Encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship
- Assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

Parents:

- Are the primary educators of their children
- Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians
- Worship with their families regularly
- Nurture their child in faith
- Should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of confirmation
- Are asked to attend meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation
- Are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service
- Can emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation
- Should stress the initiation aspect of the sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- Should help their child in understanding that the Confirmation service projects are the beginning of a life committed to Christian service.



CONFIRMATION NAMES

If the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation it should be a name selected in honor of Jesus or Mary or from the list of recognized saints of the Catholic Church. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life or virtues can be imitated. If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation.

REFLECTING ON MY FAITH

Take a moment to reflect on the following questions before your meeting with Father Brian Hughes. Please be prepared to discuss your answers.

Meeting Date and Time:

What is the key difference between the Catholic Church and other faiths?

How do you feel about being raised Catholic by your parents?

Why do you want to be a Catholic Christian?



How have your parents helped you prepare to be confirmed?

What does your Baptism mean to you?

Why do you want to be confirmed?

In the last year, what experiences have you had that make you more prepared for confirmation?

How will your participation in the church change once you are confirmed?

How do you think you will be practicing your faith in five or ten years?

How do you feel about your mass attendance and sacrament participation?

Describe a situation in which your faith has been challenged. How did you handle it?

What areas of your faith life need to be further developed? How do you plan to do this?

Father Brian Hughes Signature and Date:

YOUTH GROUP DATES/TIMES



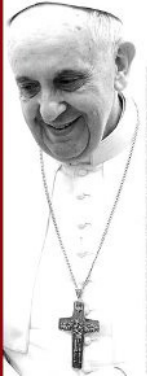
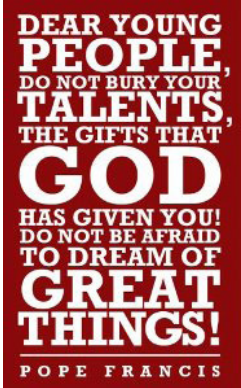
YOUTH --- GROUP

All events are subject to change but this is planned as of now. All events are intended for either 7-8 grades, or 9-12 grades, depending on the program for that day. Some events will be for everyone grades 7-12. Watch for announcements to know which group or groups the event is for. All youth group activities will be posted in the narthex of the church on the south pillar. This will include volunteer opportunities available for kids and parents, and upcoming youth events. When Youth Group is after Sunday morning mass, students can get pancakes or omelets in the parish hall before the meeting. Be sure to bring a few bucks to pay for the breakfast (free will offering). Friends of our youth are welcome to come any time.

ST. MARY'S 2017 - 18 YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Sept. 24	Youth Conference	Spencer	7 - 12
Oct. 1	Youth Group	Church	7 - 12
Oct. 4	Confirmation Parent Meeting	Church	9 & 10
Oct. 15	Youth Group	Church	7 - 12
Oct. 23	Grotto Trip	West Bend	9 - 12
Nov. 3	Night in a Box	Church	9 - 12
Nov. 5	Youth Group	Church	9 - 12
Nov. 10 - 12	Search Retreat	Granville	11 & 12
Nov. 19	Youth Group	Church	7 & 8
Dec. 17	Youth Group (pm)	Church	7 - 12
Jan. 5 - 17	Guatemala Trip	Guatemala	11 & 12
Jan. 17 - 21	March for Life	Washington D.C.	All Ages
Feb. 4	Confirmation Retreat	Church	9 & 10 (required) 11 - 12 (invited)
Feb. 18	Youth Group	Church	7 & 8
March 2	TBD	Church	9 - 12
March 9	TBD	Church	7 & 8
March 18	Winter Picnic	Church	Parish
April 4 @ 6pm	Confirmation Mass	St. Mary's	10
April 20	Middle School Lock-In	Church	6 - 8; 9 - 12 Volunteer
April 22	Youth Group	Church	9 - 12
April 27	Our Lady of Peace	Sioux City	7 - 12
May 2 @ 6pm	May Crowning	Church	K - 12
June 3	Youth Group	Church	9 - 12
July 27 - Aug. 1	Steubenville	St. Paul/Twin Cities	8 - 12

HOMILY NOTES



The most cherished aspect of being a Catholic is participation in weekly Mass. The Eucharist is your most intimate sacrament and brings you closer to Jesus than any other. Consequently, the church asks Confirmation candidates to not only attend mass, but be attentive to the mass. When you come to mass, listen to the readings and to the Gospel. Take in the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the Eucharist with reverence and reflection. There is space below for you to take notes on 15 masses throughout this

academic year. They do not have to be here at St. Mary's only. You can attend any mass in any Catholic church! If you think about it, that is only about half of the weeks in this year. Please be sure to complete each entry.

Date: _____ Church: _____

Presider (Priest or Deacon): _____

Gospel Passage: _____

Notes on the Homily/Mass: _____

Date: _____ Church: _____

Presider (Priest or Deacon): _____

Gospel Passage: _____

Notes on the Homily/Mass: _____

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Presider (Priest or Deacon): _____

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Date: _____ Church: _____

Presider (Priest or Deacon): _____

Gospel Passage: _____

Notes on the Homily/Mass: _____

SERVICE

Candidates for the reception of Confirmation are asked to select service projects which are geared to their own special talents and abilities. First year candidates (freshmen) are asked to complete 20 hours of Christian service as part of their preparation. Second year candidates (sophomores and juniors) are asked to complete 25 hours. In order for students to stay on track, **service logs will be checked in mid-December** to be sure students are half or nearly half finished with their service hours for the year. Service hours are categorized as community, church, or family. Candidates must have at least 5 hours of service in each category. The balance of their hours can be served however they choose, but no more than 10 can be served in the family category.

To document hours, candidates need to complete this service log completely. Each service hour(s) must include 1) time and date of service 2) nature of service 3) supervisor signature and 4) supervisor's phone number. If any of these components is missing, those hours cannot be considered valid. Candidates are responsible for documenting their hours with honesty. Spot checks will be conducted from time to time to confirm the work candidates have completed.



SERVICE IDEAS

- Join Choir
- Lector
- Serve
- Usher
- Children's Liturgy Volunteer
- Help with Religious Ed
- Visit the elderly at home or in nursing home
- Assist senior citizens with chores
- Deliver meals on wheels
- Babysit for someone who needs help
- Organize or help with a recycling project
- Help a needy family
- Volunteer to work in a hospital
- Tutor after school
- Join a service group
- Write cards or letters to hospitalized children or teens
- Volunteer for your youth group
- Work at a food bank
- Perform special services for the handicapped
- Prepare a meal for a family who has lost a family member
- Collect toys for poor children
- Bake for a bake sale
- Help in the school lunchroom or library
- Coach kids

SERVICE IDEAS

Write a few of your own ideas for service work. What are you interested in doing?
Who can you call to help you find hours?

Specific volunteer opportunities here at St. Mary's (just to name a few)

Oct. 18	Set up for Fall Bazaar	Church	After Class
Oct. 21	Help with Fall Bazaar	Church	8am - 3pm
Nov. 1	All Saints Festival	Church	6pm (9th Grade)
Nov. 5 & 6	Soup & Pie Supper	Church/Expo	Various
Nov./Dec.	Adopt-a-Family	Church	Various
Dec. 20	Christmas Pageant Meal & Program	Church	10 - 12 Grade help
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday Meal & Program	Church	6 pm (anyone)
March 14	Winter Picnic Setup	Church	After Class (all can help!)
March 18	Winter Picnic	Church	All help!
March 14 - 28	Shadow Stations of the Cross	Church	Various Times
April 6	Middle School Lock-In 7pm - 6am	Church	Need 15 high schoolers
April 27	Our Lady of Peace	Sioux City	Service work & Tour
June 7 - 11	CDA Garage Sale	Church	Various times/ days
June 24 - 28	Catholic Kids Camp	Church	All help!
May 2	May Crowning	Church	Help needed for snacks and Rosary

SERVICE LOG

Date and times of service: _____

Location and nature of service: _____

Supervisor/adult signature: _____

Phone number or email of supervisor/adult: _____

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Phone number or email of supervisor/adult: _____

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