



ST. MICHAEL

CONFIRMATION PARENT GUIDE

2022-2023

Contents

Katie's Letter to Parents

Kevin's Letter to Parents

Why Confirmation?

Areas of Readiness Overview

The Role of the Sponsor

Prayers

Youth Ministry

Forms to be Submitted

Calendar for 2021-2022

Contact Information

Katie Kelly

Director of High School Youth Ministry & Confirmation

(952) 447-9056

kkelly@stmichael-pl.org

Kevin Kes

High School Youth Ministry & Confirmation Assistant

(952) 447- 9065

kkes@stmichael-pl.org

Dear Parents,

Welcome! I am Katie, the Director of High School Youth Ministry & Confirmation and I am thrilled to be on this journey of faith with your family. Thank you for choosing St. Michael's. We hope that this community remains a place where you and your family can call home, long after the sacraments are done.

My goal is not only for your student to be Confirmed, though that is a great thing. But I hope that we share the same goal in preparing your student's heart for Heaven. And I look forward to walking this journey of faith with you.

I am here as your resource. I want to work with you and your family to not only prepare your student for Confirmation, but to offer you all opportunities to encounter God. Please let me know how I can be of assistance for you, and I look forward to walking this journey with you. You are your child's primary catechist, a promise you made when you baptized your child, and I want to help you in that.

The sacrament of Confirmation is not a graduation, but an opportunity to explore the faith as a fully initiated member of the Church. Through the graces received in the sacrament, we can more fully enter into the call to serve God and the Church in new and deeply personal ways.

As your student prepares to receive the sacrament, we pray that this can be a growing experience for you as well. Your student needs you, as their primary catechist and faith leaders, to show what an adult faith looks like. We pray that you enter in fully as a family in this process, and that through your student receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, you all can grow closer to God both as family and individually.

Throughout this next year, your student will dive into the sacraments, lives of the Saints, and our call to Discipleship we received in Baptism that is strengthened in Confirmation. As we explore these topics and what they mean for your student, we hope that you as parents can dive into these with us as well. You are welcome to join us for our Wednesday night sessions, and we will be sending home weekly resources to explore these topics further with your Confirmation candidate.

Please know we are praying for all of you. We can not wait to dive in to the new year!

God Bless,

Katie Kelly

Director of High School Youth Ministry & Confirmation

Dear Confirmation Families,

My name is Kevin and I am the High School Youth Ministry and Confirmation Assistant here at St. Michaels.

I am so glad that your family is choosing to continue your faith journey with us this year, and appreciate your choice to participate in this program. The community that has been built here at St. Michael is continuing to grow with many families like yours.

The best part about the sacrament of Confirmation, is that this is just the starting point of the faith life. Your students will be able to delve deeper into this love for Jesus by experiencing different forms of prayer, asking questions, and meeting other students who are also making the commitment to grow in their faith.

Another great part about our faith is that you, the parents, are also able to grow in your faith along with your student. The best way to do that is simply having conversations, that way that if questions arise, they can be brought to their small groups, odds are that you are not the only ones needing answers on a specific topic.

This is the time that I personally found my own faith life grow, and when it really began to catch fire! Katie and I will provide a great environment for the faith to flourish into something amazing.

We would love to help answer any questions that your family might have throughout the year, and encourage you to reach out whenever.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

God's Peace,

Kevin Kes

High School Youth Ministry and Confirmation Assistant

Why Confirmation?

Why are we here? Why does our church ask us to participate in two years of education and growth of faith before we receive the sacrament of Confirmation? Why do we receive this sacrament at all?

The Church asks us to participate in education and growth of faith because of the gravity of the commitment we are preparing to make to God.

When you are confirmed, the Bishop will anoint you by tracing the sign of the cross on your forehead with holy chrism, which is blessed olive oil mixed with balsam. The candidates were anointed with chrism first during their Baptism, when they became a new creation in Christ Jesus, and now at Confirmation, as they receive the Holy Spirit and their mission in the Church. The anointing with chrism is an outward sign of a real spiritual *seal* or mark imparted by God- a mark that will never be taken away.

To be confirmed means to make a “covenant”[an exchange of persons] with God. The confirmand says, “Yes, I believe in you, my God; give me your Holy Spirit, so that I might belong entirely to you and never be separated from you and may witness to you throughout my whole life, body and soul, in my words and deeds, on good days and bad.” And God says, “Yes, I believe in you, too, my child – and I will give you my Spirit, my very self. I will belong entirely to you. I will never separate myself from you, in this life or eternally in the next. I will be in your body and your soul, in your words and deeds. Even if you forget me, I will still be there – on good days and bad.”

- Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YouCat), §205

In this covenant, we are given **the gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Courage, Knowledge, Piety and Wonder & Awe.**

The Church also speaks of the Fruits of the Spirit. These are the good things that result when we allow ourselves to be deeply guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Chastity and Self-Control.

Areas of Readiness

The purpose of the preparation program for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation is to assure the readiness of the candidate. Although it is tempting to determine the readiness of a candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation by simply basing that readiness on age, or grade, or other quantifiable criteria, there are many factors that need to be included in this assessment. St. Michael's asks students to show their readiness to receive the sacrament of Confirmation through the areas described below.

Confirmation Small Groups

Year 1 (9th Grade): Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm

Year 2 (10th Grade): 7:45-9:00 pm

Students will meet in small groups of 8-10 students to cover the topics listed on the calendar. The Confirmation Small Groups are organized on a rotating curriculum in a two year cycle; years 1 and 2 will be covering the same material in their groups. Small groups will be led by confirmed Catholics teens and adults. Ideally, that leaders will stay with the students over the course of the two years. Confirmation students are asked to attend at least 80% of sessions.

Mass

"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass."

~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Confirmation students are expected to be attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, which are listed on the calendar. We have a special monthly Teen Mass followed by a youth event for Middle School and High School students. These dates are listed on the calendar and registration for the youth event will be sent in the weekly emails.

Service

Service is an integral part of our faith. We are called as Catholics to serve both in our parish and local community. We ask candidates to complete 8 hours of service each year, 2 of which should be done in the parish. After each project, students are asked to provide a brief, written reflection on how they encountered God or better understood the Church through this project.

Service opportunities will be listed in the weekly email, but students are welcome to find their own projects as well.

Retreats

During the first year, students will attend a two day, on campus retreat called Quest. This retreat will serve to introduce themes of Confirmation and create community amongst their Confirmation class. The second year retreat will be an off-site, weekend retreat called Voyage. This will serve to further explore those themes of Confirmation, but also show to students how they can be involved and practice their faith after Confirmation.

Retreat Dates:

Quest: November 3-4 OR January 27-28

Voyage: January 7-8 OR February 17-18

Sponsors

Students are asked to pick a sponsor to walk through the two year program with them.

A qualified sponsor is a Confirmed, practicing Catholic who lives a life of Catholic values. Parents are unable to be sponsors. See "The Role of the Sponsor" in the next session. Sponsors and students will complete an online retreat each year, that can be done in one day or over the course of several days and conversations.

Sponsor information is due by November 30th.

Additional Year 2 Requirements:

Year 2 Confirmation Interviews

All Year 2 students will have a 5-10 minute interview with Katie or other staff and parishioners working with the Confirmation program. During these interviews, students will be asked why they want to be Confirmed, why they are choosing to be Catholic, and what they like about the Catholic faith. Students are encouraged to have the same conversation with their parents and sponsors prior to the interview with Church.

Confirmation Interviews will be held April 15th from 1:00-5:00 pm and
April 23rd from 12:00-4:00 pm.

Sign ups are required. The link will be sent out via email one month prior.

Year 2 Documentation

Candidate Information Form

A Confirmation Candidate Information form will be given to all Year 2 students during their first small group session on October 5th. The form asks for student's information, including the student's chosen confirmation name, as well as the candidate's chosen sponsor's information. The form, and all additional documentation the form asks for, is due January 26.

Baptismal Certificate

Before anyone can be confirmed the parish must have proof of baptism. Students who were baptized at St. Michael's or completed a Profession of Faith at St. Michael's will need to indicate that on their form.

If you were not baptized at St. Michael's we will need a new copy of your baptismal certificate issued from the Church of Baptism. This has to be completed for each sacrament received outside of the Church of Baptism. Parents or candidates will need to contact the Church of Baptism for a copy to be sent to St. Michael's.

Confirmation Saint

Confirmation candidates are asked to pick a Saint whose life has inspired them in some way. Students are encouraged to pray for the Saint to intercede for them throughout the process of Confirmation and throughout their life.

We ask that students in their second year write a brief reflection on their Saint and why they chose him or her. Reflections are due April 1st, 2023.

The Role of the Sponsor

(Canon 874)

1. A Sponsor must be a Confirmed & practicing Catholic.
2. A Sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
3. He or she cannot be the Candidate's mother or father.
4. The Sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving and is comfortable sharing his or her faith with young people.
5. The Sponsor should meet with the Candidate regularly throughout the 2 years of preparation. These meetings should include discussions about different topics, such as:
 - * share your faith story
 - * share their faith story
 - * ask them about topics presented at faith formation nights
 - * ask them about problems or concerns they might be having
 - * talk about a day at school
 - * talk about life issues
6. Spend time getting to know the Candidate—possibly taking him or her out to lunch or dinner, or having them over to your home.
7. Most important—PRAY for and with your Candidate!
 - * Go to Adoration together
 - * Pray the Rosary
 - * Attend Reconciliation together
 - * Read from the Bible

**ALL 9th graders must have a sponsor chosen by
November 30th, 2022.**

Prayer for Teenagers

Jesus, the Bread of Life, taken, blessed, broken and given away so that all might be healed and have LIFE.

Father, take the lives of our teens. We offer them to You with open hands. Through the example of Jesus, teach them to surrender their lives fully to You. Bless them with the knowledge that they are Your beloved ones and that they belong to a community of love and mercy.

Break open their hearts so that the seed of the Word and power of the Eucharist can be planted in fertile ground, take root and transform their lives. Give these teens to the world with the power of the Holy Spirit to witness the love of Jesus and serve Him in each person they meet.

Father, let this ministry be bread for the world. As Christ gave you thanks and fed many, may we give you thanks for this ministry and ask you to "multiply" it and nurture its growth for Your glory.

AMEN

Send Us Your Spirit

Loving God, We long to live in the Spirit of your son, Jesus.

Fill our hearts with your grace that we may always choose to follow the way of Christ.

Help us to be confirmed in our faith and to use our gifts and talents to further your Kingdom on earth.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group: non-Teen Mass Sundays; 7:00-9:00 pm

Weekly opportunity for students grades 9-12 to gather in community and dive deeper into their faith through prayer, small group, and community.

Second Sunday: each month following Teen Mass, 6:00-9:00 pm

Monthly opportunity for students grades 6-12 to gather together for community and fun.

Beautiful Souls/Fishers of Men: Mondays, 7:00-8:30 pm

Weekly opportunity for students grades 9-12 to gather with their gender to dive deeper into their faith and grow in sisterhood/brotherhood.

Other Youth Ministry events will be offered throughout the year. Look for them in the weekly email, instagram, and MyParish App groups.