

St. Thomas More Parish



Confirmation Preparation class 2017

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There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. (1Cor 12:4-6)

Parent guide

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations! Your child is about to take a very important step in his/her faith journey. Thank you for all the hard work you have done to help your child get to this point. I am excited to participate in this part of the journey with you.

I would encourage you to continue being involved with your child's religious education, especially during this year, as there are many assignments that need to be completed and steps that need to be taken. Please help your child to turn in his or her assignments and materials in a timely manner, to make this process as smooth as possible. Ask your child to tell you what they are learning in religion class and talk with them about it.

I would also encourage you to make a special effort to help your child deepen his or her faith life this year. Take time to pray as a family and encourage your child to make the time for personal prayer each day. Making going to Mass as a family a priority, and also make time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation together.

If you have been away from the Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a while, use this year as an opportunity to return. Attendance at Mass is our opportunity to give one hour back to God for all the hours He has given us that week. It is also the one place where we can receive the Body, Blood Soul and Divinity of Jesus in Holy Communion. He is waiting for you.

Please remember that the Sacrament is not the end of your child's faith journey. After Confirmation, continue to attend Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation together. Encourage your child to become an active member of the church by joining one of the many ministries offered. Saint Thomas More also has a youth group, 1 Direction 2 God, for high school students that I would suggest you encourage your child to join.

Please know that you and your child are in my prayers as you make this important step. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have during the year. I look forward to working with you.

May God bless you and yours,

Miss Hackett
Director of Religious Education



To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.
(1Cor 12:7)

Important dates for candidate preparation.

Confirmation Commitment will take place on:

October 4 (School)

October 5/6 (Religious Education)

The commitment will take place during Holy Mass. All parents are encouraged to attend to support their child as he/she begins their journey towards Confirmation.

Saint Report Due: November 2/3

The report should include the following information if available:

- The report should be typed, double-spaced.
- The cover page should include the saint's name, your name, your catechist's (teacher) name and picture of the saint.
- Name and feast day of saint
- Your reason for choosing this saint
- Summary of saint's life story in chronological order; birth, major events and dates, death
- Beatification and sainthood dates and under what circumstances
- Saint's special virtues – ways they were like Jesus
- Ways you can imitate saint
- Most impressive aspects of the saint's life and why
- A paragraph about why YOUR STUDENT wants to be Confirmed. He/She should explain why this sacrament is important to them and why they desire to be confirmed.

Sponsor Certificate Due: November 2/3

Interview Assignment Due: December 14/15

Part 1: Students are to interview their parents and sponsor by asking them the following questions:

- Why have you remained a Catholic
- Why is the Sacrament of Confirmation important?
- What do you feel called to do as a Catholic?
- How does being a Catholic make a difference in your life?
- What are your hopes for me after making Confirmation?
- How will you help me prepare for Confirmation?
- How will you help me to live out my Confirmation?

Part 2: Record their responses in a report that should be typed and turned into your Religion Teacher by **December 14/15**. The report should include:

- Student's name
- The name of the person interviewed
- Their comments
- The student's reaction and reflection to their comments
- How will the student live out their Confirmation after they have received it?

Confirmation Retreat: Tuesday December 6, 8:30-2:30

This retreat is mandatory for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. If your student does not attend the St. Thomas More retreat, it is their responsibility to find another retreat within the diocese and bring in a letter of affirmation of attendance from that parish.

Parents are asked to write letters of encouragement to their student before the retreat and bring them to the office by Monday, November 21. The students will receive these letters at the retreat. This is an important part of your child's retreat. Please encourage them in their faith and prayer life while also extending accolades as to their special part in your family. You may have other family and friends write letters also. It is a good idea to ask the student's sponsor to write a letter. School families please send in the \$30 Confirmation fee by November 6, to cover the cost of the retreat. Religious education families paid this fee at registration.

Acts of Service Due: February 8/9

Each student is required to complete 4 different Acts of Service. A student can perform the same service for 1 hour or 7, but it will count as only 1 act of service. The student must fill out a reflection form for each Act of Service they complete. The service forms can be found on the parish website <http://www.stm-church.com/religious-ed.htm>

REQUIRED ATTIRE FOR HOLY CONFIRMATION MASS

***Boys:** Dress slacks, dress shirt with collar, tie (jacket or sweater optional; long necktie is mandatory)
No jeans, athletic shoes or T-shirts

***Girls:** Dress, skirt with appropriate sweater or blouse, or pantsuit
Skirts must be at least knee length.
No low cut tops; shoulders must be covered
No tight fitting clothing

*Do not wear any ornamentation that denotes non-Christian attitudes and values.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These are:

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Counsel - Right Judgment
4. Fortitude – Courage
5. Knowledge
6. Piety - Reverence
7. Fear of the Lord -
Wonder and Awe in God's presence

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

From the Gifts of the Holy Spirit come the Fruits, which are:

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| Charity | Long-suffering |
| Joy | Mildness |
| Peace | Fortitude |
| Patience | Modesty |
| Kindness | Self-control |
| Goodness | Chastity |

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

Parents are:

- Primary educators of their children
- Responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Models for their child by being committed Christians
- Leaders in their family faith life
- Nurturers of their children's faith life
- Encouragers of their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service
- The important part of the Sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active role in the celebration of Confirmation
- Able to stress the initiation aspect of the Sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- Guides to their child in understanding that the Confirmation service project is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service

CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Candidates must:

- Freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- Be in the state of grace
- Have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions
- Be practicing their faith
- Attend Mass and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- Be responsible for completing all required home study and service projects
- Acquire an awareness of the Initiation of the Sacrament of Confirmation and commit to continuing faithful practice and study of their religion
- Be willing to participate in the Confirmation classes and retreat.

AFTER CONFIRMATION

Although Confirmation DOES mark the end of your child's religious education classes, it does NOT mark the end of their faith journey. Confirmation is the time in a person's life when the gifts they received at Baptism are confirmed and strengthened in them. They become full-fledged members of the Church. Encourage your child to take a more active role in their church by choosing a ministry to participate in. Saint Thomas More offers a wide variety of ministries for them to choose from. Some of the ministries include lecturing, ushering, cantering/choir or Eucharistic Minister.

Also encourage your child to continue deepening their faith through weekly Mass attendance, personal prayer time, studying the Scriptures or reading more about their faith. You might consider participating in these activities with your child. The world needs more Catholics to know and live their faith.

Important Dates to Remember

October 4/5/6 – 8th Grade students will make their commitment to being confirmed at Holy Mass.

November 2nd/3rd Saint Report is due AND Confirmation Sponsor form is due

November 6th- \$30 Confirmation fee is due for school families

December 6th – Confirmation retreat for all students 8:30-2:30

December 14th/15th–Interview Assignment is due

February 8th/9th – Acts of Service due



SPONSOR'S PRAYER

God of all ages,
You send out Your Spirit
to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You
and in Jesus whom You sent.

Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit
and bring to fulfillment the good work
that You have begun in them.

As I reach out to my candidate,
make me an instrument of Your love.
Teach me to reverence what is holy in others,
and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel
and help me to pass it on by my example.

With those who are hesitant or afraid,
let me be a source of encouragement;
and with those who are weak,
let me be a pillar of strength.

I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor
and pray that You will continue to guide me
and sustain me.

We praise you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.