

St. Thomas More Parish

Sacrament of Confirmation Student preparation packet



2018

Reverend Michael J. Yatron, Pastor
Miss Emily Hackett, Director of Religious Education

*I will give you a new heart and
Place a new spirit within you... (Ezek 36:26)*

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Congratulations! This is a very exciting year in your faith journey as you prepare to be Confirmed in the Catholic Faith. I encourage you to spend extra time this year in prayer and in the study of the faith. Take time each day to pray, even if it's only 5 minutes at the beginning or ending of each day.

Ask God to help you prepare well for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank Him for all the blessings in your life, especially for those people in your life who have helped you get to this point. Tell God all your worries, troubles and concerns. Most importantly, take quiet time to LISTEN for God's response.

If you have fallen away from it, use this year to return to attending Mass each Sunday. 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.

I encourage you to take the Confirmation classes and the extra assignments seriously and to do your best with them. All these classes and assignments are designed to help you be fully prepared to be Confirmed. Choose your sponsor with care. Choose the name of a saint that has special meaning to you. This saint will be a special patron that you can turn to in times of trouble, and who will watch over you with care. Lastly, choose service projects that are meaningful to you. Service is a large part of our Catholic faith, and these projects can be a wonderful opportunity to give something back to those who are not as fortunate as you are blessed to be. If you choose projects that you are excited about and have meaning, they will be rewarding, not just something you 'have' to.

Confirmation is not an ending, it is just the beginning. After you have received the sacrament and are through with religious education classes, please continue to attend Mass each Sunday. Find a ministry that you would like to participate in. Do not let your Confirmation be the last time you are at Mass. The world needs courageous, young witnesses to the Catholic faith. The world needs YOU.

Please know that your teachers, your parents, and I are all praying for you as you prepare for this very important step in your faith life. We are all here to help you in any way that we can.

May God bless you,

Miss Hackett



Confirmation Preparation Requirements

All students must meet attendance and preparation requirements

Confirmation Commitment:

October 3 (School)

October 4/5 (Religious Education)

School students: Confirmation commitment will be celebrated on October 6 at the all-school Mass.

Religious Education students: Confirmation Commitment will be October 7/8 at Mass.

Saint Report Due: November 8/9

You must summarize the saint's life in a report. Some sources for research are:

- www.newadvent.org
- www.americancatholic.org
- www.catholic.org

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 YOU want to be confirmed. Tell why the Sacrament is important to YOU and why YOU desire to be confirmed

Sponsor Certificate Due: November 8/9

You must select someone to stand up with you as your sponsor for Confirmation. The person you choose as a sponsor should be someone that you feel comfortable with and close to. Someone who lives their Catholic faith and who will lead and advise you in living yours. This person should be someone that will take their role as your sponsor seriously and will be able to support you in living your Catholic faith.

A sponsor must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least 16 years old
- A practicing Catholic who has received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
- In good standing with the Church
- If married, in a valid Catholic marriage
- NOT the father or mother of the candidate

Whenever it is possible, the Church encourages you to select one of your Baptismal sponsors as your Confirmation sponsor.

The sponsor's home parish must verify the sponsor as a practicing Catholic. Your sponsor must fill out a sponsor certificate and this sponsor must be approved by the Director. A Sponsor form is attached to this packet and is available on the website. The Sponsor sheet should be turned into your Religion Teacher.





The Confirmation Retreat will take place on Tuesday, December 5th, 2017 at Saint Thomas More from 8:30-2:30. The day will be a fun, faith-filled day. There will be lots of fun activities and games, as well as small-group discussion, time for prayer and reflection, and a few surprises. We will be having pizza for lunch.

Dress for the day is casual, but appropriate to a Christian activity. **We will be ordering Retreat T-shirts, which should be worn the day of the Retreat.** You may wear jeans. In keeping with Saint Thomas More School dress code, **no cargo pants, shorts or skinny jeans will be permitted.**

Cell phones are not to be used during Retreat Day.



Interview Assignment -- Due December 13/14

Part 1: You are to interview your parents and your 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 13/14.** The report should include:

- Your name
- The name of the person interviewed
- Their comments
- Your reaction and reflection to their comments
- How will you live out your Confirmation after you have received it?

Acts of Service: February 7/8



*“Christ has no body now on earth, but yours;
No hands but yours; no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good;
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now.”*
-- St. Teresa of Avila

Christ asks us to be His hands, feet and eyes. In preparation for the reception of Confirmation, you are expected to participate in **4 acts of service**. These should be meaningful experiences that use the gifts and talents that the Holy Spirit has given you. You need to fill out a reflection form for each act. These forms should be turned in to your teacher by **February 8/9**

Dress Code for Holy Confirmation Mass with Bishop Hying

- *Boys: Dress slacks, dress shirt, 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
No low cut, spaghetti-strap, strapless or backless tops
No tight fitting clothing
Skirts should be at knee-length.
- *Do not wear any ornamentation that denotes non-Christian attitudes and values.
****No gum chewing**

AFTER CONFIRMATION



Although Confirmation DOES mark the end of your religious education classes, it does NOT mark the end of your 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. Please consider taking a more active role in your church by choosing a ministry to participate in. Saint Thomas More offers a wide variety of ministries to choose from. Some of the ministries include lecturing, ushering, cantering/choir or Eucharistic Minister. Continue deepening your faith through weekly Mass attendance, personal prayer time, studying the Scriptures or reading more about your faith. The world needs more Catholics to know and live their faith.

Important Dates to Remember

October 3/4/5 – 8th Grade students will make their commitment to being confirmed at Holy Mass.

November 8th/9th Saint Report is due AND Confirmation Sponsor form is due

December 5th – Confirmation retreat for all students 8:30-2:30

December 13th/14th–Interview Assignment is due

February 7th/8th – Acts of Service due



Saint Thomas More Parish Sponsor Certificate

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Catechist of Candidate: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Dear Sponsor: This form is a requirement and must be approved for a sponsor in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

A sponsor must meet the following requirements:

- At least 16 years old
- A practicing Catholic who has received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Good standing with the Church
- Not a parent
- If married, in a valid Catholic marriage

If you are a **parishioner of St. Thomas More**, please fill in your name, the Confirmation candidate's name and STM under parish and return the certificate to the Religious Formation Office **by November 4/5 2015**

If you are a member of **another parish**, please take this form to **your home parish** to be filled out and return it to the Religious Education Office, St. Thomas More Parish, 8501 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN 46321, **by November 4/5 2015**. Please be sure that the certificate is stamped with **your parish seal**.

Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

This certificate acknowledges that
Sponsor name:

is a full and active practicing Catholic, maintaining good standing within the church,
and is eligible to serve as sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sponsor's Pastor: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

Sponsor's Parish Address: _____

Date:

affix seal