

St. Thomas More Parish

Sacrament of Confirmation Student preparation packet



2024

Reverend Michael J. Yadron, 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

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 Friday, January 12th from 8:30-2:30pm at Saint Thomas More school.



Interview Assignment -- Due January 10/11

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 **January 10/11**. 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: March 13/14



*“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 **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 **March 15/16**

Dress Code for Holy Confirmation Mass

- *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

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

January 12 –Confirmation Retreat, 8:30-2:30

January 10/11–Interview Assignment is due

March 13/14– Acts of Service due



Teen Saints

St. Philomena — Philomena was a 13-year-old virgin when she was martyred by Roman emperor Diocletian for refusing to marry him; many miracles have been attributed to her intercession. Recommended biography: Saint Philomena, the Wonder-Worker

Blessed Laura Vicuna — Laura attended a boarding school run by religious sisters and prayed ardently for her mother's conversion. She was abused by her mother's boyfriend and died when she was 13.

“O my God, I want to love You and serve You all my life. I give you my soul, my heart, my whole self.” ~ Blessed Laura Vicuna

St. Agnes of Rome — Agnes was a beautiful young girl born to a noble Roman family in 291 AD. She had many suitors but wished to remain a virgin consecrated to God, and was martyred because of that when she was 13.

St. Bernadette Soubirous — Bernadette was 14 when Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to her sixteen times and revealed the name Immaculate Conception to her. Recommended biography: Bernadette of Lourdes: Her life, death and visions

St. Dominic Savio — Dominic was a student at St. John Bosco's school who showed early signs of piety. He began serving at the altar at age 5 and underwent severe physical penances, but died of lung disease when he was 14. Recommended biography: The Life of St Dominic Savio

St. Kizito — Kizito was only 14 when he was martyred by the King of Uganda for his faith.

Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis — Marie-Leonie joined the Holy Cross congregation when she was only 14 and taught for many years, encouraging young women in their vocations.

St. Anna Wang — Anna was 14 when she and other Christians were rounded up during the Boxer Rebellion and asked to recant their faith. Anna refused and was martyred.

St. Pancras of Rome — Pancras was orphaned when he was 14 and came to Rome with his uncle, St. Dionysus. He was martyred with several other early Christians for proclaiming his faith.

St. Bona of Pisa — Bona experienced mystical visions as a child and became a Third Order Augustinian when she was 10. At age 14, she went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to see her father, who was fighting in the crusades. She also traveled the Santiago de Compostela ten times, becoming ill and dying on her last pilgrimage.

St. Dymphna — Dymphna was 15 when her own father (a pagan king) attempted to force her to marry him; she refused and fled with her priest, but was discovered and martyred by her father. Recommended biography: The King's Prey: Saint Dymphna of Ireland (God's Forgotten Friends)

St. Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio — Jose Luis fought as a soldier in the Cristero War in Mexico. He was 15 when he was put to death by government officials for refusing to deny his faith. Recommended biography: Saint José: Boy Cristero Martyr (New Vision Books)

St. Prisca — Prisca was raised in a Christian family during the reign of Claudius II. She was arrested as a teenager, defended her faith to the emperor, and was tortured and martyred.

St. Eustochia Calafato — Eustochia entered a convent in her mid-teens after seeing a vision of Christ crucified, but her family forced her to return home. Later, she joined the Poor Clares; she had great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the poor in her community.

St. Agnes of Montepulciano — Agnes joined a monastery when she was 9 and became abbess when she was only 15. She was a peacemaker who also experienced ecstasies in which she held the baby Jesus and received Holy Communion from an angel.

St. Fusca of Ravenna — Fusca converted to Christianity and was baptized when she was 15, along with her nurse. Her family ordered her to recant her faith, but she refused and was martyred.

Venerable Cecilia Eusepi — Cecilia was inspired by St. Therese and yearned to be a missionary nun, but suffered from tuberculosis. She made her final vows and wrote *The Story of a Clown* before dying at age 16.

St. Denis Ssebuggwawo — Denis was the personal page to the Ugandan King Mwanga II of Buganda. He was also a Christian and catechist who taught others, until he was arrested by the King. He was 16 when he was martyred.

Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine — Catherine felt a call to holiness even as a child; at age 5, she had mystical experiences with God in prayer and when she was 10, she dedicated herself to Mary. She joined a convent when she was 12 and volunteered for missions in Canada when she was 16, just after making her final vows as a nun.

St. Lucy — Lucy's mother wanted her to marry a rich Roman man, until they made a pilgrimage to St. Agatha's grave. Lucy's mother was healed and allowed Lucy to distribute her dowry to the poor, but Lucy's betrothed turned her in to the Emperor Diocletian and she was martyred.

Blessed Karolina Kozka — Karolina was a pious girl who prayed many rosaries and catechized the neighborhood children. When she was 16, a Russian soldier attempted to rape her; when she resisted, he killed her.

St. Cecilia of Rome — Cecilia had taken a vow of perpetual virginity, even though she married a Roman man. She converted her husband (who respected her virginity) and his brother. They helped bury Christians who were martyred by the emperor and then were martyred themselves.

Below are some ideas for Confirmation Service Projects based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry/Give drink to the thirsty

Participate in a meal packing event.
Work in a Soup Kitchen with Mom or Dad. Make dinner for a needy family.

Clothe the naked

Participate in a coat drive for Catholic Charities. Do a clothing drive.
Volunteer at a non-profit clothing store.

Visit the sick

Visit a nursing home.
Offer your service without pay to an elderly neighbor to mow, shovel snow, rake leaves, weed, etc.
Help out a sick person in your neighborhood.
Make care packages for pregnant moms or people in the hospital.

Shelter the homeless

Participate in a blanket drive or a walk for the homeless.
Help build a ramp or install safety equipment in the homes of the elderly or the disabled.

Visit the imprisoned

Collect books to donate to a jail library.
Help with organizations that serve the families and children of those incarcerated.

Bury the dead

Participate in Wreaths Across America.
Assist at a bereavement luncheon.

Instruct the ignorant/ Counsel the doubtful

Comfort the sorrowful

Assist with a CCD class or at events for First Holy Communion or Confirmation.
Help out with Vacation Bible School.
Write encouraging notes and care packages for soldiers on the field.

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.

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. 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