

## **St. Francis of Assisi CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**

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### **Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024**

The Confirmation Program serves to prepare candidates for full communion into the Roman Catholic Church by calling them into full, active, and conscious participation in their spiritual community of St. Francis and the universal church.

Through a period of reflection, prayer, and study, the Confirmandi choose to follow Christ and to commit to living as witnesses, in word and deed, to the Gospel throughout the remainder of their lives.

Confirmation is a Sacrament. Sacraments are external signs of God's grace in the life of a believer. To participate in the Sacrament of Confirmation is to participate in becoming an external sign of God's grace in our world. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are "given full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. We become witnesses to the Gospel, because, through the grace of the Sacrament, we are given the: special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross."

#### **The Role and responsibility of the Parents and the Sponsor**

Sponsors are those who will help the Confirmation candidate live his or her baptismal promises. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to:

- help the candidate understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Confirmation and have the right intentions for receiving it.
- help the candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to pray, to participate in the sacraments— especially the Eucharist—and to become actively involved in the life of their parish community.
- present the candidate for Confirmation and continue to assist the confirmed person in living a Christian life.

#### **Requirements of the Candidates**

These are the MINIMUM requirements to be met to be recommended for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- Candidate professes belief and has basic understanding of God, the Trinity and the Holy Eucharist.
- Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- Frequent Confession
- Memorized the basic prayers; the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the Nicene Creed.
- Selection of a sponsor who is a confirmed, practicing Catholic who will walk the journey with you.
- Selection of a Saint's name as your Confirmation name and an essay of why you chose the name/saint.
- Completion of Service Projects
- Participate in FOCUS Youth Ministry's monthly meetings, activities, and fundraisers.
- Attendance of the Confirmation Retreat
- Final Interview with the priests and/or Director of Religious Education
- Confirmation Letter to the pastor
- Pass both the Midterm and Final Exams.

#### **Attendance:**

- Remember your Sunday Mass obligation.
- All students are required to attend scheduled classes on time and complete Google Classroom assignments. All students are only permitted 3 absences; please read the parent handbook.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

### PARENTS AND SPONSORS MANDATORY MEETINGS:

- Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 6pm in the church
- AND
- Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 6pm in the church

### DUE DATES FOR FORMS IN THE CONFIRMATION PACKET:

1. Sponsor information/verification form (choose 1 sponsor) **due December 3, 2023.**
2. Saint Name/ Selection process begins in October in class. The final essay is **due April 14, 2024**
3. Parent and Sponsor letters to the Candidates (we will explain at the January meeting) are **due March 10, 2024**
4. The letter to the Pastor is **due April 14, 2024**
5. All 3 Works of Mercy must be completed by **April 21, 2024**
6. Final Exam will be **May 5, 2024**

### WORKS OF MERCY SERVICE PROJECTS:

ALL students are required to complete (3) Service Projects by May 2024

All Confirmation candidates must:

1. Assist in the CCD Program for the in-person classes  
Oct thru Jan **OR** Feb thru May:  
Sundays 9:15am-10:45am  
**OR** Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm
2. FOCUS Fundraiser choose 1 event: dates tbd
3. Good Friday Way of the Cross April 2024 at 8am-1pm (with 2 practice dates)

### FOCUS YOUTH MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERINGS

- *October 6 is a MANDATORY for all candidates to attend. All other monthly meetings are voluntary.*
- Monthly gathering are first Fridays at 6:30pm; **October thru May**

### RETREAT

All students in preparation of being confirmed are required to attend **Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 9am-6pm.**

Your child must attend the full day. If your child does not attend this retreat, you must locate a makeup retreat at another parish.

### FINAL INTERVIEW WITH THE PARISH PRIESTS: **May 2024**

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

**June 3, 2024, Mass at 7pm**

(With a practice for the candidates and sponsors Sunday, June 2)

**\*PLEASE INFORM YOUR CHILD'S CONFIRMATION SPONSOR OF ALL OF THESE VERY  
IMPORTANT DATES**