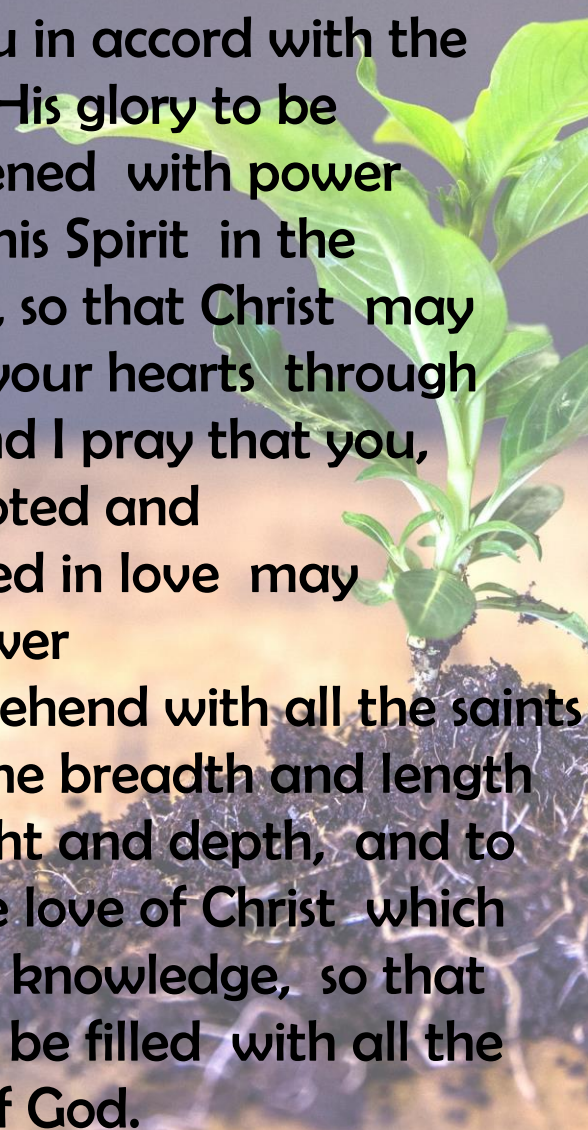


# :: Confirmation ::

## Lumen Christi



For this reason I kneel before the Father... that He may grant you in accord with the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Director of Catholic Formation**

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Adult Formation and RCIA

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**High School Youth Minister**

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9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Grade Formation, Confirmation

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**Catholic Formation General Assistant**

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Lumen Christi Parish

2750 W Mequon Rd

Mequon, WI 53092

# WHAT I AM CALLED TO AS A CONFIRMATION PARENT

*Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.*

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2225

**THIS MEANS:** The Church firmly believes and upholds that the faith is first introduced and sustained at home. What we do in Christian Formation is done in order **to build up your homes** and to **build up the family** in faith, which will then edify the Church. Ultimately, your children look to you for direction and reality.

Therefore, in sending your teen through Confirmation at Lumen Christi, you agree to the following:

**To personally attend Sunday Mass (Eucharist) EVERY Sunday. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Faith!**

Check out [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) for Mass times ANYWHERE YOU GO!

To *inquire* upon what your teen is learning in Confirmation

To *continue* your own faith formation through reading, conversation, Bible study, personal devotions (prayer), etc.

To *affirm* the Church's *real* teachings and allow your teen to converse with you about them

To *affirm* for your teen the *beauty* and challenges of being Catholic in the world today

To *consider*, *examine*, and *research* your own questions of faith

To *challenge* your teen to grow in her/his beliefs and actions in the world

*If you have questions about any of the above, do not hesitate to call!*

# What I Am Called to as a Confirmation Candidate:

## **To Attend Mass EVERY Sunday!**

Local Sunday Mass Times:

Lumen Christi Sat 4:30pm; Sun 7:30am, 9am, 11am

St Francis Borgia, Cedarburg Sun 8am, 10am, 6pm

St Robert, Shorewood - Sun 5:30 PM

Gesu - Sun 4:00 PM

**Out of town? [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) will help you find a local Catholic Mass!**

**To be open to God:** His love, His mercy, His will, His teachings

**To be present and to be an active participant** in your small group: during prayer, discussions, & activities

**To be on time!** Teens are expected to be present for the entire evening. Arriving late or leaving early without prior consent from Olivia will result in a forfeiture of the small group and require you to make up the evening.

**To bring your questions** about our faith and to ask them!

**To make your faith personal** - we encourage you to take responsibility of what is being asked of you this year. This includes scheduling your service opportunities, stepping up to small group weekly challenges, and prioritizing personal prayer & Mass.

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## Who can be Confirmed

- ❑ In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Confirmation is celebrated at approximately the age of 16 or when candidates are in the 11th grade.
- ❑ To enter into Confirmation preparation, students must have two years previous, or equivalent, formation. Confirmation Sacramental Preparation builds on the foundation that is established in 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade formation & in Theology classes in Catholic School.
- ❑ Confirmation is a Sacrament that takes place within the parish, so preparation for the Sacrament does as well. During this time of preparation, we desire our teens to grow stronger together as a Faith Community, understand their role in the Church, and commit to their faith in an authentic way.
- ❑ Parents may decide for their children that they will be instructed for Confirmation, however, the decision to be Confirmed rests with the young person.

Note: Youth who have incomplete formation from previous years will need to make up what they missed. This means they should meet with Olivia and may need to be Confirmed as a 12th grader.

# WHAT IS CONFIRMATION

*By Baptism, we are made members of the Church.*

*By Confirmation, we grow ever more deeply in Christ and become an evermore member of His Church.*

*Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.*

(CCC, #1316)

## What happens at Confirmation?

As with every sacrament, Confirmation does not merely symbolize a spiritual reality – it actually affects what it signifies. In Confirmation, our senses are fully engaged: we see the bishop's hand raised in the anointing, the candidate feels and smells the chrism oil, and hears the bishop proclaim, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

What we physically see, hear, feel, and smell at Confirmation is an anointing, a sealing with the Holy Spirit. These visible elements associated with the sacrament are not merely symbolic: they simultaneously bring about a permanent change to those receiving the sacrament. In the Old and New Testaments, anointing made someone a king, a priest, or a prophet, and gave them some mission under God's call. The Church tells us that we are anointed for these same things when we receive Baptism and Confirmation.

When the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles as they prayed together at Pentecost, the effects of this outpouring were immediately apparent. Emboldened by the workings of the Spirit, the overjoyed apostles couldn't stop talking about Jesus. They proclaim their faith fearlessly. The sacramental presence of the Holy Spirit in their souls emboldened them to speak the truth. Confirmation empowers us with *the very same Holy Spirit!* Working through what is visible and sensory, the same Holy Spirit who was poured out on the apostles at Pentecost makes a home in each Confirmed soul. The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five effects of this outpouring:

- It affirms our identity as children of God
- It unites us more firmly to Christ
- It increases in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- It strengthens our bond with the Church
- It strengthens us to spread and defend the faith by our words and actions, to be fearless witnesses to Christ and the power of the cross.

Remember, then, that you received a spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear. Keep safe what you received. God the Father sealed you, Christ the Lord strengthened you and sent the Spirit into your hearts as the pledge of what is to come.

[St. Ambrose]

# Confirmation Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation is not a 'checklist'; however, to provide the overall picture of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, here is the year at a glance.

## Sacramental Preparation

**Attend** Mass every Sunday, regardless of non-Catholic services, daily Masses, etc.

**Participate** in all 16 Confirmation Formation Nights (and make up what you miss)\*\*\*

**Serve**, keeping in mind the Corporal Works of Mercy, 10-12 opportunities of service before Confirmation, including 5-6 in the parish (see Service guidelines in CF welcome letter)

**Attend the Confirmation Retreat** October 27-29 (or attend another *approved* Confirmation retreat)

## Confirmation Paperwork & Deadlines

**OCTOBER 12** Confirmation Retreat registration

**OCTOBER 15**

**Sponsor Form** Provided at Confirmation Orientation September 20

**Baptismal Certificate** teens *not* Baptized at Lumen Christi/St James/St Cecilia, please submit a COPY of Baptismal Certificate to Karen Bersch [berschk@lumenchristiparish.org](mailto:berschk@lumenchristiparish.org)

*Sponsor Night is November 12<sup>th</sup> at the usual Formation time. More info coming soon – but when you pick a sponsor, be sure to have them save the date!*

**FEBRUARY 25** Bishop Questionnaires

**MARCH** Confirmation Interviews - Schedule a 30 minute "interview" with Confirmation Team member. Dates and sign up will be made available in February.

## Receiving the Sacrament

**Confirmation Rehearsal** Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:45pm with Sponsor in Church

**Confirmation Mass** Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm at Lumen Christi with Bishop Jeffrey Haines

Teens & their sponsors are asked to arrive at 5:45pm on Friday evening to rehearse, ready for the 7pm Confirmation Mass. The Liturgy is typically 2 hours.

If you cannot attend our Confirmation, you must arrange before March 1<sup>st</sup> to participate in another parish's Confirmation. Please notify us as you must receive permission from both parishes to be Confirmed elsewhere.

## Confirmation Nights

## 2 Sunday Evenings a month 6:00-7:30pm

Our focus in Confirmation preparation is accompanying our teens – knowing them personally, meeting them where they're at in their faith, and preparing them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation – so that it is *their* YES. We want to build community through intentional small groups, and be present to one another as much as possible.

Small groups are facilitated by an adult small group leader. We are blessed to have an incredible team of adults dedicated to this ministry, praying for each of our candidates, & walking with them on this faith journey. The small groups are assigned taking into consideration schools & friend groups (via student survey)

### Confirmation Schedule

**September 17** Teaching Mass

**October 1** How to Read and Understand the Bible

**October 15** The Mission of Jesus

**October 27-29** *Confirmation Retreat*

**November 5** The Mission of the Apostles

**November 12** Sponsor Night

**December 3** The Mission of the Church

**December 17** Advent Reflection & Adoration

**January 7** The Missions of the Saints

**January 21** Circle of Grace

**January 28** Personal Mission

**February 4** Mission Directions: Prayer

**February 25** Equipped Part 1: Grace

**March 3** Equipped Part 2: Sacraments

**March 17** Relationship with the Holy Spirit

**April 14** The Collective Mission

**April 19** *Confirmation Mass 7pm with Rehearsal 5:45pm*

**April 28** Sent on the Mission

*Confirmation is not graduation; our sessions are scheduled intentionally to meet after Confirmation so that teens can receive the Graces of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation and continue deepening their faith through fellowship & prayer, strengthening their faith roots.*

Teens have the flexibility to miss one session, 'no strings attached'.

Any missed sessions after that will require make up with a sponsor or parent.

Teens who miss three or more sessions will have to meet with either Olivia or their small group leader.



# Confirmation Retreat

Retreats can be an amazing experience - if for no other reason than it's a chance to literally retreat from the hectic pace and demands of daily life. Most of us don't get even five minutes of peace in a given day, let alone an entire weekend. It can be difficult to quiet our minds and hearts long enough to see, hear, and notice God at work in our lives. A retreat offers us the opportunity to do just that - a time to rest, reflect, pray, and play.

Knowing the unique benefits that retreats offer, the diocese requires every candidate preparing for this sacrament to attend a retreat focused specifically on Confirmation. Effective Confirmation retreats call the individual to personal conversion but they also call the teen to continued growth as a Catholic Christian.

## **Retreat Dates: Friday October 27 @ 5:30pm—Sunday October 29 @12:30pm**

We ask that students are committed to attending the full retreat from opening prayer on Friday to our closing prayer on Sunday. With the exception of funerals or illness, there will be no allowances for coming late, leaving during, or leaving early from the retreat. Doing so both significantly impacts a person's individual experience and disrupts the entire group. If there is a serious conflict with these dates, please contact Olivia Rapavi. An approved alternative Confirmation retreat list will be provided.

Details and registration have already been sent out; if you have not received this, please contact Olivia Rapavi.

## Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Each candidate is to have a sponsor. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

- be designated by the one to be confirmed
- be at least 16 years old
- be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and received the Sacrament of the Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared
- not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed

A sponsor may be either male or female.

Sponsors are asked to attend Sponsor night with their Confirmation candidate on Sunday, November 12th. If a sponsor is unavailable, a parent may attend as their proxy. **Sponsors are also asked to meet 1:1 with their candidate two times before Confirmation** to have intentional discussion and faith experience together. Information about these meetings will be shared with the sponsors.

Only one person can be designated as the liturgical sponsor who will present the candidate for Confirmation. Parents may not be sponsors. While parents are not to serve as sponsors, their role in the faith development of their children is not to be underplayed or minimized.

A sponsor who cannot be present can still be a sponsor, and someone else can fill in as proxy. However, it is recommended that someone nearby be chosen as the sponsor so that she or he can become more intimately involved in the candidate's preparation.



# Christian Service

*Whatsoever you do for the least of my people, that you do unto Me*  
[Matthew 25:35-40]

**Jesus gave us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. The Corporal Works of Mercy are ‘charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs’ (USCCB).** They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are part of our Christian tradition, following Jesus’ example of attending to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, helping our neighbor in their spiritual needs (USCCB).

We encounter Christ through the persons we encounter when we serve. This is why we challenge our students to go beyond volunteering and look at how they can SERVE.

“Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead, give alms to the poor. ...love one another as I have loved you...” (John 13:35)

We ask that students focus less on ‘hours’ and more on opportunities to serve their neighbor keeping in mind the Corporal Works of Mercy. We encourage 10-12 opportunities of service in the year, 5-6 for/in the parish.

## **Serve the Parish: Liturgical Ministries**

Altar Server	Usher/Greeter	Decorate the Church
Lector	Instrumentalist/Musician/Choir	Child Ministry Aide
Children’s Liturgy Aide	Middle School Youth Group	

## **Corporal Works of Mercy through the parish**

Family Promise of Ozaukee Co	Peace Makers Lunch Packing	St. Hyacinth’s Food Pantry
St Vincent De Paul Meal Program	Children’s Clothing Center	

The list of parish service is on-going and will be updated throughout the year as the opportunities arise. Students may find their own opportunities of service (with the focus of Corporal Works of Mercy), although they are welcome to complete all of their service serving with or for the Church.

As students serve, they should write down how they served on our Service Form provided on the parish website under Confirmation. At the end of the year, they will write a reflection on these experiences, and return the form to Catholic Formation.

We hope the opportunities you choose to invest yourself in allow you to encounter Jesus through the people you serve. We are the Body of Christ - let His light shine through your love of neighbor!

# Choosing a Confirmation Name

**Why do we choose a “Confirmation Name”?** Within the Christian tradition, names hold great meaning. For example, Jesus gave his disciple Simon the name “Peter”, which literally meant “rock”, as a foreshadowing of Simon becoming the foundation, or rock, of the Church. Historically, people preparing for Confirmation chose a new name to symbolize this new chapter of their life in Christ. Choosing a Confirmation name is a great honor and allows you to choose a name that has meaning for you.

**What kind of name should I choose?** Traditionally, we choose the name of a Saint. These are all different kinds of people who lived exceptional lives, and are role models for living the Christian life. They each boldly witnessed God’s love for the world in a unique way – so look for someone you relate to and/or are inspired by. You may wish to choose the patron saint of a particular area of interest. Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life – occupations, illnesses, causes – anything that is important to us. For example, Francis of Assisi loved nature and so he is the patron of ecologists. Francis de Sales was a writer so he is patron of journalists and writers. There are patrons for pretty much everything, so I’m confident you’ll find someone that connects with your life.

**A searchable** list of Saints is available at [www.catholic.org/saints/](http://www.catholic.org/saints/) [www.catholic-forum.com/saints/](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/)

**When do I need a Confirmation Name chosen by?** In February when you submit your Confirmation Questionnaire, you will share with the Bishop your chosen Confirmation name and the significance to it. We will record your response in our records.

## Confirmand Questionnaire

After you have been preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation for some time, you are asked to put into writing the significance this Sacrament has to you and how you have prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your reflection will be sent to and personally read by the Bishop presiding over the Confirmation Mass.

We will take time in small groups to outline your reflection to the Bishop in the form of a questionnaire. With these reflections, you will articulate your faith in writing and reflect on the important decisions of choosing a Saint Name, the reasoning for choosing your sponsor, what you have learned thus far, etc.

After you have outlined your reflection in small group, you are asked to complete the online form and submit your final questionnaire. **These are expected to be typed, spell proofed, without grammatical errors, and complete thoughts/sentences.** All questionnaires will be reviewed. Any reflections that require edits will be returned and a corrected final copy will be expected in our office within the next day.

Your questionnaire to the Bishop is due NO LATER than Sunday February 25th. Bring a printed copy to small group, drop off at the Parish Office, mail to the Parish Office (2750 W Mequon Rd), or email to Olivia Rapavi [rapavio@lumenchristiparish.org](mailto:rapavio@lumenchristiparish.org) .

# The Confirmation Interview

In March, candidates will interview with either Olivia or a small group leader. This person will review with them their year's journey of preparation and ask if they wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Interviews are approximately 20-30 minutes long.

Names of interviewers and their available appointment times will be emailed a month in advance to candidates. Candidates will then sign up via the online sign up. **Candidates are responsible for keeping their appointment.**

The interview will be a conversation for you to share about your formation experience, ask questions, and if you are ready, express confidence that you are ready for Confirmation and that it is your YES (and not anyone else's) to God.

## A Few Questions to Expect...

- What Confirmation is and what it means to be Confirmed in the Catholic Faith
- How has prayer influenced your year?
- What do you feel you have gained from this year (specific examples)?
- What questions do you still have?
- How are you currently practicing your faith... and how do you plan to live out your faith after Confirmation?
- Who was your Confirmation Saint? Why did you choose their name?
- What did you learn with your sponsor?
- Do you want to be confirmed in the Catholic Faith?

# What to do after Confirmation

Stay grounded in your faith! The newly Confirmed are encouraged to live their faith actively:

Continue in discipleship with an accountability partner or friends from your small group

Be a Senior Leader! – Make youth ministry greater by serving a small group as a Senior

Continue going to Mass EVERY Sunday! Perhaps attend a weekday Mass – these Masses are usually 30 minutes and are a great way to start the day!

Check out Cor Jesu at St Robert parish on Wednesday Nights

Go to Confession regularly

Pray the Rosary as a family or on your own

Be intentional about prayer... turn off the TV, put away your phone for a bit and be okay with silence. Journal, read a spiritual book, reflect on God.

Make a Holy Hour in Adoration

Check in with Olivia or your small group leader and meet them for coffee

Download the Hallow App and listen to a reflection or story on a saint

Practice a Corporal or Spiritual work of Mercy & Volunteer

.... But you don't need to wait to be Confirmed to do any of these!!!

As a Newly Confirmed Catholic - you are called. To come to a deeper encounter with Christ. To serve, give, and receive. You have been anointed for a MISSION. To go beyond the “normal” expectations of a high schooler. To make your year - your life – epic, dynamic. Be an active Disciple, a Servant Leader.

*“In all the land, says the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and die; but one third shall be left. And I will bring the one third through the **fire**; I will refine them as silver is refined, and will test them as gold is tested. They shall call on my name, and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they shall say, ‘The Lord is my God.’” (Zechariah 13:8-9)*

Unfortunately, even LESS THAN one third of young people stay in the Church once they’re in college. Young people need closeness to Christ, formed and refined as His disciples who stay.

We invite you to “be the third”, and to be the reason it grows beyond a third.

As Confirmed Catholics you will bear the responsibility to continue into a deeper, personal understanding of your faith. Your peers need YOU; the Church needs YOUR participation, YOUR leadership. You are not expected to do this alone, but in community! You are part of the Lumen Christi Parish Family – and there are so many opportunities for you to be involved in. As a Senior, you will be invited to participate in active discipleship and servant leadership.

*“Take courage, rise, He is calling you!” (Mark 10:49)*

# **CONFIRMATION SPONSOR GUIDELINES & FORM**

## **LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH**

*Spiritually, a sponsor should be someone who is choosing to follow the Catholic faith,  
integrating scripture, prayer, and the sacraments into their daily life,  
comfortable discussing their own relationship with God,  
and willing to act as a spiritual companion and guide.*

To be eligible as a Sponsor, a person must:

Be a full member of the Catholic Church; having celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, 16 years of age or older (not the candidate's parent)

Be an active, practicing Catholic AND registered member of a Catholic Church

If a sponsor cannot be present at the Confirmation Mass, a parent may serve as a *proxy* (stand-in).

Sponsors and candidates are asked to get together at least 2 times before the Confirmation Mass in order to check in with how the preparation process is going, talk about the Sacrament and Faith in general, and discuss any questions the candidate has. Sponsors - you will receive additional information which will include suggested topics, materials, and questions. Please feel free to contact Olivia Rapavi with any questions at rapavio@lumenchristiparish.org or 262.512.8989

### **SPONSOR INFORMATION: (PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY AND PRINT CLEARLY)**

I have been requested to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ in the Sacrament of Confirmation.  
Name of Candidate

Mr./Ms./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle One Name of Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

I am a registered and participating member of \_\_\_\_\_ Catholic Church in

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State

I affirm that:

- I have read the above and verify that I fulfill all the requirements to act as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- I have received the 3 Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- I attend Mass every Sunday, regularly participate in the Sacraments, and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ.
- I will support the person I am sponsoring through prayer and by offering guidance during this time of preparation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Printed Name

Please return this document, completed, by:

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Return to the Parish Office: 2750 W Mequon Rd, Mequon WI 53092**