

**ST. BENEDICT'S RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION PROGRAM**



CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

St. Benedict's Religious Education Program

REQUIRED

DUE DATE

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handout CF booklets | Wednesday, December 14, 2022 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation Name / Sponsor Card | Wednesday, January 11, 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Name Report | Wednesday, February 1, 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Certificate | Wednesday, March 1, 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bishop's Letter of Request | Wednesday, March 15, 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Works of Mercy" log sheet | Wednesday, March 29, 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retreat Registration | April or May 2023 |

☐ **MANDATORY RETREAT**

April or May 2023

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation Interview | Wednesday, April <i>TBD</i> , 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confession | Wednesday, April 26, 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rehearsal | Wednesday, May 10, 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation | Friday, May 12, 2023 |

MASS ATTENDANCE

(Participation in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week is required)

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents (along with the rest of the family) must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. This is also an important way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place on the faith they are handing on to their children. Worshiping as a community we build up the Body of Christ. If your family has not been attending Mass regularly in the past, we are confident that by doing so you will notice many benefits by the time Confirmation approaches.

Mass attendance is a **REQUIREMENT** for our Confirmation Program. Every student is asked to have the Confirmation Mass Attendance Booklet signed each Sunday by a priest or deacon. The student is then to bring it to class and give it to the teacher /catechist.

Every Catholic has the right to attend Mass anywhere the Mass is offered. As such, you are welcome to attend Mass at another Church if needed, but we ask that you attain a bulletin from the church where you attended Mass. This bulletin should be LEGIBLY signed by the priest from that parish and then brought to the student's next religion class.

Our Mass schedule here at St. Benedict's is Saturday evening at 4:00pm and Sunday at 7:00 am; 8:00 am (Italian Mass); 9:30 am; 11:00am; and 7:00 pm

Traveling for work, sports, dance, family obligations, etc. is never an excuse to miss Mass. This website will help you find a church for Mass wherever you are: <https://masstimes.org>.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Choosing Your Sponsor: It is a very ancient custom of the Church that candidates for Confirmation select a sponsor who will help them persevere in the faith. They represent the Christian community and are to see that the newly confirmed act as true witnesses of Christ living out the obligations of the Sacrament.

When choosing a sponsor please ask yourself:

- Why am I choosing this person?
- Does this person share and live his/her Catholic faith?
- Is this person mature, confirmed and practicing his/her faith?
- Does this person exhibit his/her commitment to Christ and the Church?
- Does this person have knowledge of his/her faith?

You should not make this decision simply based on friendship or to repay a favor. Your sponsor shows you how to live the Catholic faith by their example. ***Please pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance on this important decision.***

If your sponsor cannot be present for the Confirmation ceremony, you will have to choose a proxy. The qualifications for a proxy are the same as those required for a sponsor. *The proxy must also obtain certification from the parish in which her or she is registered.*

The requirements of the church for serving as sponsor are:

1. The person designated is at least 16 years of age or older.
2. The person designated is confirmed.
3. The person designated partakes in the Eucharist, lives in accord with the Church teaching including Her moral expectations, and actively practices his/her faith.
4. The person designated is Catholic.
5. The person designated CANNOT be your mother or father.
6. It is desirable that the person who undertook the role of Godparent at Baptism should also be designated sponsor at Confirmation.
7. The person designated must obtain certification to be your sponsor. See the information below.

Confirmation Sponsor Certificate: Your Sponsor must go to their parish and present the enclosed form titled, "Confirmation Sponsor Certificate", to their parish priest. He will sign the document and affix that parish's seal testifying that he/she meets all the requirements of a sponsor.

This certificate can not be emailed to the school. The student must bring a hard copy to school.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

NAME OF CONFIRMATION STUDENT (print): _____

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS:

1. The sponsor must be 16 years of age or older.
2. He/She has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
3. The sponsor is a practicing Catholic who can receive Eucharist (Communion) at Mass.
4. If married, he/she is married in the Catholic Church, or if single, he/she is not cohabiting.
5. The sponsor is **not** the parent of the Confirmation candidate.

NAME OF SPONSOR (print): _____

I meet all the requirements listed above and will have this form signed by my own parish priest.

Sponsor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Sponsor's Parish _____ **City/State** _____

Sponsor's relationship to the candidate: _____

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR'S PARISH PRIEST

The sponsor above is a member of our parish, and to the best of my knowledge, is a practicing Catholic in good standing and qualified to act as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Signature of Priest _____ **Date:** _____

Return to: St. Benedict's Church/
Religious Education Office
2969 Otis Avenue
Bronx, NY 10465

Parish Seal

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME REPORT

Almost everyone has two names: a first name and a last name. Your first name tells others who you are. Your last name tells others the family to which you belong.

Names are a sign of identity. Maybe you were named after a saint, a family member or both. If so, you may draw inspiration from the way they lived their lives, especially in the service of God and the Church. Your name probably means something too. For instance, the name Matthew means “gift of God”, and this identity can motivate someone to try to be a gift, and be generous with what God has given me.

One of the benefits of the sacrament of Confirmation is choosing, or reaffirming, your Christian identity by choosing a new confirmation name or sticking with your baptismal name, or choosing a new name, one of a Saint or Blessed in the Church, from whom you will draw inspiration. Your confirmation name is used in the ceremony.

Candidates are required to complete the “Confirmation Saint Name Report” sheet and return it to their catechist (teacher) or the Office of Religious Education.

Some websites that might help your research:

www.catholicsaints.com;

www.catholiconline.com;

www.ewtn.com

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME REPORT

CANDIDATE'S Name: _____

Name of chosen saint: _____

Saint's date or year of birth: _____

Saint's date or year of death: _____

Country/Area where saint was born or lived: _____

Brief description of saint's life and accomplishments: _____

When was this saint canonized? _____

Why did you choose this saint? _____

NO "one sentence" answers, please! You may use another sheet to answer.

RETREAT INFORMATION

As part of the preparation for Confirmation we ask every student to participate in a Retreat experience. The retreat experience allows the candidates a time and space “set apart “ from normal life to be intentionally with God and with each other. Specifically, a confirmation retreat is meant to nurture the personal integration of what is taught in a catechetical program. It is often through a retreat process- in a space free of distractions- that the young person is able to have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus and to discover a personal connection to the love of God and His Church. The retreat is thus an opportunity for them to *listen*, to *contemplate* what God is calling them to and to *respond* to God speaking to their hearts.

The students from St. Benedict’s Religious Education Program, St. Benedict’s School, and Villa Maria will travel together on retreat. *The retreat will take place during school hours.* In the past, all students have been able to receive an excused absence from their school.

Our Retreat Date & Destination for this year is as follows: TBD

WORKS OF MERCY SERVICE HOURS

The Work of Mercy component of our Confirmation Program is designed to help you learn what unselfish service really means. You are expected to complete at least ten (10) hours of service as part of your Confirmation Program. You are urged to perform far more than the minimum 10 hours and to continue to help others in these ways after Confirmation.

You may complete this service individually or as part of a group. These service projects are to be your free expression of sincere Christian help for others. ***Please decide on a project and discuss with your catechist (teacher).***

*These projects are some **examples** of Confirmation service hour possibilities.*

- Help as a teacher's aide in the Religious Education (CCD) program
- Tutor one of your peers or a young student
- Aide your own school or neighborhood day care centers

- Help set up for parish events
- Help serve at First Communion and other parish events
- Help a neighbor rake leaves or shovel snow

- Help prepare Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets
- Work at a Food Pantry or Soup Kitchen

- Assist senior citizens with their chores
- Visit the elderly in nursing homes (Providence Rest or Throggs Neck Extended Care).
- Help shut-ins, that is, the elderly that can not leave their homes

- Collect and distribute clothing and personal items for the homeless
- Collect and distribute baby clothing for pregnancy crisis center

- Initiate clean-up campaigns and collect bottles/cans for recycling
- Help with an existing recycling program

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

“WORKS OF MERCY” LOG SHEET

Please keep a record of your service hours. Remember must be at least 10 hours

DATE	Work of Mercy PROJECT	NO. of HOURS	Parent's or Project Leader's SIGNATURE and PHONE #

In addition to the Works of Mercy, please answer the following two questions. Your answers should be at least 100 words. You may type your answers to each of these questions on a separate sheet.

1. *Describe two (2) things you learned about yourself and two (2) things you learned about other people in doing my Works of Mercy?*
2. *Explain how each project enabled you to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to the persons you served. Please answer this question for EACH project you completed. Your answers should be at least 100 words.*

LETTER OF REQUEST TO THE BISHOP

Bishop Edmund Whalen, will administer Confirmation this year. At one time, he was the pastor of St. Benedict's Parish and he knows how hard you all work throughout this preparation year. As a Confirmation Candidate, you will write a letter to Bishop Edmund Whalen requesting permission to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the letter, you must :

- indicate your readiness and desire to receive Confirmation
- mention something about yourself and your family
- mention the school you attend

In your own words also, explain how:

- you have become knowledgeable about the truths of the Catholic faith
- your religious education classes have helped you prepare to profess this faith
- assume responsibility to spread and defend your faith

You may also include:

- the Confirmation name you chose and the reason you chose it
- what impressed you most about this saint's life
- information about your service project

Drafts of these letters will be written in-class. A final typed copy can be made at home.

Candidates are required to complete the "Bishop's Letter" and return it to their catechist (teacher) or the Office of Religious Education by the due date.

CONFIRMATION & REHEARSAL DATES

The Confirmation Mass will be held on

Friday, May 12, 2023

@ 6:00PM

for

St. Benedict's Religious Education Program (CCD),

St. Benedict's School and Villa Maria

Confirmation Practice for the Mass

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM

Candidates and Sponsors (or substitutes)

Practice begins promptly at 6:00 pm