

**Confirmation Candidate & Parent Packet**  
**2024 - 2025**

**Confirmation Class**



*In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.*

*The Catholic Communities of Southeastern  
Allegany County Faith Formation Program*

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Dear Parents of Students in Grade 10,

Welcome to our Confirmation program for 2024 - 2025! In the upcoming class sessions, it is our hope that the Confirmation candidates will fully explore their faith formation in a more viable format as they affirm their faith commitment through Confirmation.

Classes are led by team members and there may be a change in the curriculum to adhere to Buffalo Diocese Forming Disciples 2022 and Confirmation Guidelines. Sessions will be held on Sundays from 1:00pm-3:00pm at Immaculate Conception School Library. This time may change depending on any Mass schedule changes.

**Students are required to:**

- a) attend all sessions and the retreat
- b) have 20 hours of documented community service
- c) attend Mass weekly
- d) submit Saints name selection and sponsor paperwork at the April 6<sup>th</sup> class. All letters of sponsorship requirements to be received no later than May 4<sup>th</sup> class.
- e) community service form on May 4<sup>th</sup> class.
- e) IF YOU ARE NOT Able to attend a class, please notify Kathy Hamlin via email: [lkhamlin@verizon.net](mailto:lkhamlin@verizon.net) or text to: 585-808-4820. IF there is a change in this contact name, all parents will be notified.

***If your sponsor is outside of our Parish, they MUST have a letter of recommendation from their home Parish.***

We understand that certain situations arise (illness or death in the family). However, by having the schedule now you can plan accordingly for family events. **There will be another group community service event that will be added into the schedule before the school year ends in 2025. The Confirmation class had input and discussed that they may like a tour of the Basilica in Olean, Mass, and tour of St. Bonaventure in lieu of Mt. Irenaeus on June 8<sup>th</sup>. I am checking and will have the information by March 2<sup>nd</sup> class.**

In the instance of any absence, the student is required to make-up the missed class assignment in a timely manner. They will be given homework that must be turned in by the next scheduled class.

If the student's absences become excessive, they may be asked to leave the program.

The ceremony for Confirmation will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish on a date in the fall of 2025 TBA. There will be one rehearsal and a review class scheduled at the same time.

***This is a commitment not only for the student but for the parent –You are your child's first teacher and role model!***

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. James W. Hartwell & Rev. Jeffrey Donovan & Team Members

## VICARLATE CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2024-2025

Location ~ Immaculate Conception School Library, Wellsville

Session/Date 1:00pm-3:00pm (TIMES MAY CHANGE DUE TO MASS  
\*\*\*SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE DUE TO NEW MASS TIMES THAT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED  
IN MID-WINTER (SPRING) 2025.\*\*\*

1. *Baptism* October 6, 2024  
Kevin or Mary Liz Bartell  
~~*Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit*~~ ~~November 3, 2024~~  
*Class postponed and time will be added to other classes to make up this time  
and/or a group community service.*
2. *Social Justice & Empowering God's Children* December 8, 2024  
Kathy Hamlin
3. *Vicariate Penance Service-7:00pm* December 16, 2024  
(Attendance is highly encouraged)(Please remember this if you have missed a  
class – this would assist in your make up time)
4. *Scripture & Tradition* January 12, 2025-  
Deacon Dave & Mrs. Harvey
5. *Prayer & Unity or Teaching Mass* February 2, 2025  
Father Jeffrey Donovan
6. *Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit* March 2, 2025  
Ms. Ruthanne Ashworth
7. *Teaching Mass or Prayer and Unity* April 6, 2025  
Father Jeffrey Donovan  
**\*\*Required Paperwork Due for Sponsor and Saints Name\*\***
8. *Vocations & Theology of the Eucharist, Review* May 4, 2025  
Sister Alice, Kathy Hamlin & Kevin or Mary Liz Bartell
9. **Retreat – Mt. Irenaeus Or Basilica** June 8, 2025  
10:15a m-4:00pm with Mass and lunch and a review

Confirmation Ceremony Practice  
Confirmation Ceremony

September, 2025 TBA  
October, 2025 TBA

## **REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR CONFIRMATION**

- 1. Baptismal Certificate:** *If you were baptized outside of our Parish, we need a copy of your Baptismal Certificate*
- 2. Sponsor Form and Sponsor Letter of Recommendation:** *Every candidate needs to choose a Sponsor (see SPONSOR GUIDELINES). If your Sponsor is a member of another Parish Community, they MUST have a **Letter of Recommendation** from their parish priest. **PLEASE ASK YOUR SPONSOR TO REQUEST THIS LETTER NOW!***
- 3. Confirmation Name Form.**
- 4. Candidate Information Sheet**

## **SPONSOR GUIDELINES**

The choice of a Sponsor should be made as soon as possible.

The Catholic Church in the *Code of Canon Law* requires Sponsors to meet the following qualifications:

- 1. He / She must be Catholic**
- 2. He / She must be completely initiated into the Church (i.e., having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist).**
- 3. He / She must regularly be practicing his/her faith — which includes regular mass attendance and fulfilling all the duties of the faithful in that state of life.**
- 4. He / She must be at least 16 years of age.**
- 5. He / She cannot be the parent of the candidate.**

In addition, on account of the fact that the Sponsor is expected to provide the highest possible moral example for the candidate — ***the following are ineligible to be Sponsors:***

**A. Those who are in violation of the marriage laws of the Church — those who are divorced and re-married without a Church annulment — those married outside the Church without permission (i.e. by a Justice of the Peace).**

**B. Those who have neglected the religious education of their children.**

**C. Those that are causing public scandal to the faith (i.e. those who are cohabitating, those who have taken a public position against the faith).**

**NOTE: IF THE PERSON YOU ARE THINKING OF ASKING DOES NOT QUALIFY, IN CHARITY, PLEASE DON'T ASK THEM AND PUT THEM THROUGH THE EMBARRASSMENT OF BEING REFUSED A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION BY THEIR PARISH PRIEST.**

## Confirmation Name Guidelines

In choosing a Confirmation Name the candidate should keep the following in mind:

- 1. The name chosen should be the name of a Saint** — because in choosing that name we are taking that particular Saint as a Patron. **Do not choose your first or middle name.**
- 2. If you need help - ask your Priest, Deacon, or a team member.**

## **Confirmation FORMATION**

The goal of this process of formation you are about to enter into is ***“To Make Good Catholics.”*** This means making a commitment to follow Jesus Christ — It means an immersion into a process of on-going and deepening conversion and an immersion in the life and practices of the Church that Christ himself founded. All the candidates entering this process of formation should be prepared to incorporate the following practices into their lives:

### **1. Regular Mass Attendance on Sundays or Saturday Vigils AND Holy Days of Obligation:**

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the center of our lives as Catholics. Here God’s Word is proclaimed to us and Christ Gives us his greatest gift — His Body and Blood.*

***All candidates for confirmation, who have not been attending Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation: You are asked to attend Mass regularly, but to go to Confession before going to Communion again. This is because Missing Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is a very serious Sin.***

**2. Make the Retreat:** *This is a mandatory retreat held at Mt. Irenaeus.*

**3. A Daily Practice of Prayer**

**4. Community Service:** *20 Hours of documented community service is required. (This does not mean doing chores at your home, sports, or training for a club that you are in)*

**5. Attendance: ATTENDANCE OF ALL CLASSES IS MANDATORY**

**6. ALL FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN AS NOTED ON SCHEDULE**

**7. Other Matters:** Please dress modestly. No texting or active cell phones will be allowed in class.

## SAINT REPORT GUIDELINES

**Directions:** Use this guide to write a thoughtful saint report. You may copy the examples given below but include your own details about the saint you have chosen. This is meant to be a substantial report that demonstrates you know your chosen saint well. Neatly handwritten reports are acceptable. Be sure to edit and correct any errors before turning in.

### I. Cover Sheet to start

- A. Saint's name
- B. Date of completion of report
- C. Name of candidate
- D. Candidate confirmation Name

### II. Two Paragraph Essay

#### A. Introduction

Write a thesis statement. Tell what the 3 paragraphs of your report are going to cover. Do not use the phrase, "I am going to tell you about." Instead try something like: "St. Maximillian Kolbe was known for his love of Mary, his powerful prayer life, and his courage in difficulties." or "St. Francis of Assisi had an interesting childhood, an incredible adulthood, and attracted me because of his love for poverty." or "I have chosen St. JPII as my Confirmation saint because his life story is fascinating, he had a love for the Blessed Mother, and he had incredible talent as a writer." Be sure to include the three ideas you will address in each paragraph in your thesis statement.

#### B. First Body Paragraph

- 1. Go into detail about your first point from your thesis statement: "St. Maximillian Kolbe loved the Blessed Mother."
- 2. Back up your statement with proof like a quote or a story: "When he was a boy, the Blessed Mother appeared to him and offered him 2 crowns: one red and one white. He told Mary that he wanted both; a crown of purity and a crown of martyrdom. She told him he would receive both."
- 3. Tell why that was interesting to you: "I would love to have a relationship with the Blessed Mother too."

#### C. Second Body Paragraph

- 1. Repeat the formula from above using the second point from your thesis statement.
- 2. Be sure to help the paragraphs flow by using a connecting statement when you start this paragraph: "St. Kolbe was not only devoted to Mary, but he also had a powerful prayer life." or "His relationship with Mary was so strong because he prayed faithfully."

#### D. Conclusion

- 1. Make a general statement about why you like your saint: "St. Maximillian Kolbe was a hero to be admired."
- 2. Tell what you hope to do/learn from your saint: "I hope that if I ever am in a horrible situation where I am persecuted for my faith, I will be as courageous as St. Maximillian Kolbe."

**Confirmation Name**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Confirmation Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

First Name-Saint Name-Last Name

Saint's Name Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_ Feast Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Do not choose your first or middle name. (Write on the back if more room needed)

[illegible]

## Confirmation Service Hours Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]



## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Primary Worship Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent Phone #: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mother (including Maiden Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Remember: IF your sponsor is outside of our Family of Parishes, they MUST have a letter of recommendation from their home parish.  
This is to be turned in when you turn in this packet!***