

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

Churches of St. Mary, St. Michael, and St. Charles

2022-2023

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Vision for Confirmation Preparation

Hello families of St. Mary's & St. Michael's. We are excited to enter into another academic year with your child or children, and we expect God to bring us closer to Himself, to each other, and to ourselves. This year, we will be spending a lot of time together in various ways, all of which aim at helping us live in Christ and let Him form us as a Christian community.

The preparation process for Confirmation aims to help candidates understand a fundamental teaching of the Catholic faith: that my life is not my own but the Lord's, and everything I experience as my life is pure, undeserved gift from the Creator. This life giving gift is called grace. Because of the reality that I had nothing to do with my own creation, that it is all gift, it follows that nothing I do in my life will ever be deserving of His grace. For I am a creation, and creation can never surpass the Creator. The phenomenon of "me" and "I" are nothing but pride when experienced outside of God. Hence, His grace is necessary for us to step out of our ego.

So where does the Sacrament of Confirmation fit in all this? Confirmation completes the graces of Baptism, which is not to say that Confirmation is necessary for salvation (this is already received in Baptism), but put simply, if the Baptismal candidate receives the grace of God unknowingly as an infant, then the Confirmation candidate receives the grace of knowing this grace.

Therefore, Confirmation is not "graduation" or a "rite of passage". It allows the candidate to become aware of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that were given to him or her at Baptism. It equips the candidate with the knowledge and understanding that he or she has been chosen by our Lord, undeservedly and unconditionally with love. It allows the candidate to understand that he or she was baptized as priest, prophet, and king and with the abundance of grace to commit to living this mission. It reveals to the candidate that life isn't about "me", but about God. The knowledge of the reality of grace opens the candidate to receive the Holy Spirit, given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the sake of living our Catholic identity as missionary disciples. (Acts 1:8) We hope to partner with you in fostering a greater commitment and deepening your child's path to holiness.

Confirmation Process

The Confirmation formation process takes two years to complete, beginning in the fall of a candidate's 7th grade and ending in the spring of their 8th grade year. Therefore, 7th-8th grade Faith Formation is synonymous with the Confirmation formation process. Any students who wish to receive the Sacrament and are older than 7th grade will be grandfathered in and complete one year of formation.

At the time of registration, students in 7th-8th grade will register for 7th Grade Faith Formation/Confirmation preparation using the [PreK-Confirmation Registration found on the parish website](#). For those who are above 7th grade, please register using the same form.

High School Confirmation candidates should register with the form above. If there are enough high school age candidates, they will receive formation as a small group separate from the middle school candidates. This will occur at the same time as the 7th-8th grade formation in a separate location in the building.

Those ages 18+ seeking Confirmation should [register for RCIA preparation](#) with Corey Manning (cmanning@costm.org).

Note: 8th grade students attending SCCS have a separate formation process within the school. Please contact Sr. Maria Ivana (srmariaivana@stccs.com) for further details.

Confirmation Requirements

We see that in this process and through feedback from parents and candidates that we need to continue to change and adapt each year to the changing needs and desires of those desiring Confirmation.

The program will revolve around 5 main requirements but ultimately the way we go about fostering a greater commitment and deepening of your child's faith will be through partnering with you and the family they come from to keep them growing and encouraged on their path to holiness.

1. Regular participation at Sunday Mass, Holy Days, and Reconciliation - The Eucharist is the basic foundation of the Catholic faith. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (Jn. 14:6) We receive the grace to follow him, believe in him, and have life in Him through the Eucharist. It is absolutely necessary for the disciple. We must receive Him and receive Him often! Attending Sunday Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation is the 3rd Commandment and is required for all Catholics, as is receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year. It doesn't make sense for those that aren't attending Sunday Mass to be confirmed. That is like saying that you play football and you are on the team but you don't show up for the games.

2. Fall Quest Retreat on November 4-5 - This is a powerful opportunity to draw back from the busyness of life, and have the chance to encounter the Lord in a profound way. Many candidates that have been Confirmed say that the retreats that they attend are the best part of the process for them, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration. The reason for this is because on the retreat they can truly open themselves up to encounter Jesus Christ. They have the chance to accept a personal relationship with Him and decide to actively become an authentic disciple. Retreats are one of the best ways we help out young people to prepare for a lasting and fruitful prayer life and life in the Church.

3. The Well - This is our Wednesday night middle school youth group program that is from 6:15-7:45PM (See calendar for more info). We have games, snacks, talks, prayer time, and more. It is great way for your child to live their faith and keep up with friends who are doing the same outside of a classroom model. They also will be inspired by older high school students who are living their faith out and passing that faith on to the younger youth.

4. Adult Formation Nights - Parents are the primary formators, or teachers, of the faith for their children (CCC 2223, 2226). All parish Faith Formation is simply an extension and support of the family, especially the parents. Faith Formation does not replace the parents' formation of their children. Because of this, a parent/guardian of the candidate is required to attend five monthly Adult Formation Nights. These will occur on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:15-7:45PM (same place and time as The Well) from October-May. The topics of each will correspond, making it easier for you and your candidate to continue the conversation at home.

5. Three S's (Sponsor, Saint, Service) - A **Sponsor** is chosen by you and your child for their Confirmation to walk with and pray for the candidate. This person should be an active and practicing Catholic (Sunday Mass, Regular Confession, Growing in their faith). He or she can't be a parent, has to be confirmed, and at least 16 years old.

Saint- Each candidate will pick a Saint that they look up to/want to emulate. This will be the name that they will take on as their confirmation name and their patron.

Service- We will be offering service opportunities throughout the year that we hope your student will attend. We as Catholics are called to Know, Love and Serve God.

7th Grade Confirmation Requirements

1. Weekly attendance at [weekend Mass](#) and holy days of obligation with family
2. Receive the [Sacrament of Reconciliation](#) in the season of Lent with family
3. Confirmation Info Meeting on Wed, Sept 21 from 6:15-7:15PM at St. Mary's Great Hall
4. Regular attendance at [The Well/Cor Jesu nights](#)
5. Parent attend five [Adult Formation Nights](#) on 2nd Wednesdays from October-May
6. Participation in one [Service Opportunity](#)
6. [Sponsor form](#) due December 18
7. [Saint form](#) due January 15

8th Grade Confirmation Requirements

1. Complete all of 7th Grade Confirmation Requirements
2. [Fall Quest retreat](#) on November 4-5
3. [Baptism Form](#) due December 18
4. Attend Confirmation Ceremony on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7:00PM at Cathedral of St. Paul
5. [Go Forth Retreat](#) on April 15 (tentative), otherwise May 13

High School Confirmation Requirements

1. Weekly attendance at [weekend Mass](#) and holy days of obligation with family
2. Receive the [Sacrament of Reconciliation](#) in the season of Lent with family

3. Confirmation Info Meeting on Wed, Sept 21 from 6:15-7:15PM at St. Mary's Great Hall
4. Regular attendance at [High School Wednesday Formation \(9th-12th\)](#)/[Cor Jesu nights](#)
5. Parent attend five [Adult Formation Nights](#) on 2nd Wednesdays from October-May
6. Participation in one [Service Opportunity](#)
7. [Fall Quest retreat](#) on November 4-5
8. Attend Confirmation Ceremony on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7:00PM at Cathedral of St. Paul
9. [Go Forth Retreat](#) on April 15 (tentative), otherwise May 13
10. [Sponsor form](#) due December 18
11. [Baptism Form](#) due December 18
12. [Saint form](#) due January 15

Confirmation Registration

Registration takes place online at the parish website and is required for Confirmation. More details are provided here:

[Confirmation Registration](#)

Once you are registered, you will be added to Confirmation updates via Flocknote, which will be the primary way the Youth Ministry Coordinator will communicate with you.

IMPORTANT: If you are NOT a parishioner of St. Mary's, St. Michael's, or St. Charles, you need a letter of permission from your pastor in order for your child to receive Confirmation preparation from our parishes.

The Well (7th-8th grade)

Three to Four Wednesdays per month from 6:15-7:45PM at St. Mary's Education Center*

***except for Cor Jesu which occurs at St. Michael's Church (see "[Cor Jesu](#)")**

The Well seeks to answer two questions: "What does living the Catholic faith look like for a middle school student?" and "How do I unify my faith and life?" While The Well has a catechetical component, its focus is on formation of the whole person (Human, Intellectual, Spiritual, Communal).

7th-8th Grade Content

The talks given throughout the year will correspond to the [Adult Formation](#) topics so that parents can continue the discussion at home. Primary sources are the Catechism of the Catholic Church and The Holy Bible.

High School Wednesday Formation (9th-12th)

Three to Four Wednesdays per month from 6:15-7:45PM at St. Mary's Education Center*

***except for Cor Jesu which occurs at St. Michael's Church (see "[Cor Jesu](#)")**

High School Confirmation candidates meet separate from the middle school candidates. Their formation follows a small group model, based on how many registrants there are. The small group will follow the [Chosen series from Ascension Presents](#).

Cor Jesu nights

3rd Wednesday of the month from October-April (no Cor Jesu in December)

Every 3rd Wednesday from October-April, our parish has Cor Jesu nights at St. Michael's Church from 6:15-7:45PM. Cor Jesu means "heart of Jesus", and these nights are a time for communal prayer through Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and songs of praise. These times of prayer are open for all parishioners, so we hope that candidates and their families attend together.

Cor Jesu Schedule

5:30PM Daily Mass at St. Michael's Church (optional)

6:15PM Eucharistic Adoration (Reconciliation available)

7:10PM Prayers of the Faithful

7:15PM Benediction

7:25PM Refreshments in Atrium

7:45PM Dismiss

Adult Formation Nights

2nd Wednesdays from October-May

A parent/guardian of the candidate is required to attend five Adult Formation Nights (both parents encouraged to attend if possible, candidate will be in their normal session during this time) at St. Mary's Great Hall from 6:15-7:45PM. Adult Formation Nights are provided to support parents in forming the whole family.

Oct. 12th, 2022	The Meaning of Life, Salvation History
Nov. 9th, 2022	The Church, Scripture and Tradition
Dec. 14, 2022	Baptism & Confirmation
Jan. 11, 2023	Confession & Eucharist
Feb. 8th, 2023	Praying the Mass (Prayer)
Mar. 8th, 2023	Natural Law, Commandments, Virtues and Vices
April 12th, 2023	Moral Action, Grace and the Beatitudes
May 10th, 2023	Christian Life in the World (Vocation)

The Well/Cor Jesu Schedule 2022-2023

Date	Schedule	Session
21-Sep	Confirmation Info Meeting	6:15-7:15PM at ST. MARY'S Great Hall (Parents attend with child)
28-Sep	The Well	Meaning of Life (Dignity of the Human Person)
5-Oct	The Well	Salvation History: Creation and Fall (Sin)
12-Oct	The Well / Adult Formation Night	Salvation History: The Incarnation (Grace)
19-Oct	Cor Jesu	5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , 6:15-7:45PM Cor Jesu
26-Oct	The Well	PCYI Lessons / Salvation History: Life of Christ (Morality)
2-Nov	All Souls' Day Cemetery Blessing	Family invited to 5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , 7PM St. Michael's Cemetery Blessing
9-Nov	The Well / Adult Formation Night	The Church (1st Commandment)
16-Nov	Cor Jesu	5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , 6:15-7:45PM Cor Jesu
23-Nov	No Meeting - Thanksgiving	
30-Nov	The Well	Scripture and Tradition (2nd Commandment)
7-Dec	The Well	Baptism
14-Dec	The Well / Adult Formation Night	Confirmation (Authentic Freedom)
21-Dec	No Meeting - Christmas Break	
28-Dec	No Meeting- Christmas Break	
4-Jan	The Well	Reconciliation (4th Commandment)
11-Jan	The Well / Adult Formation Night	Eucharist Pt1 (3rd Commandment)
18-Jan	Cor Jesu	5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , 6:15-7:45PM Cor Jesu

25-Jan	The Well	Eucharist Pt2
1-Feb	The Well	Praying the Mass Pt1 (General Prayer)
8-Feb	The Well / Adult Formation Night	Praying the Mass Pt2 (General Prayer)
15-Feb	Cor Jesu	5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , 6:15-7:45PM Cor Jesu
22-Feb	Ash Wednesday Soup Supper	Attend Mass with family. Supper available from 5:45-8PM at ST. MICHAEL'S
1-Mar	The Well	Natural Law and the Ten Commandments (5th Commandment)
8-Mar	The Well / Adult Formation Night	Virtues and Vices (8th Commandment)
15-Mar	Cor Jesu	5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , 6:15-7:45PM Cor Jesu
22-Mar	No Meeting - Spring Break	
29-Mar	No Meeting	
5-Apr	No Meeting - Holy Week	Attend Triduum liturgies with family
12-Apr	The Well / Adult Formation Night	Moral Action and Grace Pt2
19-Apr	Cor Jesu	5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , 6:15-7:45PM Cor Jesu
24-Apr	Confirmation Ceremony	Monday, April 24 at 7:00PM at Cathedral of St. Paul
26-Apr	The Well	The Beatitudes
3-May	The Well	Christian Life in the World (Marriage)
10-May	The Well / Adult Formation Night	Vocations (Holy Orders)
17-May	Year-end Mass and Celebration	5:30PM Mass at ST. MICHAEL'S , refreshments to follow

NOTE: The Well meets at St. Mary's Education Center and Adult Formation Night meets at St. Mary's Great Hall. High school age candidates meet on the same dates and location as noted above, but session topics may differ.

Retreat Information (8th+ only)

During these days, we invite the youth to join each other as a community and take some time away from worldly distractions. These retreats consist of prayer, community building, activities, and discussion. We are asking all 8th+ Confirmation Candidates to attend the Fall Quest Retreat and Go Forth Retreat.

Fall Quest Retreat - Focused on growth in relationship with Jesus Christ and community

Fri-Sat November 4-5 (no overnight) at St. Michael's
Nov 4th 6:15-10PM / Nov 5th 9AM-5:30PM

We will end with the 4:30PM Mass at St. Michael's on Saturday, families are encouraged to come. Registration will be sent out soon.

Go Forth Retreat - Focused on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Charisms, and the Great Commission

Sat, April 15, 2022 (tentative) - 9am-12pm, St. Mary's Church

Note: We may run into some scheduling issues. If the April 15 date doesn't work, the retreat will be on Sat, May 13.

Service Opportunity

Various opportunities for service at the parish and in the community are provided throughout the year. Candidates are asked to participate in one of these opportunities per year. More information will be sent in the Confirmation flocknote. If the Candidate has ideas for their own service time, he/she is welcome to check with the Youth Ministry coordinator to see if it meets the requirement.

Sponsor Form

The Candidate's sponsor should be someone who will walk with the Candidate as a mentor and guide on his or her faith journey. This means that the sponsor must be **a confirmed Catholic who is at least 16 years old and practicing the faith**. He or she should be a witness to Christ's love, inviting the Candidate into discipleship with Him. The sponsor cannot be one of the Candidate's parents. If there is difficulty finding a sponsor, please let me know, there are staff and volunteers who would be happy to sponsor a candidate. Please fill out the [Sponsor Form](#) by December 18.

Baptism Form (8th+ only)

The Church requires a record of the Candidate's baptism prior to his or her Confirmation. Baptismal certificates for Confirmation must be current within 6 months of the date of Confirmation. No original certificates or copies are allowed. [This form is due December 18.](#)

Patron Saint Form

Discerning a patron saint is not only about asking the saint to intercede for the candidate; it provides him or her with a new name. This name serves as a reminder that the candidate had been baptized in the Catholic Church and was given a name. The patron saint selection can be someone whom the candidate desires to be like, or it can even be his or her baptismal name, as long as it helps the candidate to remember the commitments made during the sacrament. It is important to note that the Candidate doesn't choose the patron saint, the patron saint chooses the Candidate, so it is important to do some research, then take time to discern through prayer on which saint might be choosing him or her. A common way saints choose us is with important dates. Maybe see which saints have feast day on your birthday or during your birthday month! [Here is a resource](#) that can serve as a starting point to discerning your saint. [This form is due January 15.](#)

Weather Policies

If the Stillwater schools are cancelled or dismissed early due to severe or unsafe weather conditions, Faith Formation sessions will also be cancelled. Cancellations will be broadcast on WCCO radio and other local stations. What this means for Faith Formation sessions:

- District has a late start means sessions will still meet.
- District has an early release means no sessions.
- District has cancelled class for the day means no sessions.

Emergency Absence Considerations

Extreme circumstances, including death of a family member, severe sickness and/or inclement weather will be considered emergency absences and a candidates may be excused from the minimum requirements. These unavoidable situations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. If you feel that any of your absences fall into this category please call the youth ministry coordinator to discuss options.