2022 - 2023

**Confirmation Candidate Expectations**

* **Register** –First, you need to be registered for Confirmation/Disciple Ministry sessions. During this online process, there is a simple box to click to enroll in the Confirmation program. There is also a $25 sacramental fee.
* **Prayer** – It is important that you are spiritually ready when you receive the sacrament of Confirmation. It is suggested that you set aside at least 5 minutes of silent prayer every day. You can read Scripture, Daily Devotionals, Recite Learned Prayers, journal what you’re feeling or sit in silence before our Heavenly Father. It is difficult to have a relationship with Jesus if you do not spend time with Him. Let prayer strengthen your connection with God!
* **Attend Scheduled Events** –The Confirmation Schedule will continue to be updated. We will receive our Confirmation date the end of August. Please note that the interviews and practice dates will be determined when we receive our Confirmation date.

 **The program is comprised of the following elements:**

1. **Parent/Guardian, Candidate Meeting** - Parents will sign up to help provide lunch/snack for our Confirmation Sessions and Retreat. Candidates will sign-up for Mass/Prayer Service participation.
2. **6 Confirmation Sessions -** will include attending class sessions on Wednesday evenings, once or twice a month. A snack will be provided for the candidates during these sessions. Wednesday Sessions will begin at 6:30pm – 8:30pm.
3. **1 Candidate/Sponsor Session** – This session will take place on a Sunday, with a format that is similar to your regular sessions. (If sponsor is unable to attend, a parent must attend in their place)
4. **1 Retreat** – Held at St. Mary’s beginning with 10am Mass with lunch to follow. The day is filled with music, inspirational speakers, Reconciliation, Adoration, fellowship and some activities and surprises. (Usually 5.5 to 6 hours long)
5. **Interview –** St. Mary Parish Hall from a 15-minute interview. Candidates will choose times when the date is closer.
6. **Practice** at St. Mary’s with sponsor (if sponsor is unable to attend, a parent must attend in their place)
7. **Confirmation Liturgy at St. Mary Church** (usually in March on a Wednesday)
* **Missed Events** – Candidates who miss a session will be asked to complete an assignment on Formed. If two sessions are missed, the candidate must meet with Marcia and possibly Father Gabriel to review readiness to receive the sacrament. **Candidates must attend a Confirmation retreat.** Dates and times of area retreats will be made available if the candidate has a conflict with the BTC retreat date.
* **Choose your Confirmation Saint name** – You are encouraged to use your baptismal name (your first or middle name) if it is a saint’s name, but **you are free to choose a new saint’s name**. Try to find a saint that you relate/look up to. The website **www.catholic.org/saints/** provides a variety of saints to choose from. Once you have selected a Saint complete your Patron Saint Report. Please use your own words to complete this.
* **Choose your sponsor** – Every candidate must have a sponsor. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old, a fully initiated and practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. A parent may NOT be a confirmation sponsor since they already have a special relationship with the candidate. Once chosen, send your sponsor the Confirmation Sponsor Form.
* **Christian Living & Prayer Journal** - A journal that you will keep and write your reflections in daily. To see how your personal faith, service to others and prayer life is growing. You will then use those reflections to complete your Christian Service & Prayer Report.
* **Christian Service and Prayer Report** – Service to the Church and the community is an integral part of living our faith. Serving others as the hands and feet of Christ is our way of answering our baptismal call to love and follow Christ through our actions. The “Christian Service and Prayer Report” form details this component of the Confirmation program and must be completed and handed in no later thanFebruary 1st.
* **Picture** – Prayer boards for each of the Parishes are made so people can see who is preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We do this so our parishioners can pray for each of our candidates! Please bring a picture to one of the confirmation sessions, email Marcia or drop the photo off at the parish office. I plan on having the Confirmation Boards out before Thanksgiving! **Pictures need to be in no later than November 15th!**
* **Confirmation Interview**– All candidates must sign up for a 15-minute interview. Sign-up will be available January. Held on Wednesdays in February.
* **Final Form** – Complete and sign the Confirmation Record Sheet. This form provides information that is used in printing the Confirmation certificate, program and Parish Records. It also provides a statement of faith that the candidate signs that demonstrates their personal intent to be confirmed in the Catholic Church.