



ST. THOMAS MORE YOUTH MINISTRY

# CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK 2023-2024

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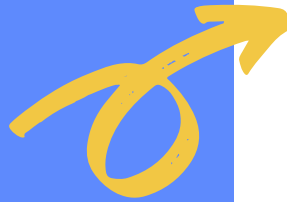
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# STAY IN THE KNOW



SIGN UP FOR  
MONTHLY EMAILS



FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM  
@STMHSYM



JOIN OUR PARENT  
FACEBOOK GROUP  
@STMHSYMCHAPELHILL

**CHECKED OUT THIS HANDBOOK BUT STILL  
HAVE QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO US!**

# Overview of Program Requirements

## Year 1 Confirmation Preparation

- Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass
- Regular class attendance (missing no more than 4 sessions, which is over 25% of meeting dates)
- Complete 4 service hours in the Fall (turn in by January 9th)
- Complete 6 service hours in the Spring (turn in by August 1st)
- Attend at least 2 social events outside of Sunday night YM
- Receive Reconciliation
- Turn in a copy of your baptismal certificate by March 1 (even if you received your 1st Communion at STM!)
- Attend the Mandatory End of Year Youth Ministry session on May 5th.

## Year 2 Confirmation Preparation

- Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass
- Regular class attendance (missing no more than 4 sessions, which is over 25% of meeting dates)
- Complete 4 service hours in the fall (turn in by January 9th)
- Complete 6 service hours in the spring (turn in by April 28th)
- Attend at least 2 social events outside of Sunday night YM
- Receive Reconciliation
- Choose a sponsor and turn in a Sponsor form by February 3rd
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat on February 3rd
- Participate in a pre-Confirmation Interview on February 3rd
- Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal – date TBD
- Attend the Confirmation Liturgy – May 9th at 6:30 PM
- Attend the Mandatory End of Year Youth Ministry session on May 5th.

# HOW DO I GET SERVICE HOURS?

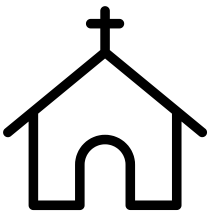
http://



[stmchapelhill.org/service-opportunities](http://stmchapelhill.org/service-opportunities)

Service hours are one of the most important parts of Confirmation preparation! By taking time to find their own volunteer opportunities, youth gain valuable leadership skills and learn what it means to help someone else. **It is not the responsibility of the Director of Youth Ministry, catechists, or parents to find service opportunities for youth!** The whole reason for the requirement is to provide an opportunity for young people to learn how to volunteer on their own.

## WAYS TO VOLUNTEER



### Parish Ministry

Parish ministry includes opportunities such as Altar Serving, volunteering with the community garden, joining an STM ministry, and more!



### Youth Ministry Sponsored Service

Occasionally, our high school youth ministry program will sponsor a group service opportunity such as our Youth Mission Trip, Adopt a Family, etc. *These only make up a handful of your service hours!*



### Community Service

You are encouraged and welcome to do some of your service hours to help our local community outside of STM! Examples include volunteering at a food bank, assisting an elderly neighbor, or any work you do to help a nonprofit organization that you are not paid for.

# HOW DO I CHOOSE A SPONSOR?

The sacrament of Confirmation should be an opportunity for our youth to exercise responsibility for their Catholic faith. The youth's sponsor may not be chosen by the parents but must be chosen by the teenager. This will give our youth a sense of ownership and allow them to foster a relationship with an adult that takes their faith seriously. **A sponsor must be an actively practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly and meets the following requirements:**

**Your Sponsor is eligible if they can answer 'yes' to these questions:**

I am a Roman Catholic.

I am at least 16 years old.

I have received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church

I am free to receive Holy Communion when I come to Mass.

I am not the parent of the person being Confirmed.

**If married, your Sponsor must be able to answer 'yes' to this question:**

Was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest or deacon or if celebrated outside a Catholic Church was done so with the written permission of a Catholic bishop?

**If unmarried, your Sponsor must be able to answer 'no' to this question:**

Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple?

**Please Note:** Sponsor Forms must be signed *by the sponsor* in the presence of a church representative. Do not wait until the last minute to ask your sponsor to do this!

# PICK-UP AND PARKING RULES

- ALL PARENTS PICKING UP YOUTH MUST JOIN THE PICK-UP LINE AND FOLLOW THE TRAFFIC PATTERN. YOUTH MUST BE PICKED UP FROM THE CURB.
- **YOUTH MAY NOT CROSS IN FRONT OF THE CAR LINE FOR ANY REASON. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- PARENTS: DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR AND ASK YOUR TEEN TO WALK OUT TO THE PARKING LOT.

## FOR TEEN DRIVERS

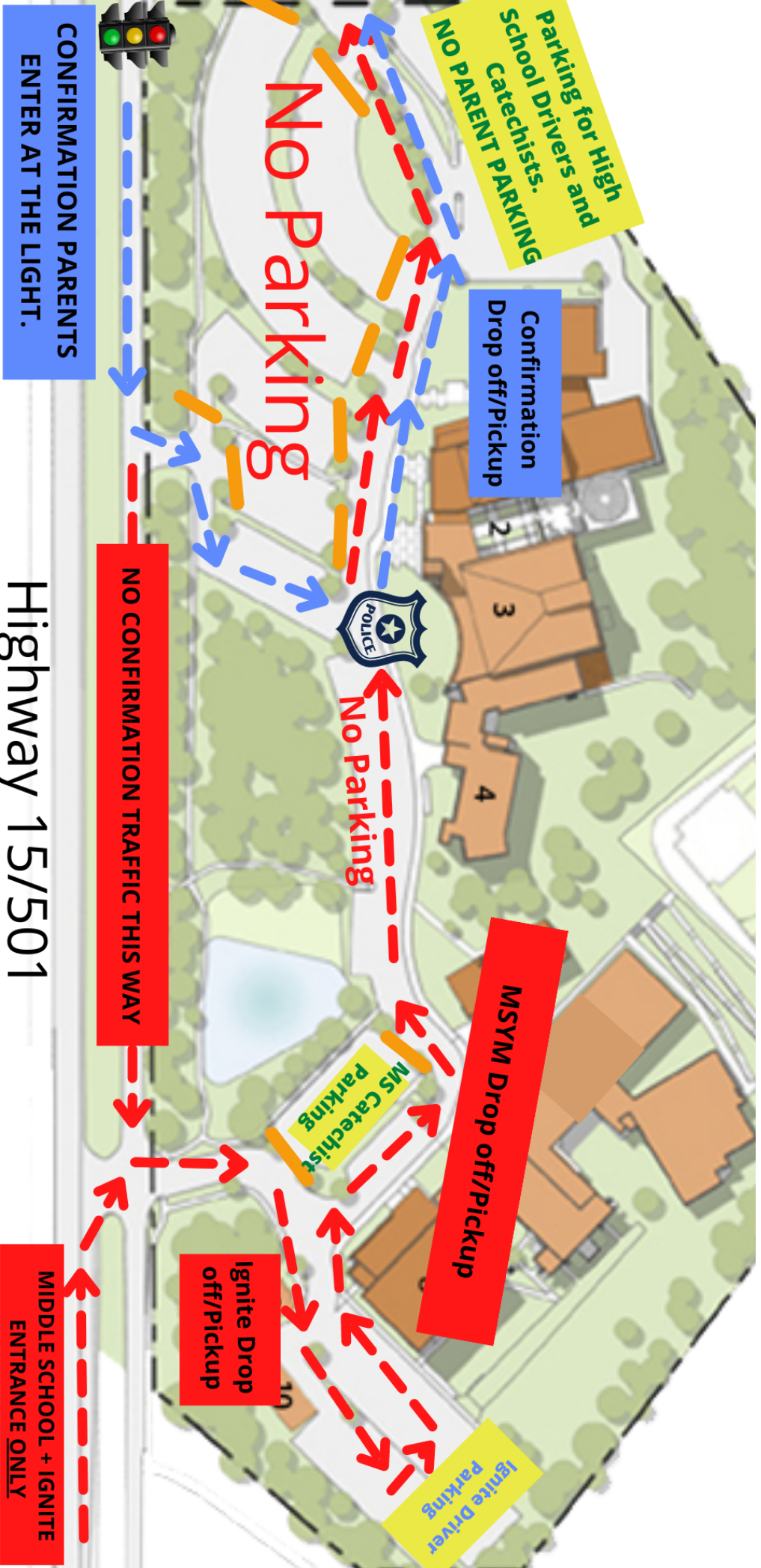
Youth who are driving themselves to Confirmation prep should park on the side of the building, near the dumpsters and Boy Scout's trailer. If you park in front of the church or parish center, you will have to wait until 7:45 to go to your car. **You may not cross in front of the car line to access your vehicle.** Youth who do not follow these guidelines will need to be dropped off by a parent.

**For everyone's safety, teenagers who are caught disregarding traffic guidelines will be personally escorted to their parent's vehicle by a catechist every Sunday for the remainder of the year.**



# Youth Ministry Traffic Pattern

- ➔ Middle School + Ignite
- ➔ Confirmation
- ➔ Area taped off.  
Do not break tape!





# FAQ'S

## **How much work is Confirmation preparation?**

Preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation is a substantial time commitment. Youth who participate in our program should expect to dedicate an average of 3 hours a week to preparing for the sacrament, including their attendance at Sunday mass and youth ministry nights.

## **How can I stay up to date with important information?**

Paying close attention to email, our Instagram page (@stmhsym) and announcements made at youth ministry are all ways to receive important info! If you are not on our email list, please contact Kristin Hauser.

## **What is the penalty for not completing the requirements?**

A process of mutual discernment will take place between the Director of Youth Ministry, the candidate, parents, and the catechists to decide whether a candidate should continue with the process or try again next year. **The most important thing is to communicate with us about your candidate's situation! We can't help if we don't know what kind of support your young person needs. Please reach out to us!**

## **The handbook says I can only miss 4 'session'. What counts as a youth ministry session? Is it the same as 'class'?**

All dates listed on the calendar for Sunday evenings between September and May count as youth ministry sessions. This includes social events, Family Mass, etc. We do not refer to Sunday evenings as 'class' because we are not always meeting in that format! **Our final session on May 5th (Youth Ministry Messy Games) does not count as 1 of your 4 absences, as attendance is mandatory for both Years 1 and 2. You must attend youth ministry on May 5th!!**



# FAQ'S

## **Why are social activities required?**

Faith development isn't just about learning a set of things that we believe – it's about becoming part of a community that lives out our faith in a real and intentional way. While playing dodgeball or going to a movie might not seem like religious education, oftentimes young people receive far more wisdom about what it means to be Catholic by building relationships with people who are living out our Christian values. Youth ministry is not exclusively educational, but communal as well.

## **What if my teen really doesn't want to go through the preparation process?**

While it is certainly the prerogative of parents to require their children to attend youth ministry and learn about the faith, the sacrament of Confirmation must be freely chosen by the teenager. Youth who do not wish to be Confirmed at the end of the preparation process will not be forced to do so. If attending youth ministry becomes a major battle in your household, it may be a good idea to step back for awhile. There will always be opportunities to receive Confirmation down the line, but forcing the issue could cause lasting damage to a young person.

## **Do I need to choose a 'Confirmation Name' or 'Saint Name'?**

Because of the intrinsic relationship between Baptism and Confirmation, candidates are encouraged to retain their baptismal name for the celebration of the Sacrament. It is sometimes customary for candidates to take on the name of a saint that they admire, but it is by no means required. If the candidate wishes to be Confirmed with the name of a saint, they should write a paragraph about who the saint is and why they chose them, to be turned in by March 1.





# FAMILY COVENANT AGREEMENT

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

I have read and understood the 2023-2024 STM Youth Ministry Confirmation Handbook and made note of all important dates in my personal calendar. I am committing to helping my teenager grow in their faith this year, especially by bringing them to Mass each week and encouraging them in their youth ministry participation.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUTH SIGNATURE

I have read and understood the 2023-2024 STM Youth Ministry Confirmation Handbook and made note of all important dates in my personal calendar. I understand that it is not the responsibility of my parents, catechists, or the department of youth ministry to keep me informed as to the information in this handbook, and I need to take personal responsibility for my faith this year! I am committed to showing up for myself and actively participating in my own formation this year!

Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_