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10/26/2020

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**St. Mary
Catholic Church**

**11th Grade
Christian Formation
HANDBOOK**



11th Grade Christian Formation Team

Pastor: Fr. Roman Stikel | (262) 694-6018

Director of Youth and Adult Ministry:

Sandy Schwalbe | (262) 925-4157
sschwalbe@stmarycatholic.org

Christian Formation Administrative Assistant:

Kellee Chwala | (262) 925-4150
kchwala@stmarycatholic.org

11th Grade High School Catechists:

Yolanda Alanis | yrv615@yahoo.com
Paul Dizon | pdizon1972@gmail.com
Dan Johnson | danandpattyjohnson@gmail.com
Ray Schendl | schendlr@gmail.com



Parent Meeting Opening Prayer:

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings. We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice. **May** their eyes see your presence in all things. **May** their lips proclaim your word. **May** their hearts be your dwelling place. **May** their hands do works of charity. **May** their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Amen.

Parent Meeting Closing Prayer:

Loving God,
Pour out your blessing Upon our beloved children,
That during this time of Sacramental preparation
They may grow closer to you,
And come to know your special love for them.
May this time of preparation be a time of blessing
For our families and our community,
And unite us all in your great love. **Amen.**

How to complete Make up assignments

Attendance to all scheduled classes is required, however, in the event that a class is missed the teen is required to make up their work. Teen should be called in as absent to Sandy Schwalbe at (262) 925-4157 or sschwalbe@stmarycatholic.org prior to class time.

- For CHOSEN LESSONS - Make up assignments for the CHOSEN program consists of watching the videos online (a CHOSEN link will be provided to all students who are absent), completing the work in the workbook and writing (typed) one paragraph using one of the three selections given in the Challenge of the week for the missed lesson. Upon completion of the assignment, an email should be sent to Kellee Chwalba indicating that the assignment (including the workbook and typed paragraph) has been completed. The typed portion of the make up work can be emailed to Kellee or placed in the “In Bin” located in each classroom. Kellee will then mark the absence from ABSENT to EXCUSED. EXCUSED means the makeup work has been completed. **Please have makeup work completed within two weeks of the date missed.**
- OTHER ABSENCES– Makeup work will be provided as needed.

Homeschool Guidelines

- Students are required to complete the assignment for each scheduled class. Assignments (copies of completed workbook pages and typed portion of the assignment) are due the Sunday following the scheduled class. Parents will receive a CHOSEN Leader Book as an aid in Homeschooling their teen. This Leader Book should be returned to St. Mary Parish no later than Sunday, April 11, 2021.
- Assignments are to be turned in to Sandy Schwalbe - turn in by mail, email or drop off at the parish office or the parish center office—both doors have a slot for after hour drop-offs.
- 11th Grade Teens are required to attend the Sponsor/Teen Commitment Mass and Meeting, Confirmation Retreat, Confirmation Interview and the Confirmation Rehearsal.
- All assignments must be completed and turned in by Sunday, April 11, 2021.
- See Homeschool guidelines sheet.

NOTES



High School Christian Formation

Welcome. In this booklet, you will find a brief description of the Christian Formation program at St. Mary Catholic Church, class schedules, and confirmation requirements. This year, you/your teen will complete your/their final year of confirmation *preparation*; but remember, the Sacrament of Confirmation is not the end of their Catholic formation, it is more of a beginning to their lifelong discipleship!

Program Description

CHOSEN | The Journey toward Confirmation | (Stated in the Parent Guide)

CHOSEN will lead your teen on a journey through the Catholic Faith in all its richness and vitality. Over the course of twenty-four engaging lessons, your son or daughter will not only learn about the Faith, but will be invited to experience a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Using a combination of videos, workbook material and group discussions, the goal of the **CHOSEN** program is to win over the hearts of youth at this critical time in their lives and to keep them firmly planted in the faith community of the Church.

The video presentations in this program feature some of the top youth ministers in the Church today and have been filmed on location throughout the country and internationally. A dynamic and engaging workbook is used throughout the program and contains at-home pages and activities that are an essential part of the **CHOSEN** learning experience. As the candidate's parents, you play an essential role in guiding your child through this process. See Parents Guide on the next page. Also note on the next page two additional books used in the **CHOSEN** program.

Supplemental programs such as **ALTARATION** may also be used in this year's program. This is an informative program about The Mass. Mass attendance is a vital part of your/your teen's journey to Confirmation and beyond!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**THURSDAYS 5:00PM-8:00PM
IN THE CHURCH**

What should I do during Adoration?

1. Read from your Bible or Prayer book
2. Listen to Praise and Worship music (with your headphones, of course!)
3. Pray the Rosary
4. Be okay with Silence - Listen
5. Be patient - Start small - even ten minutes!

TAKE A BREAK FROM ALL THE CHAOS!

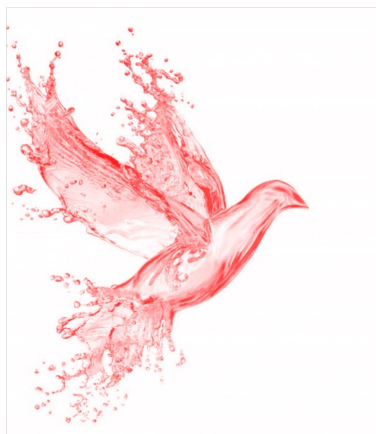
What is Eucharistic Adoration?

It's a form of prayer that began centuries ago. The word Adoration means to pay homage to someone. The same Jesus whom we receive in the Eucharist at Mass is the same one we worship in Adoration. Adoration is a time to sit face to face with Jesus and deepen and strengthen our relationship with Him.

Service Hour Ideas

As mentioned on page 10 of this handbook, Teens are required to earn ten (10) hours of service during each of their three years in the program for a total of thirty (30) hours of service by the time they are Confirmed. Service hours can be in the categories of Family, Church, and Community. This becomes a little more challenging this year, with COVID-19, so we may need to be more creative than usual! Below are ideas or examples of service hours:

- Soup Kitchen | This typically takes place at Christ the King Church 5934 4th Avenue Kenosha every first Tuesday of the month. Teen are asked to help serve a meal to those in need. 4:15pm-6:15pm Due to COVID-19, this event have been placed on hold. Updates about this event to follow.
- Attend Eucharistic Adoration | Spend some quiet time with Jesus | Sign in at church and fill out an Individual Service Project Form | See Page 13 or contact Sandy Schwalbe for more information.
- Help with the Giving Circle | Dates and times of this event TBD but will likely take place early December 2020. More information about this to follow.
- Become a Greeter or Usher at any of our four (currently offered) masses during the weekend. Altar Server during non-COVID19 times. Contact Sandy Schwalbe for more information.



- Volunteer at your school as allowed.
- Events as they come up | I will typically contact all families as needed. Watch for emails!
- Be creative! Try to make service hours a family event, if possible. If you are unsure about an activity, please contact Sandy Schwalbe.
- College Boxes | Help pack college boxes for St. Mary students at college | this will take place in Spring 2021 | Date and time TBD

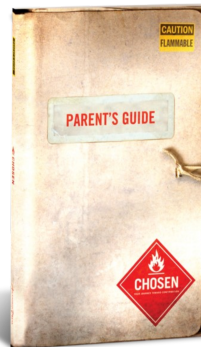


PARENT'S GUIDE

Parents/Guardians will have received this guide during the 9th/10th Grade Parent Meeting.

This guide not only instructs parents in their integral role with their teen's Confirmation preparation, but is an opportunity to revisit and rekindle their own faith. It includes an overview of a parent's role, guidelines for supporting their teen's journey of faith, tips for talking with their child, and more. The "Conversation Starters" in this book are invaluable. Please use the schedule found on pages 10 and 11 for appropriate lessons.

Additional copies of this book are available for \$10.



SPONSOR'S GUIDE

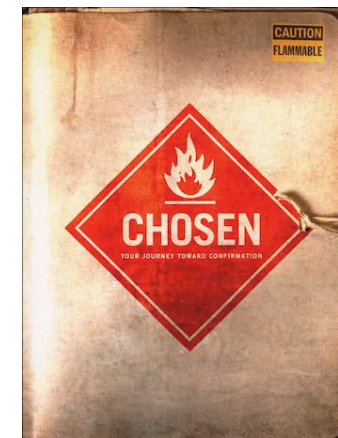
Your Teen's Sponsor will receive this valuable handbook while attending the Sponsor/Teen Commitment Mass/Meeting on Saturday, December 6, 2020. See Schedule on pages 10 and 11 for more information.

Additional copies of this book are available for \$10.



STUDENT'S WORKBOOK

Your 11th Grade Student received this workbook last year. If your Teen is new to the program this year he or she will receive the CHOSEN workbook at their first class. This Workbook should be brought to all classes along with their bible.



Policies and Procedures

Scheduled Classes: Classes follow the 10:30am Mass on Sundays from 11:30am – 12:45pm. Students are encouraged to attend the 10:30am Mass prior to the session start time and go directly to the school for classes to begin promptly at 11:30am. See pages 8 and 9 for the 11th Grade Schedule.

Materials: Students are expected to come to classes prepared, by bringing with them: their CHOSEN Workbook, their Bible, and their willingness to listen and participate during class. Bibles are handed out in 6th grade, if your son or daughter attended formation at St. Mary or during 9th Grade when they came into the program. 11th Grade students this year, received their CHOSEN Workbooks last year if they were in our program. *If the student has not brought their books for 2 weeks in a row, the student will be asked to repurchase their books.* The cost of a new Workbook is \$25.

Classroom Behavior | It is expected that all Teens will conduct themselves as God would expect them to. It is important to work together for the common good in creating an effective learning environment. All youth have the responsibility to engage in behavior that is in the best interest of themselves, their peers and the catechist. Please remember that our catechists are volunteers; they deserve respect and cooperation. At the same time, each student deserves respect, understanding, and a classroom conducive to learning. Mutual respect is expected.

Mass Attendance | Teens are required to attend Mass and participate in the Liturgy each weekend. By attending and participating as a family in the Eucharistic celebration, parents help guide their student to grow in his/her faith.

A note about attire for Sponsors and Confirmands for Confirmation Mass



As every candidate knows, a Sacrament is an outward (visible) sign instituted by Christ to give grace. Therefore, it is important that we focus on both the outside appearance and the internal conversion during all of our Sacramental ceremonies. At the Sacrament of Baptism, we wear special gowns, the Sacrament of First Communion, we wear white dresses or suits, at our Marriage we wear formal gown or tuxedos. It is with the same consideration that we consider our outward appearance during the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please apply the following guidelines for Confirmands and their Sponsors while selecting Confirmation attire.

Appropriate attire for Women: Dress, skirt and blouse, pantsuit or dress pants with a blouse. The dress should be knee length or longer. Chest, back and shoulders must be covered. Dress shoes. Think Sunday best!

Appropriate attire for Men: Dress pants, dress shirt and tie with dress socks and dress shoes. Suit or sport jacket are appropriate but not necessary. No jeans or sneakers. Think Sunday best!

Helpful Suggestions: The liturgical color for Confirmation is red (and white), to signify the Holy Spirit who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. You may consider wearing some red or white. Also, when fixing your hair, your forehead must be uncovered for Anointing from the Bishop.

Thank you!

Sponsor's Letter to Fr. Roman

This letter to the Fr. Roman is due by **Sunday, March 7, 2021**. It should be typed, double-spaced, font size #12 Below, is an example of what could be included in the Sponsor's letter to Fr. Roman.

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Today's date

Dear Fr. Roman,

My name is _____ and I am a member of _____ St. Mary Parish, Kenosha, WI. I recommend _____ for confirmation because... you may discuss any or all of the following...

1. Your candidate's maturity or growth of faith.
2. Your candidate's willingness to continue to grow in faith.
3. Your candidate's willingness to serve God.
4. Any other matter that you think may show that your candidate is ready for Confirmation.

Sincerely,

Type and sign your name



Policies and Procedures continued...

Program | Event Fees: One half of the total program fee is due upon registration, with the balance due by February of the following year. Special event fees are due upon registration. Families with special financial circumstances or needs should contact the Director. *All students will have access to our faith formation program.*

Permission Slip Policy: A yearly General Permission Slip will be filled out to cover any event for the year. If the event is off church property, the child is required to have a permission slip to attend. General Permission Slip forms can be downloaded from our church website at www.stmarycatholic.org.

Group | Individual Pictures and Release of Phone Numbers: Throughout the program year, photographs of the youth participating in various events may be taken. Some of these photographs may be used in the bulletin, on fliers or bulletin boards, parish website, or other media, etc. In addition, requests from St. Mary committee chairpersons or other volunteer coordinators are received for the names and phone numbers of teens, and families to help in many parish programs and/or events. Please be sure to fill this portion in on the registration form.

Class Cancellation: On Sundays when the weather is not safe for traveling, families will be informed via ROBO call. When possible, a decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather will be made by 5:00pm the Saturday evening prior to classes. You must always use your best judgment. In the event that classes are not "cancelled" and you feel it is not safe, please call the Director of Youth Ministry to inform her that your student will not be at class. Your safety and the safety of our youth is always our primary concern.

Policies and Procedures continued...

Open Door | Parent Policy: Parents are invited to visit their son’s/daughter’s class. If you wish to sit-in on a class, please let the catechist know one week prior to the beginning of that class.

Electronic Devices: Upon arriving on the building’s grounds for any activity, whether it is regular religious education class, retreats, or other youth activities, cell phones must be out of site during this time unless the Catechists asks that they take them out.

Service Project Hours: Students are required to earn ten (10) hours of service during each of their three years in the program for a total of thirty (30) hours of service by the time they are Confirmed. Service hours can be in the categories of Family, Church, and Community.

Teens are required to fill out an Individual Service Project form (found in classrooms, High School office and on our parish website) and turn it into the Christian Formation Office to have their hours recorded. Students are advised to turn in the form immediately after performing the service hours, as we use the form to log service hours. Forms can be turned in via mail, email or before or after class by placing them in the “in bin” found in each classroom and outside the High School Office in the school. Without this form, service hours cannot be accurately logged. It is always a good idea to keep a copy for your records. Please send form to the attention of Kellee Chwala | kchwala@stmarycatholic.org.

Attendance or Leaving Class Early: *Attendance to all classes is mandatory.* All Religious Education classes must be attended, with serious family difficulties being the only exception. Exceptions should be discussed with the Director prior to missing class. No other activities - sports or leisure - should be viewed as more important. Youth learn their priorities from the example of adults. Please see Page 18 for guidelines on how to complete make up work. All make up work is required to be complete one month prior to your Teen’s Confirmation in Spring. Please contact Director via email or phone if a student requires an early dismissal to any class. Teens must also bring a note stating the time they need to leave, and present it to their Catechist prior to class.

Teen’s Letter to the Bishop

This letter to the Bishop is due by **Sunday, March 7, 2021**. It should be typed, double-spaced, font size 12 and **at least two pages** in length. All letters from this confirmation class are sent together from the parish, to the Milwaukee Archdiocese. Bishop Haines reads everyone of them! Please have your letter complete and turned in no later than Sunday, March 7, 2021. Thank you!

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Today’s Date

Dear Bishop Haines,

My name is _____ and I am a member of _____ St. Mary Parish, Kenosha, WI.

Include the following...

1. I would like the honor of being confirmed because..... OR
2. I feel that I am ready for the sacrament of Confirmation because.....
3. State how you have been preparing for Confirmation by talking about your classes, service, retreats and prayer experience. What did they do to help you to prepare for this decision.
4. The Saint that you have chosen and why.
5. State why your faith is important to you and how you will continue your faith journey after confirmation.
6. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Type and sign your name

Teen's Saint Paper

Your Saint Paper should be one full page, double spaced using times new roman #12 font. This paper should be written in your own words - make it personal. Be sure to proofread your paper and include your name! The Saint Paper is due **Sunday, November 22, 2020**.

Include the follow information about your Saint in your paper:

- * Why have you chosen this Saint to be your Confirmation Saint?
- * Where was your Saint born?
- * How and where did your Saint grow up?
- * What is the family history of your Saint?
- * What was your Saint's education?
- * Tell us about your Saint's conversion experience—when did they come to be a follower?
- * What is your Saint's philosophy?
- * What is your Saint a patron of?
- * What is your Saint's feast day?
- * How, when, where did your Saint die? Where are they buried?

Several Saint Resources

There are many other resources out there including the Milwaukee Archdiocese!

<https://gnm.org/saints-find/>

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day/>

<https://catholicsaints.info/>

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Use Google or take a trip to your neighborhood Library!

Important Dates

- 11th Grade Parent/Teen Meeting** | Sunday, October 25, 2020
11:30am-12:15pm | Bell Hall
- Formation Classes Begin** | Sunday, November 1, 2020
11:30am-12:45pm (excluding SJCA)
- Confirmation Information Sheet** | Due Sunday, November 22, 2020
- Saint Paper** | Due Sunday, November 22, 2020
- Sponsor Teen Commitment Mass and Meeting**
Saturday, December 5, 2020. **Two Options:** 2:45pm meeting with 4:00pm Mass or 4:45pm meeting with 6:00pm Mass. Attendance to both the meeting and the Mass is required.
- Confirmation Retreat** | Saturday, February 6, 2021
- Teen Bishop Letter** | Due Sunday, March 7, 2021
- Sponsor's Letter to Fr. Roman** | Due Sunday March 7, 2021
- Formation Classes End** | Sunday, March 28, 2021
- Teen Confirmation Interview** | Sunday, April 18, Monday, April 19 or Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Interviews take place with Fr. Roman or one of our Deacons. Times and locations TBD.
- Confirmation Mass Rehearsal** | Monday, May 3, 2021 | 6:00pm
In Bell Hall and Church

Confirmation Mass | Thursday, May 6, 2021 | 7:00pm | Bishop Haines



ST. MARY
Catholic Church

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SCHEDULE
11th Grade | In Person and Homeschool
Class Time: 11:30am-12:45pm
unless noted otherwise

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SCHEDULE
11th Grade | SJCA

Lesson Plan

November | 2020

1 Sunday, November 1	CHOSEN #9	na
2 Sunday, November 8	CHOSEN #10/11	na
3 Sunday, November 15	CHOSEN #12	na
4 Sunday, November 22	CHOSEN #13	na
OFF Sunday, November 29	OFF	na

December | 2020

5 Saturday, December 5 Bell Hall and Church Sponsor/Teen Commitment Mass Choose one: 2:45pm mtg with 4:00pm Mass attendance 4:45pm mtg with 6:00pm Mass attendance	Sponsor/Teen	Saturday, December 5 Bell Hall and Church Sponsor/Teen Commitment Mass Choose one: 2:45pm mtg with 4:00pm Mass attendance 4:45pm mtg with 6:00pm Mass attendance
6 Sunday, December 13	CHOSEN #14	na
OFF Sunday, December 20 and 27	OFF	na

January | 2021

OFF Sunday, January 3	OFF	na
7 Sunday, January 10	CHOSEN #17/18	na
8 Sunday, January 17 Virtual Speaker Maggie Craig Theology of the Body 1:00pm – 2:30pm	Virtual Speaker	Sunday, January 17 Virtual Speaker Maggie Craig Theology of the Body 1:00pm – 2:30pm
9 Sunday, January 24	CHOSEN #19	na
OFF Sunday, January 31	OFF	na

February | 2021

10 Saturday, February 6 Confirmation Retreat St. Mary Church Campus Time—TBD	RETREAT St. Mary Campus	Saturday, February 6 Confirmation Retreat St. Mary Church Campus Time—TBD
11 Sunday, February 14	CHOSEN #20	na
12 Sunday, February 21	ALTARATION	na
OFF Sunday, February 28	OFF	na

March | 2021

OFF Sunday, March 7	OFF	na
13 Sunday March 14 Stations of the Cross and Adoration 1:00pm – 2:30pm	CHURCH	na
14 Sunday, March 21	CHOSEN #23	na
15 Sunday, March 28	CHOSEN #24	na

April | 2021

Sunday, April 18, Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20 Teen interview with Fr. Roman or Deacon Time and Location to be determined.	Location TBD	Sunday, April 18, Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20 Teen interview with Fr. Roman or Deacon Time and Location to be determined.
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May | 2021

Sunday, June 6, 2021 Confirmation Mass 2:00pm Arrival time 1:30 pm	Church	May 6 & 24, 2021 Confirmation Mass 6:30 PM Arrival time 6:00PM
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