

Confirmation



2025-2026

By a signing with the gift of the Spirit, Confirmation enriches the baptized with the Holy Spirit, binding them more perfectly to the Church, and strengthening them in their witness to Christ by word and deed and in their work to bring to its fullness the Body of Christ”

~Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Important Dates

The activities listed below are for all candidates, whether they took the summer session or the Wednesday evening session.

Date	Event	Notes
October 5th Sunday	Chicken Dinner / Fall Fest at St. Peter (1st DIA Volunteer Opportunity)	Choose this day <u>or</u> Turkey Dinner at St. Theresa Sign-up here
October 15th Wednesday	1st Class/Parent Night	Review of program + logistics Parents will stay in Church for speaker, Confirmand will split for class.
October 19th Sunday	Turkey Dinner at St. Theresa (2nd DIA Volunteer Opportunity)	Choose this day or Chicken Dinner at St. Peter Sign-up will be at sttheresaeagle.com
October 29th Wednesday	Sponsor Information Sheets due	Submit to Thaddeus Loduha loduhat@stjmuk.org Found on SJL Website
October 25th/26th Sat—Sun (Est.)	Box of Joy Christmas Baskets (3rd DIA Volunteer Opportunity)	Saturday: Prep Gym with Table Setup Sunday: Pack boxes SignUp TBD
November 9th/23rd Sunday	Thanksgiving Baskets (4th DIA Volunteer Opportunity)	Work with Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry to fill Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need; at SJL, sign up here
January 10th-11th Sat—Sun	Confirmation Retreat Emergency? Alt. Retreat options Available	Pallotti Retreat Center Elkhorn Essential component of Confirmation program. Alt. options 1/31/26 and 2/7/26 w/ St. Leonard & St. Clare.
February 4th Wednesday	Confirmation Conversations	During regular class, each candidate will meet with Youth Formation Coordinator to assess readiness for Confirmation
February 18th Wednesday	Confirmation Name Papers due Candidate Questionnaires due Ash Wednesday Mass prior to class (6:00pm @ SJL) Go to Reconciliation during Lent	Name papers must be typed (Guidelines in Handbook) Candidate Questionnaire must be typed using the fillable form from the archdiocese—Found on SJL Website) Reconciliation prepares us for the joy of Easter and for the graces received in Confirmation.
April 28th Tuesday	Confirmation Rehearsal + Mass	6:00pm Rehearsal @ SJL Sponsors attend with Confirmation candidates 7:00pm Mass & SJL Candidates and sponsors, family and friends

- ♦ **Holy days** are what Catholics refer to as holidays within the liturgical calendar. **Every Sunday** is considered a Holy Day of Obligation, as are six other solemnities within the Church year. The Eucharist is at the heart of our worship and strengthens us with grace to grow in faith. Don't miss out on the great gift of Sunday!
- ♦ **"Reconciliation Days"**: Southern Moraine Parish Cluster will be offering quarterly "Reconciliation Days" with a longer timeframe for busy families and individuals...
St. James: Wed, Sept. 24th @ 9-11AM + 7-9PM | St. Peter: Wed, Dec. 3rd @ 9-11AM + 7-9PM
Adoration will occur during all the above scheduled times
- ♦ The sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered regularly at the following times.
St. Peter: Saturdays 9:00-9:30 am
St. Theresa: Saturdays 3:45-4:15 pm
St. James: Saturdays 3:00-3:30 pm; Wednesdays 5:00-5:45 pm

Confirmation Basics

Welcome to Confirmation Preparation!

Preparing for Confirmation is a rich spiritual journey that aims to promote a new level of faith understanding while encouraging you to explore what it means to be a disciple of Christ, living and practicing that discipleship within the Catholic Church.

Components of the Confirmation Year:

- ♦ **Sessions:** Every session is important, so please mark your calendars and commit to being present. Scheduled events and activities are for all candidates, whether registered for the summer option or Wednesday night sessions.
- ♦ **Retreat:** One retreat will be offered January 10th—11th 2026 at Pallotti Retreat Center in Elkhorn. The retreat is an integral part of the preparation for Confirmation and is not to be omitted without serious reason. All candidates are expected to attend the retreat in its entirety. If a genuine schedule conflict prevents a candidate from attending the retreat, the candidate should contact Youth Formation Coordinator Thaddeus Loduha to explore possible retreat options at neighboring parishes.
- ♦ **Service:** Our students will have opportunities for service through the *Disciples in Action* (DIA) activities that are planned throughout the year. A fuller description follows under *Disciples in Action*. Service in the community, at school, and through other organizations is also highly encouraged. Completed service needs to be described in a Confirmand's Bishop Questionnaire.
- ♦ **Prayer:** Communal and personal prayer will be included in all classes and activities as we seek to nourish our relationship with Christ and with each other. Families are encouraged to pray together at home, with special intentions for the growth in faith of your confirmand over this year's journey.
- ♦ **Mass:** Since faith and worship are so closely related, it follows that trying to pursue one without the other will always end with an incomplete and unsatisfactory result. We ask all families to firmly commit to attending Mass on Sundays and all Holy Days of Obligation. Our faith brings the community together at Mass, and worship renews the faith of that community. The Eucharist is at the heart of our worship and provides nourishment for our faith.
- ♦ **Sponsors:** Sponsor involvement is important not only for this year, but for the continued journey of faith beyond Confirmation. Candidates should select a sponsor who may serve as a guide and mentor in the Catholic faith for years to come. More details are available on the Sponsor Information Sheet.
- ♦ **Confirmation Name:** Throughout the Church's history, powerful encounters with God have been marked by an individual taking a new name. Traditionally, Confirmation candidates take the name of a saint whom they admire. Each candidate will write a brief paper about the saint or biblical figure whose qualities they admire and hope to imitate.
- ♦ **Candidate Questionnaire:** The archdiocese has provided a *Candidate Questionnaire for the Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation* which each confirmand must complete and turn in to the Faith Formation Office. A sample of the Questionnaire is included in this packet.
- ♦ **Confirmation Conversation:** Each candidate will meet with the youth formation coordinator to assess readiness for Confirmation. Conversations may include a description of the candidate's faith journey, choice of sponsor and Confirmation name, reflection on service experiences, development of

"Here I am Lord. I've come to do your will."

Disciples in Action (DIA)

With Jesus as our model, we all must seek to live a life that responds to the needs of others. The mission of the Catholic faith goes beyond the walls of the Church. Finding out who you are and how you can use the gifts that God has given you are important steps in living a life of discipleship. God will call you to serve others.

Scheduled DIA Activities will give confirmands opportunities to work together on projects that will help those in need both in their parish and in the community. When necessary, a Sign-up Genius will be provided. Note: A Parent/Guardian Permission Slip MAY be required for each candidate to participate in some *Disciples in Action* events.

All Candidates will also undertake a service activity with their sponsor. (See p. 7, Conversation 3)
Focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy listed on the following page.

Service and Ministry Opportunities Within the Church

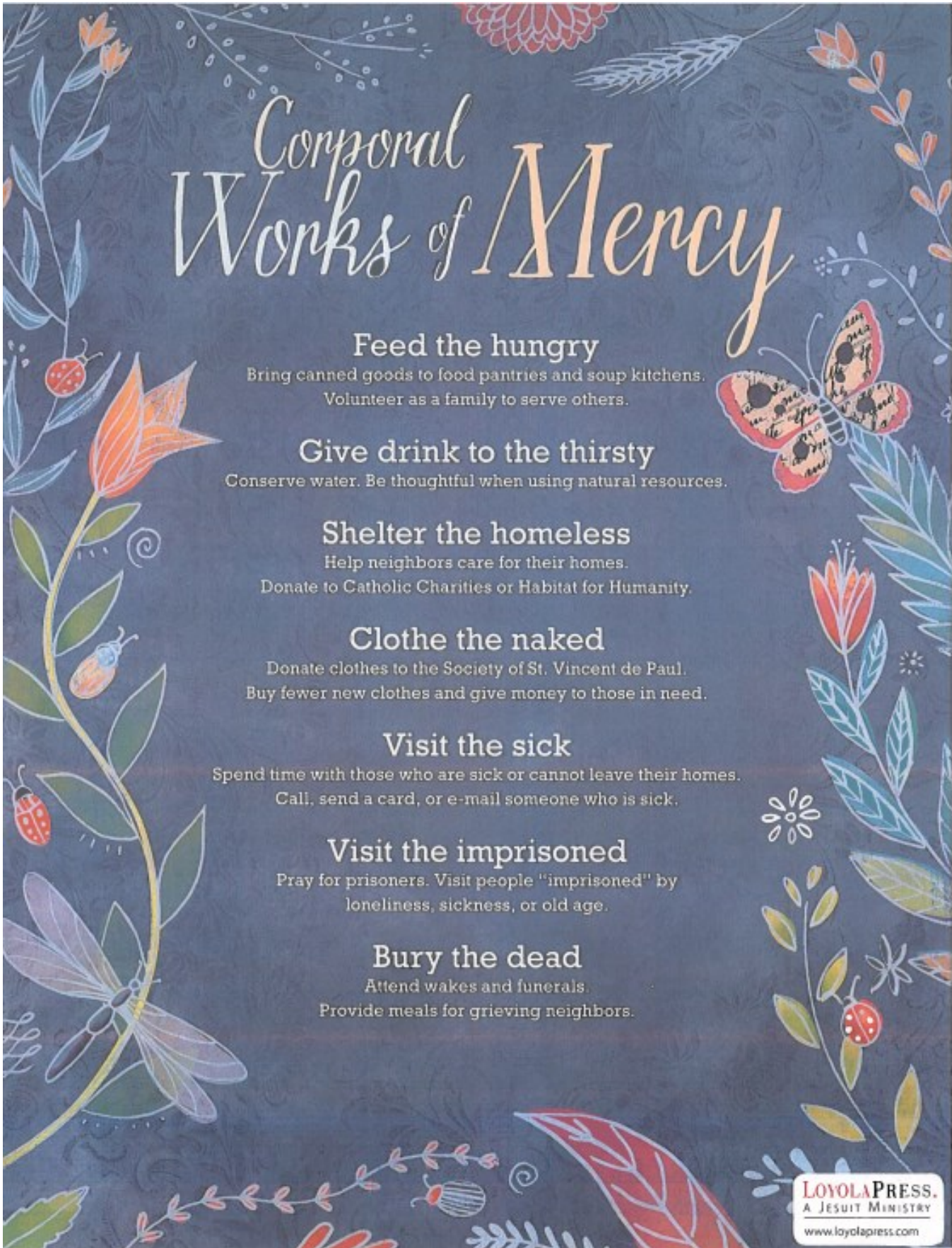
- ◆ Liturgical ministry (Mass): Altar Server / Lector/ Choir / Instruments / Usher / Technology
- ◆ Children's Liturgy of the Word volunteer
- ◆ Gardening volunteers
- ◆ Assist with festivals and celebrations

Service Ideas – Local Organizations

Research local organizations for volunteer and service opportunities. Focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy, as we are called to serve those most in need. The list below may guide you in your selection of a service activity, but it is by no means exhaustive.

- ◆ Reconciliation Day—Greeter
- ◆ Eagle Food Pantry
- ◆ East Troy Food Pantry
- ◆ Mukwonago Food Pantry
- ◆ Volunteer to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society– St. James or St. Theresa
- ◆ Heritage Independent Living, East Troy
- ◆ Linden Grove Communities, Mukwonago Campus
- ◆ Retzer Nature Center (www.waukeshacounty.gov/retzernaturecenter)
- ◆ Salvation Army
- ◆ Capuchin Community Services (Contact: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org)
- ◆ Donna Lexa Art Center (Volunteer Coordinator 262-521-2292)
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Hebron House of Hospitality and Sienna House (Email Jennifer: jrowedder@hebronhouse.org)
- ◆ Hope Center, Waukesha (www.hopecenterwi.org)
- ◆ Katy's Klostet, Waukesha
- ◆ Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council
- ◆ Special Olympics (www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/getinvolved/volunteer)

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)



corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry

Bring canned goods to food pantries and soup kitchens.
Volunteer as a family to serve others.

Give drink to the thirsty

Conserve water. Be thoughtful when using natural resources.

Shelter the homeless

Help neighbors care for their homes.
Donate to Catholic Charities or Habitat for Humanity.

Clothe the naked

Donate clothes to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
Buy fewer new clothes and give money to those in need.

Visit the sick

Spend time with those who are sick or cannot leave their homes.
Call, send a card, or e-mail someone who is sick.

Visit the imprisoned

Pray for prisoners. Visit people "imprisoned" by
loneliness, sickness, or old age.

Bury the dead

Attend wakes and funerals.
Provide meals for grieving neighbors.

Confirmation Names

Confirmation is a sacramental outpouring of the Holy Spirit that leaves a permanent imprint on the soul, completes Christian initiation, and empowers us to be witnesses to Christ. (CCC1302-1305)

Throughout Christian history, such powerful encounters with God were marked with a name change. For example, God gave Jacob the name of Israel, and Jesus gave Simon the name of Peter. Following this tradition, Confirmation candidates will choose a Confirmation name to mark the importance of being sealed to God through the sacrament.

When you are confirmed, the Bishop says to you, “(Confirmation Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” So, what name do you want him to use? Keep these points in mind:

- ◆ Traditionally a **Christian** name is chosen (after a particular saint or biblical figure).
- ◆ You may be confirmed using your **baptismal Christian name (first or middle)**.
- ◆ **You may choose a NEW Christian name!** This gives you an opportunity, if you wish, to “adopt” a new saint as your patron. Is there a saint whom you admire as a role model or whose life has inspired you?

Why Choose a Saint?

As Catholics, we believe that many who have gone before us are in heaven, having reached the ultimate goal of eternal life and glory with God. We venerate such saints as models of the Christian life on earth. We may also ask them to pray (intercede) to God on our behalf.

How Do I Choose?

First, pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you find a saint or blessed who inspires you. Do some research on your first and middle names. Are you named after a particular saint or biblical figure? If so, see if this saint captures your interest through specific qualities or life struggles. Ideally, the Bishops would like us to make the connection with our given baptismal name in the final sacrament of initiation, Confirmation. However, if you do not connect to that particular Christian’s story, you have the option to research a new Christian name, and that will be the name given to you for Confirmation. In both cases, this is the name you will designate as your “Confirmation Name” for our parish records.

Confirmation Name Paper

Your paper does not have to be complex, but it should be at least one page (double spaced). It might contain the following:

- ◆ Saint or biblical figure’s biography: What did this person do to become a saint? Where was he/she born? What does the saint represent? Is the saint a patron of any particular group?
- ◆ What inspires you most about this saint’s life? What drew you to this saint?
- ◆ What is a lesson you can learn from this saint?
- ◆ How can this saint help you follow your faith?

Recommended Websites:

<http://catholicsaints.info/>

www.catholic.org/saints/

www.archmil.org/YouthEv/Confirmation-Names.htm

www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day

www.newadvent.org/

All papers are due February 18

Sponsor Involvement

Refer to the **Confirmation Sponsor Information Sheet** for guidance in choosing a sponsor and submit the information sheet to Thaddeus Loduha by October 29th.

Four Important Conversations with Your Sponsor

1

Confirmation Name / Saint's Name (Submit a Conversation Reflection—Keep your draft for papers)

Talk with your sponsor about the name you plan to choose for Confirmation and why. If you are using your baptismal name, share with your sponsor what is special about it to you. If you are taking on a Saint's name, what drew you to it? What was your sponsor's Confirmation name? Investigate together some saints whom you admire. How can you become more like them?

2

Receiving the Holy Spirit (Submit a brief Conversation Reflection)

Read together the following passages from *Acts of the Apostles* in your Bible before answering.

Acts 1:3-11 (Ascension of Jesus to heaven)

Acts 2:1-4 (Pentecost)

Acts 8:14-17 (Laying on of hands)

Acts 19:1-6 (Baptism of new believers)

- ◆ How is Confirmation like the first Pentecost?
- ◆ What connection do you see between Baptism and Confirmation?
- ◆ What stood out to you in the Scripture verses above? What stood out to your sponsor?

3

Works of Service (Submit a brief Conversation Reflection)

Read *James 2:14-26*.

Pick a common act of **service to perform with your sponsor**. If you live in the same area, do the activity together. If candidate and sponsor are not nearby, choose a similar act of service that you can each do in your respective locations. For example, you can each serve at a local food pantry or soup kitchen or visit a nursing home. After you have completed your act of service, discuss your experience and consider the following questions:

- ◆ What does it mean that we find ourselves when we give ourselves away?
- ◆ St. Teresa of Avila says, "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours." In what ways can we be Jesus' hands and feet?
- ◆ Why do Catholics believe that faith without works is incomplete? (See James 2:14-26)

4

One-Month Check-in after Confirmation

Select a date to meet or talk one month after Confirmation. Perhaps go out to dinner or plan a fun activity together and discuss these topics:

- ◆ How is your prayer life developing? What are you doing to keep in contact with God every day?
- ◆ How will you continue to increase your knowledge of the Faith? What do you want to know?
- ◆ How are you staying connected to the parish community?
- ◆ In what simple ways do you live out your discipleship in life outside of the parish?

Conversation Reflections

Candidates submit reflections to Thaddeus Loduha based on the questions and content of the conversations listed above.

Candidate Questionnaire

Confirmation Questionnaire Guidelines

In lieu of a letter to the Bishop that was required in the past, the auxiliary bishops have asked that each Confirmation candidate complete a questionnaire. The bishop reads every questionnaire! Please use your best writing skills while sharing from your heart.

- On your computer, open the fillable PDF provided by the Archdiocese (SJL Website)
- Parish: St. James, Mukwonago **OR** St. Peter, East Troy **OR** St. Theresa, Eagle
- Date of Confirmation: April 28, 2026
- Use complete sentences, where applicable, and be thoughtful in your responses.
- Be sure to capitalize **God**, **Mass**, **Bible** and **Confirmation**.
- Any volunteer activity you have done this past year is valid.
- Consider the five effects of Confirmation when discussing why you want to be confirmed.
 - It affirms our identity as children of God.
 - It unites us more firmly to Christ.
 - It increases in us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit first received in Baptism.
 - It strengthens our bond with the Church.
 - It strengthens us to spread and defend the Faith by word and deed.
- Do not type beyond what is visible in the text box.
- Save your completed questionnaire and email it as an attachment to boergern@stjmuk.org. I will print all questionnaires and mail them together to the Archdiocese. Alternately, you may turn in a typed hard copy to the Faith Formation Office. Please be sure to sign it!

Due February 18, 2025

Questionnaires will be provided in a fillable PDF format and are due by February 19. They must be typed on the fillable form, saved to your device, and then submitted to Thaddeus Loduha. The Faith Formation Office will send the collected questionnaires together to the office of the bishop prior to Confirmation.

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE *for the* RECEPTION *of the* SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Student's Name: _____

Parish: _____

Date of Confirmation: _____

Saint Name: _____

I chose this name as my Confirmation Name because:

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Relationship: _____

I chose this person as my sponsor because:

Volunteer service projects that I have done in preparing for Confirmation and what I have learned from them:

I wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation because:

Here is how I have grown in my faith life during this process, and how do you plan to live it in the future:

Here is one thing from my personal life that I would like the Bishop to know:

I am freely choosing to be confirmed into the Catholic Faith:

☐

YES

☐

NO

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Expectations

Preparation is essential to receiving the Sacrament. It is your responsibility to make sure that you fulfil all component expectations. All sessions have been designed to guide you to a deeper relationship with Christ and prepare you for full initiation into his Church. The retreat and *Disciples in Action* service activities are considered part of the regular curriculum as set forth by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Make the Most of this year!

- ◆ Actively participate in all program elements, including attending Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- ◆ Be present; put away cell phones unless otherwise indicated by a catechist.
- ◆ Be respectful of your catechists, facilitators, and other candidates.
- ◆ Develop your prayer life.
- ◆ Receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ◆ Keep an open mind and heart.

Thank you for taking the time to review this packet. We hope to make this year a very special time for our confirmands and their families. If you have a question, comment, or concern, please feel free to reach out to me.

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