

August 2023

*“**Stir into flame** the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of **power** and **love** and **self-control**.” (2 Tim 1:6-7)*

Dear Parents,

It is that time of year again - the end of summer and time to return to school. I would like to ask for a few moments of your time during this busy season to share with you a few details about the **process of formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Wendelin Parish**, since one or more of your children is of the age at which many Catholics in our diocese receive this powerful outpouring of God's grace.

St. Wendelin Parish desires that each candidate preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation would come to a deep understanding of their own identity in Christ, develop a personal relationship with Him, and grow in their understanding that the gift of the Holy Spirit to be strengthened in them is one of “power, love, and self-control” (2 Tim 1:6-7). We pray that each student is transformed and empowered to live in the power of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives as a committed and intentional disciple of Jesus Christ. We have structured the Confirmation Formation program around the study of the Catholic Faith, participation in the Works of Mercy, and engagement in authentic prayer, praise & worship with the Holy Eucharist as the source & summit.

This year, the Confirmation Formation program will be its own separate program, distinct from K-6 Family Faith Formation. **This year, all Confirmation Formation sessions will take place on Sundays** - either in the morning, between Sunday Masses, or in the evening. We recognize the unique challenges presented in our culture today for students of Confirmation age and the need to meet these students where they are at in order to call them to something greater. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, “The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for *greatness*.” It is this *greatness* of love, virtue, and holiness to which the Lord calls your young people in formation for Confirmation.

Please note that, rather than referring to students in the Confirmation program by their grade in school (i.e. 7th or 8th grade) we will instead refer to them as “**1st Year**” or “**2nd Year**” students in formation for Confirmation. This is an intentional change to allow for Confirmation to be less of a “class activity” or “graduation” and more of a personal decision that your young people make to dedicate their lives to Christ and His Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. We also recognize that not all students will be prepared to receive this Sacrament in 8th grade - **high school students who have not yet received Confirmation are encouraged to participate as well!** Please also note that Confirmation Formation is a **two-year program** - students will not necessarily automatically be confirmed in 8th grade if they have not yet participated in the full two-year process of formation.

Parents play an essential role in Confirmation formation - parents, you are, and will always be, the primary catechists of your children. There will be a **mandatory 30-minute parent session at the beginning of each monthly Sunday evening session** for Confirmation students (usually 5:30pm-6pm). These sessions are designed to inform you about what is happening in your child's formation sessions, as well as to help you to grow in your own personal relationship with the

Holy Spirit. Periodically, students will also be given questions to discuss or activities to do with parents and/or sponsors at home.

There will be many resources and additional pieces of information, including a full schedule, provided via email and at the upcoming meeting - please be sure to read all of this information carefully and add important dates to your calendar ASAP! We will discuss all important elements of Confirmation Formation, including Works of Mercy, sponsors, retreats and more, at the **Parent Meeting & Student Orientation on Sunday, August 13th beginning at 6pm in the Parish Hall.** *This meeting is important for ALL students and parents, no matter where the student attends school (public school, Catholic school, or homeschool).* Please contact Jessica if you are unable to attend.

Please register your child for Confirmation Formation ASAP! You may register your child by going to our parish website, www.stwendelin.org, and clicking on “Sacraments” and then “Confirmation,” which will take you directly to an online registration form. **Again, please note that all students who desire the Sacrament of Confirmation and are registered at our parish must take part in the Confirmation Formation program offered by the parish, no matter where they attend school, although this may look different for each student depending on where they attend school.** Formation for the sacraments is the responsibility of the parish, in partnership with the parents, according to diocesan policy. Please see the schedule for more information about requirements for your child, based on where he or she attends school.

If you have any questions at all, or if you have concerns regarding your family’s particular situation, please do not hesitate to contact me at the phone number or email below. Please also know of my prayers for your family, now and always!

In the love of Christ,



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Confirmation Formation
St. Wendelin Parish, Fostoria