**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

**Confirmation Information**

*Congratulations, you have a child receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this year! Please read the following information and note the dates on the attached calendar.*

**Candidate Requirements**

***According to Sacramental Norms of the Diocese of Memphis and guidelines of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the following are required of Candidates for Confirmation:***

* **Grade Requirement** - Be in eighth grade or 14 years of age (or above) and express a desire for Confirmation.
* **Registration**
	+ Complete the Registration Form requesting Confirmation
	+ Certificate of Baptism - A copy of the child’s baptism certificate is required if your child was baptized at a parish other than St. Francis.
	+ Parish Registration **–** one of the following criteria must be met:
		- Your family must be registered members of St. Francis Parish.
		- If you are a registered member of another parish but wish for your child to be confirmed with St. Francis, you must provide a letter from your pastor stating that your child has permission to do so.
		- If you would like your child to receive Confirmation in the parish in which you are registered, we will be happy to provide a letter certifying his/her participation in our program, at your request.
	+ Supply Fee - $50 payable at Registration
* **Religious Education Classes** – Child must be attending a Catholic school or be enrolled in Parish Religious Education classes for at least the year prior to the sacramental year. In other words, a child in eighth grade may receive Confirmation only if he or she was enrolled in a Catholic school or Parish Religious Education class during their seventh grade year. Please provide evidence of this enrollment if the child was not enrolled here at St. Francis last year.
* **Mass Attendance** – All children and young adults are expected to attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis in order to connect religious education, sacramental preparation and prayer, to the Liturgy of the Mass. **NOTE**: **Competitive sports leagues require many of our students to be out of town on the weekend*.* Parents should make sure that students never miss Sunday Mass due to a ball game. (Coaches should be informed of this issue well in advance.)** It is the responsibility of parents to check [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) or call (410)676-6000 for churches and Mass times when traveling. Please make Mass attendance part of your travel plans.
* **Confirmation Retreat** – Attendance at a Confirmation retreat is required by the Diocese of Memphis.

\****Important Note: This Retreat is mandatory. The student must be present for the entire retreat.***

* **Eucharistic Adoration –**We encourage all students preparing for Confirmation to take advantage of opportunities to worship our Lord through Eucharistic Adoration. *NOTE: First Friday Adoration is held every month at St. Francis of Assisi Church in the Chapel following 8:15 a.m. Mass, with Benediction at 5:00pm.*
* **Letter to the Bishop** - Confirmandi must write a letter to Bishop David Talley requesting Confirmation. This letter is to be the work of the Confirmandi, always in their own words, about their spiritual relationship with God. The due date will be set by their religion teacher.
* **Parent Sacrament Meetings** - The Diocese of Memphis requires parents to attend two meetings on Confirmation:
	+ Confirmation Program Overview - Student and at least one parent are required to attend the Confirmation Program Overview, held in September.
	+ Theology of Confirmation Session - Parents have a choice of attending one of two sessions in order to fulfill this requirement. (See calendar for dates)
* **Reconciliation** – Confirmandi are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, preferably with their families, especially during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.
* **Sponsors and Confirmation Names** - Information on choosing Sponsors and Confirmation names will be given by their religion teacher, including the due dates.
* **Service Hours** - Students are required to perform 20 hours of service. Information will be provided by their religion teacher regarding how to keep track of the hours and dates. While we still *encourage* service hours, because of COVID-19 we will not require them this year.
* **Attire for Confirmandi at Confirmation:**

 **Girls:**

* + Simple white dress must be at or near the knee and no longer than at the ankle in length. Low necklines are not appropriate. Dresses that are halter, sleeveless or have spaghetti straps **must** have a white jacket, shawl or sweater worn over them**.**
	+ Appropriate white or nude colored dress shoes (open-toe is fine)

 **Guys:**

* Dark Suit or Dark Sport Coat
* Tan/khaki pants with belt
* White shirt and Tie (regular tie or bow tie)
* Dark socks and appropriate dress shoes

**Because of COVID-19 restrictions, our dates and plans for this year may change. We will keep you informed of changes, always keeping the safety of our families and students as a priority.**

**Confirmation Calendar 2020-2****021**

*Parents are required to attend a total of two meetings on Confirmation. There are no exemptions for attending the parent meetings. Childcare for siblings is provided for all parent meetings.*

**First Parent Meeting: Confirmation Overview**

**Tuesday, September 29th 7pm, St. Francis Church SanctuaryRequired for student and parent(s)**

**Confirmation Retreat**

**Friday, November 13th 5pm – 10pm, Parish Life Center**

**Please notice this is a FRIDAY NIGHT! A team from NET Ministries is leading our retreat this year.**

Required for all Confirmandi (Students only – parents do not attend)

**Confirmation Service Project**

**Saturday, February 20th 9:30am – noon, PLC gym**

This is a fun service project morning for our students, required for all Confirmandi.

We will complete service projects for Birthright and make sandwiches for St. Vincent de Paul Food Mission. Students will earn 3 service hours.

**Second Parent Meeting – Theology of Confirmation**

**Thursday, March 11th 7:00pm, PLC, Rm 113** (English)

**Thursday, March 11th 7:00pm, PLC, Rm 108** (Español)

**Tuesday, March 23rd 7:00pm, PLC, Rm 113** (English)

**The Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Francis Church**

**The Bishop Talley’s office sets the date for Confirmation. As soon as we receive the date, we will let our families know.**