

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation is the sacrament in which a person is fully initiated into the life of the Church. They are given a full share of the Holy Spirit and are now full members of Christ's Body on earth. To express this the Church "seals" the confirmandi with Chrism-the holy oil used to anoint us at our baptism and used to anoint priests and bishops. This visible sign is showing that our soul is also sealed. Like a letter we are now a messenger from God. At Confirmation, our faith becomes public and we work to spread the Gospel of Christ.

Your child is entering into this sacramental preparation and so is taking the next step in their faith. Their faith is the one that you as parents have given them and so it is a good reminder for all of us to look at what the Church expects of all her members. These expectations are called the "precepts of the Church". These precepts are the bare minimum our Church asks of us to be considered full and active members of the Catholic Church. Unlike the 10 Commandments that tell us what not to do in our attempt to live a holy life these precepts tell us what we should do in order to grow in holiness.

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall provide for the needs of the Church.

These precepts are the bare minimum for us as Catholics. Anything less than these tell us that we are not living up to the responsibility we took on when we were confirmed. When your child is confirmed they will be taking this responsibility on as well. Confirmation fully initiates them into the Church but it is not the end. In fact once we receive confirmation we are expected to work for Christ. Being fully initiated into the Church now means that we have graduated but similarly after graduation we will have further training so that we can better do our job to live the Christian life and better do our job as a missionaries for Jesus Christ. Graduation means that we have completed a part of our training it never means we are done with learning and growing and this true of our faith.

- Confirmation is your child's choice not yours. If your child comes to me and does not want to be confirmed then I cannot confirm them.

Confirmation is not the most important sacrament, but it is a sacrament that gives us God's grace and brings with it responsibility. A person does not need to be completely secure in their faith but a person should be actively pursuing their faith. If you and your family do not attend Church regularly, then please make an effort to do that so you can give a good witness to your child. If you are unable, or not willing to do so, then please consider thoughtfully and with prayer whether or not this is the best time to enter into this sacramental preparation.

The requirements for confirmation at St. Michael's are as follows:

- Attend at least 8 confirmation classes. We hope that you can do more.
- ~~Attend the Passiontide retreat March 19th~~
 - ~~This will be abbreviated this year. While not a lock in, it will go later in the evening.~~
- Complete one service project offered by St. Michael – outlined at beginning of year.
- (Per the Archdiocese) write a letter to Archbishop Thompson – outlined later in the year.

If these requirements are not met then your child will not be confirmed.

Confirmation is scheduled for **Thursday, April 8, 2021** at the Cathedral downtown. The Mass is at 7pm with Archbishop meeting with candidates and sponsors at 6pm. As with everything this year, this is the planned date, but subject to change with COVID/precautions.

Classes

Classes Before Confirmation Left (8 Required)

February	3, 10, 24
March	3, 10, 31*
April	7

*Not originally on schedule – now Stations of the Cross. Will count as a class.

Passiontide

There is no Passiontide retreat this year.

Sign up for one of our regular Reconciliation slots: [Reconciliation Times](#)

Service Projects

Due to COVID restrictions, we will not be organizing group service projects this year, but a service component is still required for Confirmation. The goal of service projects during Confirmation preparation is to push the candidate outside of their comfort zone by performing tasks that they would not normally engage in.

Whatever project is chosen, it should:

- be focused on one of the seven themes of [Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- take 4-8 hours of time
- not be performed for a family member or close friend (e.g. babysitting)
- not be part of any other service project (e.g. school, club, team, etc.)

The following organizations have a need for volunteers and will fulfill the requirements above.

The Lord's Pantry at Anna's House

303 N. Elder

Indianapolis, IN 46222

<https://annashousemsc.org/>

Volunteers help distribute groceries on Saturday mornings. Tasks include helping to unload food, creating organized and beautiful displays of the food, helping clients carry their groceries and distributing food.

St. Vincent de Paul

3001 E. 30th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46218

<http://www.svdpindy.org/i-want-to-help/#time>

Volunteers are desperately needed at the food pantry and distribution center on Saturday mornings.

Pennsy Trails of Hancock County, Inc.

www.PennsyTrails.org

Volunteers are needed to help keep the trail clean and free of trash and debris. This project can be completed over several days to gain the required number of hours.

Gleaners Food Bank

3737 Waldemere Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46241

<https://gleaners.volunteerhub.com/>

Volunteers are needed at the Gleaners warehouse to sort and distribute food to clients.

Midwest Food Bank

6450 S. Belmont St.

Indianapolis, IN 46217

<https://www.midwestfoodbank.org/volunteer/roles-reasons>

Volunteers are needed to collect, sort, pack, and distribute food and disaster relief donations.

Other suggestions for service hours (please contact to discuss their requirements):

Hancock County Humane Society

214 E. Main Street

Greenfield, IN 46140

317-462-5404

Hope House

35 E. Pierson Street

Greenfield, IN 46140

317-467-4991

Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center

1454 N. State Street

Greenfield, IN 46140

317-467-9700

After completing your service project, you will need to submit a written summary of your project by answering the following prompts:

- Summarize your service. Where you were, what work you did.
- How did this experience challenge/surprise you?
- What Themes of Catholic Social Teaching did your service connect to and why?
- Why is service like this important in our lives as Catholics/Christian community?
- How does service bring us closer to Christ?

Please write one paragraph (or 3-5 sentences) for each prompt.

Your service project and summary should be completed by Thursday, March 11, 2021 and sent via email to Jonathan Higgins at jhiggins@stmichaelsgrfld.org.

Letters to the Archbishop

As part of the candidates' preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the archbishop requests that each candidate submit a letter to him. This letter is meant to be more than just a statement from the young person asking for the sacrament. Since he cannot be a part of each and every formation program, the letters help the archbishop to see how the young people have been preparing for this celebration, as well as for life strengthened by the Holy Spirit after the celebration. In addition, so many of the letters stand as a testament to faith and devotion of the young Church, a sign of hope for us all.

Since it is meant to address each young person's own journey and preparation, the letter should not be a "form letter." While some guidance may be given, it needs to stand as a composition of that individual. The candidates should note in the letter to which parish they belong.

When the archbishop is the celebrant, he uses the information from the letters as a part of his homily, enabling him to speak to the experiences and needs of the candidates more personally. The archbishop does not use names from the letters in his homily so as not to embarrass anyone, aside from speaking about the selection of the saint name and why.

The letter should answer the following questions:

1. What does Confirmation mean to me?
2. Why am I choosing to be confirmed?
3. What saint's name did I choose and why?
4. Whom did I choose for my sponsor and why? (Please include First and Last Name)
5. What did I do for my service hours? What did I learn/gain from the experience?

Please email letters to Jonathan Higgins at jhiggins@stmichaelsgrfld.org BY THURSDAY, MARCH 11.

March 15, 2019

Most Reverend Archbishop Thompson,

In the first paragraph, I will introduce myself. This will include such things as parish, school and grade. I will also state that I am preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the second paragraph, I will answer what Confirmation means to me. I will also say why I am choosing to be confirmed.

In the third paragraph, I will state my chosen saint's name. I will also include my reasons for choosing this saint. This can include the impact of this saint's story in my own faith life.

In the fourth paragraph, I will state my chosen sponsor (First and Last name). I will also include why I chose this person as my sponsor. Similarly, this can include the impact of my sponsor on my own faith life.

In the fifth paragraph, I will tell of the service I did in preparation for Confirmation. I will also tell of what I learned or gained from this experience. If I have not yet done my service project I will talk about other service which I have done throughout this past year and what I learned or gained from that.

I will close by thanking Archbishop Thompson for his time, asking for his prayers, and/or offering to pray for him as well.

In Christ, (OR Sincerely,)

My Name

BE SURE YOUR LETTER HAS BEEN PROOFREAD AND EDITED FOR ERRORS

Checklist

- Meet Class Requirements
- Sign up for Reconciliation Time
- Complete Service Project
- Email Service Project Reflection (**DUE 3/11**)
- Email Letter to Archbishop (**DUE 3/11**)
- If not Baptized at St. Michael – Contact church of Baptism and request Sacramental Record be sent to St. Michael.