

# **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2020-2021**

## ***Saint Lawrence and Saint Matthew Catholic Churches***

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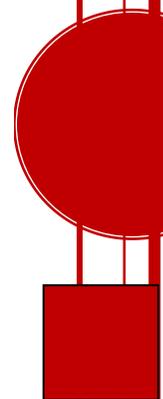
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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Confirmation Preparation is open to all high school students in grades 9-12 at Saint Lawrence and Saint Matthew Catholic Churches. The full formation program is designed to be a two-year formation process. The first year is spent in either a Religious Education program or a Catholic school program to gain a foundational understanding of the faith. The second year is spent in the Confirmation Preparation Program, which focuses on the Sacrament of Confirmation itself, and concludes with the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and are sealed as witnesses to Jesus Christ. Our program incorporates components to help the candidates learn more about their faith and how to practice their faith through worship and service.

## EXPECTATIONS

*Candidates are expected to complete the following:*

### WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE

The center of the Christian life is the Sunday celebration of the Lord's Supper in the community of the faithful. Believing that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ, and contemplating the enormity of that gift, the Church teaches that it is essential to the spiritual life to join the Holy Mass each Sunday. Candidates are preparing to become fully initiated into the life of the Church and **are expected to attend Sunday Mass each week\***, along with all the other members of the Catholic Church.

\*Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we understand that not everyone is comfortable attending mass in person. However, we do still expect candidates to at least watch a live-stream or recording of Sunday mass every weekend. For information on how to do that, please reach out to the Youth Minister for instructions.

## PREPARATION MEETINGS

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to hold all of our preparation meetings online, for at least the fall semester. We hope and pray we will be able to transition to in-person classes by the spring semester. For the online classes, candidates will be required to watch two videos BEFORE each month's class. Videos will be uploaded to both the St. Lawrence and St. Matthew YouTube Channels, about a week before the respective class. Candidates will be well informed about which videos to watch for which class.

All candidates will then attend monthly group meetings via Zoom from 3:30-5:00pm. In general, meetings will begin as a large group with prayer, large group activities, and then break out into small groups for small group discussions and/or activities with catechists, and conclude in large group again with announcements and prayer.

Meeting dates, times, and locations are as follows:

- September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30pm via Zoom
- October 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00pm via Zoom (Sponsor Forms DUE)
- November 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00pm via Zoom
- December 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00pm TBD (Sponsors are required to attend)
- January 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00pm TBD
- April 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00pm TBD (Saint Forms Due)
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30-5:00pm at TBD (Sponsors are required to attend)

In addition to attending all seven Preparation Meetings, candidates are also required to attend:

- The Confirmation Retreat on February 6<sup>th</sup>
- The Presentation of Candidates
  - There will be one Presentation of Candidates for each parish, typically in February.
  - Dates are to be determined, depending on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - While encouraged, sponsors are NOT required to attend the Presentation of Candidates.
- The Rite of Confirmation on date TBD
  - The following dress code should be followed for all Confirmation Masses:
    - Females may wear dresses, skirts or dress slacks with blouses or sweaters. Strapless or sleeveless dresses/blouses are not permitted. Dresses may not be more than 2" above the knee.
    - Males may wear suits, dress slacks with shirts and ties or sweaters.
    - No tennis shoe or sneaker of any type may be worn. Sandals must have a back strap. No flip flops.

Additionally, the presence of the Sponsors is required for:

- The Preparation Meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 when we will be having the candidates and sponsors work together.
- The final class on May 2<sup>nd</sup> when we will be rehearsing the Rite of Confirmation.
- The Rite of Confirmation, once it is scheduled, when their candidate is Confirmed.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Since we only have seven Preparation Meetings, it is very important that Candidates attend EACH one. However, we understand that things happen (i.e. Candidate gets sick, technology issues, car trouble, etc.), so we do allow Candidates to miss one Preparation Meeting. However, **even one absence will require a make-up assignment**, which will be explained in more detail when assigned. Similarly, if a Candidate comes late or leaves early enough that they miss a small group time, they will be required to complete a make-up assignment.

With our changes in the class format, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial that candidates FULLY participate in the small group via Zoom. In order to know what full participation looks like, here are a few rules we will be implementing:

- The name of the candidate must be clearly shown on the Zoom calls, at all times. This will be one of the ways we take attendance.
- We must be able to see the candidate's face at all times (except when a camera is not available)
  - You cannot turn your camera off.
  - You cannot just point your camera at the ceiling, floor, or wall.
- EVERYONE MUST PARTICIPATE!
  - This can be done by either actually speaking or by sending thoughts in the chat (either to the group or privately to myself or your small group leader(s)).
  - You MUST be kind and respectful in the chats. The chats will be moderated by myself and the catechists.

If a candidate misses more than one class or if s/he is deficient in one or several expectations, there will be a need for some follow-up (i.e. make-up work, meeting with the parents and the candidate, etc.). Further, if a candidate is not following through with the given expectations, it calls into question the candidate's willingness and desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In order to be fully prepared to receive a Sacrament, the candidate must demonstrate that willingness and desire to receive that particular Sacrament.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Jesus Christ lived a life that was an example of service to others from every walk of life. Christians are called to imitate Jesus in love of others – especially in direct service of their physical and spiritual needs.

Confirmation candidates are asked to live out that call to Christian service by completing at least 12 hours of service. **Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have altered our Service Hour component slightly for the 2020—2021 school year by NOT requiring a certain number of hours in each category.** Their hours may fall within the categories of parish, community, or spiritual/self-care hours. These are explained in more detail in the Service Journal. There will be as many organized service opportunities provided for candidates as the COVID-19 pandemic allows, but we also encourage candidates to find their own service opportunities. Service Journals are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## RETREAT REQUIREMENT

Candidates are expected to attend a retreat day to prepare for the Sacrament. This year's retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and will be an all-day retreat (i.e. 9:00am-4:30pm). More details will be shared as the Retreat date approaches. Retreat costs are covered by the parish budgets and the Confirmation fee paid by each candidate. If, for some reason, a candidate cannot attend our retreat on February 6<sup>th</sup>, then s/he needs to notify the Youth Minister as soon as possible so we can work together to find another suitable Confirmation retreat at another parish.

## SPONSORS

The Sacrament of Confirmation incorporates an adult sponsor for the candidates. This sponsor stands in the same role as a godparent during baptism. The sponsor stands as a full member of the Catholic Church who presents their candidate to the Church as someone who is ready to give witness to Christ. The sponsor also acts as a spiritual mentor in the Christian journey. Since Sponsors are such an important role model for the candidate, each sponsor will be asked to provide verification (possibly in the form of a letter) from their home parish stating that they are a member in good standing. Sponsor Forms are due by the October 11<sup>th</sup> class.

Each candidate must choose **one** sponsor to be present at the Confirmation Mass who fulfills the following requirements under Church Law.

Sponsors must be:

- At least 16 years of age
- A baptized, confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church
- Is not the parent of the person to be confirmed
- If married, a sponsor must be in a valid marriage according to the Catholic Church.

Once candidates have selected their sponsors, the sponsor is always welcome at any of the Preparation Meetings, preferably with advance notice. The sponsor's presence is required for the Preparation Meetings on December 6<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> and of course the Confirmation Mass itself, once it is scheduled.

Candidates will be asked to report their chosen sponsor along with a short summary of the significance of that sponsor in their life and how the sponsor is a good role model of the faith for the candidate.

## SAINT NAME

At Confirmation candidates will be asked by the Bishop what name they have chosen. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis asks that all candidates choose a name of a canonized saint of the Roman Catholic Church. It may be their baptized name, as long as it is the name of a canonized saint. Saint Name Forms are due by the April 18<sup>th</sup> class.

Saints act as a role model for holiness for the candidate. All of the saints are a wonderful example to us of how even sinners, like them and us, can still strive to live holy lives.

Candidates will be asked to report their chosen saint along with a short summary of the significance of that saint in the Church and the life of the candidate.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Thank you for being a parent! Parents are the primary educators of their children and the ones who bring the good news of Jesus to their children first. We know that these amazing teens that we love would not be here without some wonderful parents to bring them. Your support and encouragement to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation is the most important “component” of our program.

We are also in need of parents to fill the following roles in the Confirmation program:

1. Your candidate's #1 supporter and role model by:
  - Ensuring that your child attends mass (either in-person or virtually) every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.
  - Demonstrating a full and thriving prayer life.
2. Snack Volunteers – This is COVID-19 pandemic pending.
  - Provide snacks & drinks for one preparation meeting
  - Help to set-up and clean-up for snack on your assigned date

If you are interested in being involved with other aspects of youth ministry we can always use help with our middle school and high school ministries, Youth Ministry Council, service projects, retreats, Deanery events, and more. Please contact the Youth Minister with questions or to find out more.

## PARENT RESOURCES

In today's world it is not easy to raise children. Between the technology and information available to them, our shifting cultural norms, and all of the busy things that we have to do every day to raise our families, it can seem a little overwhelming! Saint Lawrence and Saint Matthew Youth Ministries are committed to assisting parents in their role as the primary educators of their children. Our goal is to make parenting resources available to you as frequently as possible and in as many ways as possible.

One of the easiest ways to find important information is through the Youth Ministry websites. We have links to parenting websites and to sites that help you learn more about the Catholic faith.

We are also always happy to sit with parents one-on-one to discuss a particular situation or need. Believe it or not, you are the most influential person in your teen's life! We want to help you raise them to know and love Jesus Christ and his Church.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or concerns about the Confirmation program or any of the Youth Ministry programs, please contact the Youth Minister:

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