

Confirmation

2023-2024



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

| Date | Event | Notes |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| May 21, May 31, June 1, 2023 | Confirmand and Parent Meeting | Choose a date and sign-up Faith Formation: Confirmand and Parent Meeting (signupgenius.com) |
| June 30 Friday | Sponsor Information Sheets due | Submit to Nancy Boerger boergern@stjmuk.org |
| August 13 Sunday | Confirmand and Sponsor Preparation and Pie! | 6:30-8:00 pm St. James Activity Center |
| October 1 Sunday | Disciples in Action: Chicken Dinner / Fall Fest at St. Peter | Choose this DIA <u>or</u> the Oct. 15 Turkey Dinner at St. Theresa Sign-up TBA |
| October 15 Sunday | Disciples in Action: Turkey Dinner at St. Theresa | Choose this DIA <u>or</u> the Oct. 1 Chicken Dinner at St. Peter Sign-up will be at sttheresaeagle.com |
| October 21 Saturday | Confirmation Retreat | 9:00am-8:00pm—Camp Timber-lee, East Troy, WI This is an essential component of preparation. |
| November 5 Sunday | Disciples in Action: Fall Clean-up for elderly; Pizza dinner | 3:00-5:00 pm—locations TBA; watch email for sign-up 5:00 Pizza Dinner |
| November 19 Sunday | Disciples in Action: Thanksgiving Baskets | Work with Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry to fill Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need; at St. James, time TBA |
| January 16/18/22 Tues/Thurs/Mon | Confirmation Conversations Confirmation Name Papers Due | 4:00-8:00 pm—Sign up for a 20 min session for confirmand and parent. Bring your typed Confirmation Name paper. |
| January 24 Wednesday | Ask the Expert held at St. James | 7:00-8:30 pm—A panel of experts answer the questions you have always wanted to ask about the Catholic Faith! |
| February 21 Wednesday | Lent Event | 7:00-8:30 pm— Special event to enter more deeply into the heart of this holy season |
| February 29 Thursday | Candidate Questionnaires due submit to Nancy Boerger | Confirmands complete a questionnaire provided by the Bishop's office indicating their desire to be confirmed |
| March 20 Wednesday | Day of Reconciliation Held at St. James | Reconciliation in preparation for Confirmation; Sponsors and families welcome as well |
| April 21 Sunday | Confirmation Rehearsal | 6:00-7:30 pm St. James Sponsors attend with Confirmation candidates |
| April 23 Tuesday | Confirmation Mass Bishop Schuerman | 7:00 pm St. James |

- ◆ **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:** The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered regularly at the following times.
 St. Peter: Saturdays 4:30-5:00 pm
 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!

We hope that you will be blessed with a rich spiritual journey and that you will bring your faith to a new level of understanding as you explore what it means to be a disciple of Christ, living and practicing that discipleship within the Catholic Church.

Components of the Confirmation Year:

- ◆ **Classes:** Every Class is important, so please mark your calendars and commit to being present. Scheduled special events and activities are for all candidates, whether registered for the summer class option or Wednesday night classes.
- ◆ **Retreat:** One retreat will be offered on October 21, 2023, at Camp Timber-lee in East Troy, WI. 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 Nancy Boerger 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.
- ◆ **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 by February 29, 2024. 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 prayer/faith life, and why they wish to be confirmed. Candidates will have a chance to sign up for a conversation date and time, and at least one parent will be expected to accompany the candidate.

“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.

The *Disciples in Action* activities will give confirmands opportunities to work together on projects that will help those in need both in their parish and in the community. Most DIA opportunities will be scheduled outside of class time. A Sign-up Genius will be provided to allow candidates to sign up for DIA service projects. Also, a Parent/Guardian Permission Slip will be required for each candidate to participate in *Disciples in Action*. Scheduled DIA activities are:

1. Parish Dinners—choose one or both of the two October options below:
Chicken Dinner / Fall Fest—October 1, 2023 (Sunday) at St. Peter. A sign-up will be provided.
Turkey Dinner—October 15, 2023 (Sunday) at St. Theresa. A sign-up will be provided.
2. **Fall Clean-up**—November 5, 2023 (Sunday). Serve our elderly community members by helping them prepare for fall from 3:00-5:00 pm followed by a Pizza Dinner at 5:00 pm. A sign-up will be provided.
3. **Thanksgiving Baskets** with St. Vincent de Paul Society—November 19, 2023 (Sunday). Fill and distribute baskets of food to those who need a helping hand in our community. This DIA activity will take place in the St. James Activity Center. A sign-up will be provided.

As the Confirmation team walks with the candidates in their journey toward Confirmation, it is our hope that *Disciples in Action* will inspire them to further explore Catholic social teaching as it relates to serving our brothers and sisters in need. Proverbs 19:17 tells us

Whoever cares for the poor lends to the LORD, who will pay back the sum in full.

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

All Candidates will also undertake a service activity with their sponsor.

- ◆ Sponsors and candidates select an area of service to perform together.
- ◆ Focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead)
- ◆ Reflect on the service performed together. Candidate will submit a brief written reflection.
- ◆ See the following pages for service ideas.

Service Ideas

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.

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)

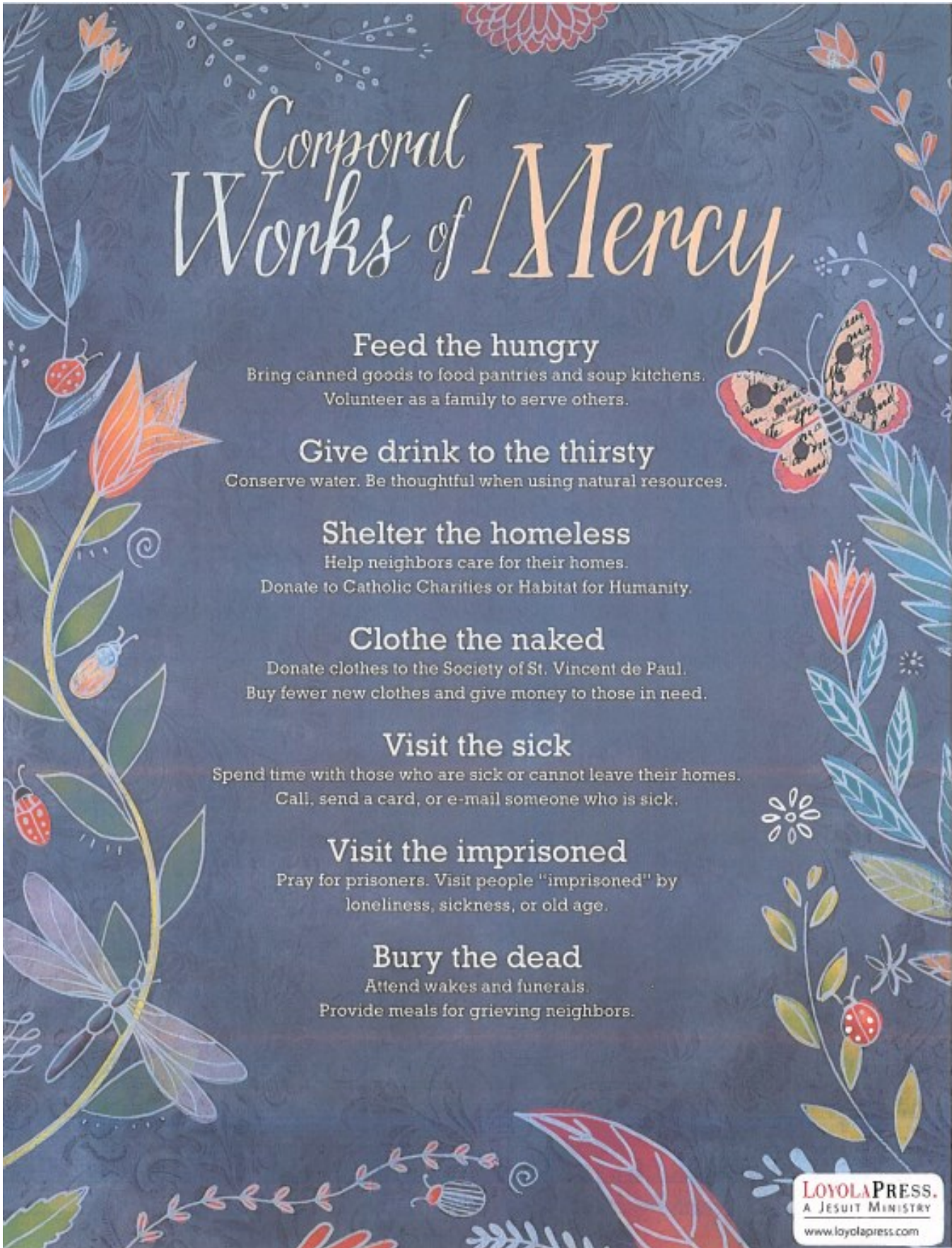
Hope Center, Waukesha (www.hopecenterwi.org)

Katy's Kloset, 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.

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Sponsor Involvement

Refer to the **Confirmation Sponsor Information Sheet** for guidance in choosing a sponsor and submit the information sheet to Nancy Boerger by June 30.

Confirmation and Sponsor Preparation and Pie! Sunday, August 13, 6:30-8:00 pm, St. James Activity Center. Candidates and sponsors engage in discussion, prayer, and fun as we explore what it is to live as an authentic disciple of Jesus Christ. A parent may attend in place of a sponsor who is unable to be present.

Four Important Conversations with Your Sponsor

Conversation 1: Confirmation Name / Saint's Name

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?

Conversation 2: Receiving the Holy Spirit (Submit a 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?

Conversation 3: Works of Service (Submit a 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)

Conversation 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 write a brief reflection about your conversations after:

- ◆ **Conversation 2** (Receiving the Holy Spirit)
- ◆ **Conversation 3** (Works of Service)

You may use the provided reflection sheets. Submit it to Nancy Boerger at boergern@stjmuk.org.

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. 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 at your Confirmation Conversation
January 16, 18 or 22**

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. Please do not open through Google Docs, as this changes the format.
- Parish: St. James, Mukwonago **OR** St. Peter, East Troy **OR** St. Theresa, Eagle
- Date of Confirmation: April 23, 2024
- 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. You may also turn in a hard copy to the Faith Formation Office. Please be sure to sign it!

Due February 29, 2024

Questionnaires will be provided in a fillable PDF format and are due by February 29. I encourage you to submit them earlier in case there would be a need to follow-up with a clarification or question before sending it to the bishop.

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ARCHDIOCESE
of MILWAUKEE

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 preparation 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 class 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 at any time you have a question, comment, or concern, please feel free to reach out to me.

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