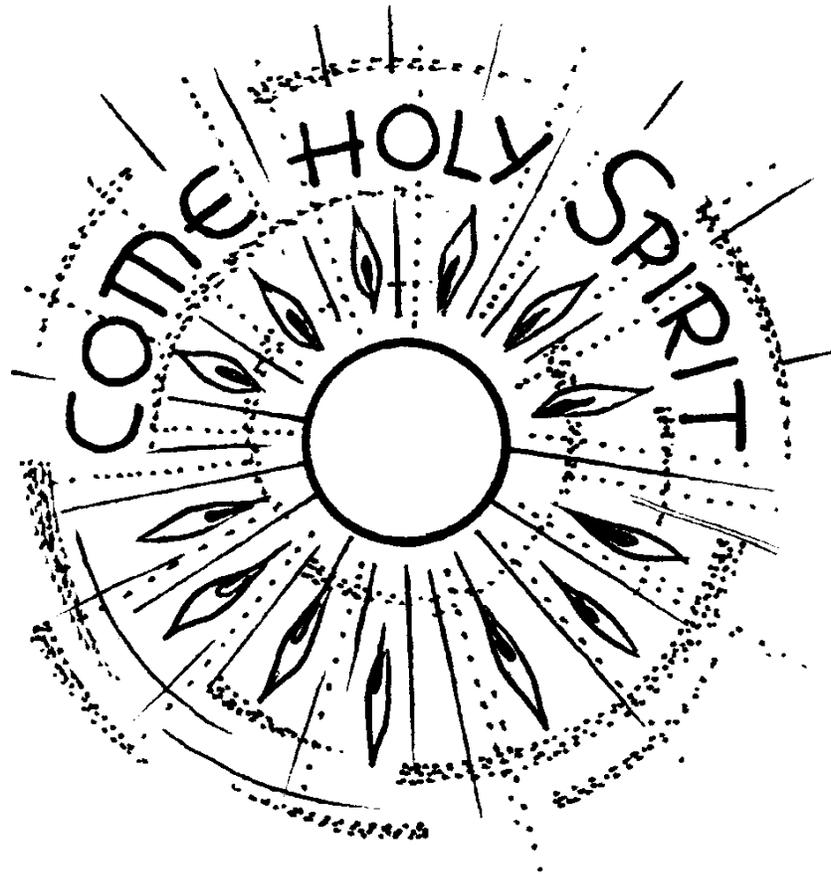


St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Confirmation/Middle School Youth Ministry

Confirmation Parent Information Packet 7th Grade

2020-2021



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church Confirmation/Middle School Youth Ministry

Welcome!

All of us on staff at St. Catherine of Siena want to welcome you, your Confirmation candidate, and your entire family to the Confirmation preparation process! This is an exciting time for your youth within their faith journey! Your teen is now embarking on the journey to own their faith and take the responsibilities of their own faith life.

With that being said we are here to help with that process as much as possible! We want to make sure that we are providing all the necessary tools, experiences, and communication to make this as meaningful of a process as possible. Please never hesitate to contact myself either by phone call or email to help in any way I can.

Within this packet of information, you will find various important pieces of information that you will want to keep track of throughout the entire year. Please make sure you take the time to cover this information with your Confirmation candidate and store it in a place where you both can locate it. The following information will be covered:

- Confirmation Requirements Outlined
- Cost/Schedule of Sessions
- Service Component Explained
- How to Choose a Sponsor
- Kingdom Builders Project
- Retreat Information
- Candidate/Sponsor Activities
- Choosing a Saint Name
- Forms

May the blessings of our loving Heavenly Father be poured out upon your candidate and your entire family during this process. I am so excited to embark on this journey towards Confirmation with each Candidate.

Many Blessings,

Ashley Blank

Ashley Blank
Coordinator of Faith Formation
607-257-2493/ ashley.blank@dor.org

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CONFIRMATION PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

The Confirmation preparation process at St. Catherine of Siena contains multiple parts in order to help the candidate experience as many aspects of faith as possible. The preparation for this sacrament is a two-year catechetical process. The requirements to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation are as follows:

1. Required to be a registered member of St. Catherine of Siena Church and registered for Middle School Youth Ministry (these are two separate forms).
2. Must be in *at least* 7th grade and have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, and First Eucharist.
3. Attend Mass weekly.
4. Attend the required topic sessions outlined by the Diocese of Rochester for 7th and 8th Grade.
5. Participate and Complete Kingdom Builders projects during their 8th grade year.
6. Community Service – Integrated in Middle School Youth Ministry and/or special Service Projects outside of the MSYM sessions.
7. Attend a Confirmation Retreat – Required for 7th and 8th graders
8. Perform a Confirmation Interview – Spring of 8th grade year
9. Write a letter to Bishop Matano stating their desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation – Spring of 8th grade year
10. Participate in some Sponsor/Candidate activities, outside of session times, with the Candidate's Sponsor. There will be a total of two activities to complete throughout the candidate's 7th grade year and four activities during the candidate's 8th grade year.

These requirements are more clearly laid out throughout this packet and in the Diocesan Brochure



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COST

The Middle School Youth Ministry fee of \$35 will cover the costs for Confirmation preparation. A retreat fee of \$40 will be required for our youth who participate during their 7th and 8th grade year.

YEAR 1 - TOPICS AND SESSION DATES

The Diocese of Rochester has provided us a list of 12 topics that must be covered this year. These topics have been implemented into the Middle School Youth Ministry Sunday sessions from 1:00-2:30pm. Below are the required session dates for the Confirmation topics. There are other session dates scheduled throughout the year that are not Confirmation topics that focus on service, social, community, and advocacy. *We encourage our Confirmation candidates to attend all of the MSYM sessions, not just the required Confirmation sessions.*

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Session Date</u>
Beginning the Journey	October 11 th
God as the Source	November 8 th
Made in His Image – Called to Protect	December 6 th
Salvation History	December 13 th
Divine Revelation – Faith and Reason	January 10 th
Mission of Christ	February 7 th
Foundation of the Church	February 21 st
Choosing a Sponsor	March 7 th
Anointing and Last Rites	March 21 st
The Sacraments	April 25 th
Baptism	May 16 th
Power of Reconciliation	June 26 th

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YEAR 2 – SESSION DATES TBA

Who is the Holy Spirit?	Incarnation
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Paschal Mystery
Being Sealed with the Holy Spirit	Church History
Scripture/Tradition	Nicene Creed
Trinity	Mary, Mother of God
The Gospels	Church Hierarchy
The Eucharist	Prayer
Catholic Social Teaching	Moral Decision Making
Structure of the Mass/Liturgical Year	Authentic Love and Relationships

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SESSIONS:

- Confirmation candidates are required to attend/cover all topics that have been mandated by the Diocese. If they are ill, or are unable to attend a session, you must contact Ashley Blank to receive home study questions about the topic session. The questions must be completed by the candidate. *Attendance will be taken at every session.*
- PLEASE try to have your candidate to the sessions on time. If we are unable to start on time, we will be unable to end on time. According to the diocese, if a candidate is more than 15 minutes late to the session, they will be considered absent from that topic and it must be made up.
- I understand that life happens, and there may be other activities that impede the youth either being to the sessions on time or prevent them from attending. Please talk with Ashley Blank about the scenarios. Each scenario will be discussed and we make decisions based on an individual basis.
- We are asking the parents to sign up to assist in *at least* one Middle School Youth Ministry Session for the 2020-2021 year. Ashley Blank will send out a Google Sheet for sign-up in the week if we have gathering sessions (outside or inside) on Parish Grounds.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHY COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK IS NECESSARY:

- Throughout Scripture we are called to love our neighbor and stand up for justice as well as peace. Since service and justice are so important to who we are as Catholic Christians, performing service work is essential to our lives. Therefore, we ask that each candidate takes his/her service work seriously and as a priority.
- It is important to keep in mind that service to others isn't something that we do "to check it off our list" rather it is something we do because we know that the presence of Jesus is in all persons and in all of God's creation.

HOW MUCH TIME IS NEEDED TO BE COMPLETED AND BY WHEN:

- There is no set amount of service hours required by the diocese.
- St. Catherine of Siena will provide opportunities to participate in service projects within the Middle School Youth Ministry sessions and opportunities for service work outside of the MSYM sessions (i.e. – Loaves and Fishes, Salvation Army, etc).



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HOW TO CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

What Is a Sponsor:

- A sponsor is a person who encourages, assists, and walks the faith journey with a Confirmation candidate to help them embrace, fall in love, and actively practice the Catholic faith before and after Confirmation.
- The sponsor is also there to present the Candidate to the Bishop at the celebration of Confirmation.

Who Can Be a Sponsor:

- Being a sponsor is a huge role and not just an honor or fancy name. The sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic who can be a role model for the Confirmation Candidate. The ideal situation would be to choose one of your godparents from your Baptism, providing that they meet all the guidelines. However, if your godparent is someone you can't choose to be your sponsor, then you want to ask someone who you see as an example of a committed, practicing Catholic.
- The requirements of the Catholic Church say that a sponsor:
 - May be either a man or woman. (Sponsor doesn't have to be the same sex as candidate.)
 - Is a person who regularly comes to Sunday Mass & celebrates the sacraments.
 - Must be a fully-initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, has made First Eucharist, and Confirmed)
 - Must be at least 16 years old.
 - May not be the parent of the candidate.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Our faith tradition offers countless examples of people who encounter God and are given a new name (Abram becomes Abraham, Simon becomes Peter...). The Sacrament of Confirmation offers us a new opportunity to take on a name of faith. As such, all those preparing to receive the sacrament have the opportunity to take on a saint's name as they continue living for Christ.

Saints are models for us, and candidates should choose a saint that will inspire them. Confirmation names must be of canonized saints (not "blessed" ...), and it is perfectly acceptable for a candidate to use his/her own name or baptismal name for Confirmation. Please take time to investigate the lives of different saints and identify ways you can emulate your saint in daily life.



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SPONSOR-CANDIDATE ACTIVITIES

WHAT ARE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR-CANDIDATE ACTIVITIES?

- In order to help the Confirmation candidate and sponsor become comfortable talking about their faith with each other we have created some activities that create discussion.
- The activities can be done in-person, over the phone, Facetime, or Skype.
- The activities will also help to dig deeper into topics that are discussed in formation classes allowing candidates the opportunity to fuller understand their Catholic faith.

WHEN ARE THE SPONSOR-CANDIDATE ACTIVITIES DUE:

- The Confirmation candidates and sponsors will have plenty of time to complete the activities. This allows the candidate and sponsor ample amount of time to get together and discuss these questions.
 - The goal is for candidates and sponsors to get together and spend time together throughout the course of the preparation process in order to strengthen their relationship.
- Activities for Confirmation Sponsors and Candidates will begin during the Spring of the candidate's 7th grade year, following the due date for Sponsor Information. 7th grade candidates and their sponsors will participate in two activities. During their 8th grade year, sponsors and candidates will participate in four activities.



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CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Confirmation Retreat Dates:

- Candidates will be required to attend an annual retreat during their 7th and 8th grade years.
- 7th grade candidates will participate in a retreat this year. This retreat will take place on Saturday, February 27.
- The retreat will run from 10:00am – 4:30pm. A pizza lunch will be served at 12:30pm and is part of the retreat fee.
- Holy Mass will be celebrated at 5:00pm. We encourage parents and families to join us for this celebration.

What To Bring:

- Comfortable, casual clothes. (jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, tennis shoes, etc.)
- Any medications that they may need during the retreat will need to be labeled and given to an adult leader at retreat.

Not To Bring:

- Spending money- All meals will be provided. Participants will not need to buy anything.
- Valuable items- do not bring anything you don't want to get damaged or misplaced. You are responsible for your own belongings
- More information will be provided as we get closer to the retreat date.

Important Reminders:

- **PARTICIPATION:** Participants will not be allowed to leave during the retreat. Once participants are dropped off, they will be expected to stay for the entire duration of the retreat.
- **CLOTHING:** Anyone who is wearing immodest clothing will be asked to change. Dress comfortably, but please cover up!
- **CELL PHONES/ IPODS:** Participants will **NOT** be allowed to use cell phones, iPods, or other electronics during the retreat. A participant may use his/her cell phone only if permission is given by an adult leader. This is to ensure participants are not distracted during important times of the retreat.

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FORMS

Forms and Due Dates Include:

Confirmation Candidate Form – November 1, 2020

Confirmation Sponsor Form – March 21, 2021

Candidate's Baptismal Certificate - To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, all candidates **MUST** turn in a **COPY** of their Baptism Certificate. This is **NOT** a birth certificate or hospital certificate. This is the certificate of their Baptism, which was recorded in the Catholic Church in which they were baptized. You can contact the Church in which they were baptized and they will furnish you with the proper certificate. If you do not know the address of the Church, please contact one of us for help getting this information. If the candidate was baptized at St. Catherine of Siena Church, we will have that information on file.

Please review all the provided forms and return them by their designated due date! Feel free to turn them in prior to their due date!

Thanks so much!