

St. Francis Catholic Church

Confirmation Program 2017-2018

What is Confirmation?

(The Catholic Sacrament of Confirmation; Dummies.com)

Growth is vital to human life; the body and mind must grow to stay alive. Catholics believe that the soul also needs to grow to maturity in the life of grace, just as the human body must grow through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Catholics believe the Sacrament of Confirmation is the supernatural equivalent of the growth process on the natural level. It builds on what was begun in Baptism and what was nourished in Holy Eucharist. It completes the process of initiation into the Christian community, and it matures the soul for the work ahead.

This sacrament is called *Confirmation* because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. *Confirmation* means accepting responsibility for your faith and destiny. The Holy Spirit is introduced when we are baptized. During *Confirmation*, God the Holy Spirit comes upon the person, accompanied by God the Father and God the Son, just as He did at Pentecost.

The focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) and gave them courage to practice their faith.

The requirements below are designed to draw the candidate close to our loving Christ for growth in faith life. Unknowingly, this will affect ALL aspects of the candidate's life here on earth.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION FORM

- The Confirmation Information Form will need to be completed and turned in by **Nov 12th**.
- A copy of the baptism certificate will need to be attached to the form, unless candidate was baptized at St. Francis. For those, only the Information Form is required.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

- Each candidate will meet with Rachel before Confirmation Classes begin.
- Each candidates will meet with Rachel in April for an exit interview before Confirmation Mass.

CLASSES

- Candidates are expected to attend Confirmation classes as well as Youth Group classes.
- Topics vital to the Confirmation program will also be discusses at Youth Group.
 - Candidates are excused from youth group on Confirmation nights and retreat weekends.
- Please see the attached calendar for details.

Missed Classes & Make-Up Work

- Please make every effort to attend each class and youth group.
- If you're unable to attend, you will need to contact Rachel for assigned make up work (viewing a video related to the topic and completing an assignment).

MASS JOURNALS

- The Mass Journals will be kept at the back of the church (inner Narthex).
- Please number each entry (#1, #2, #3 etc.) and include the following information:
 - Date, presider, indicate if it was a feast day etc.
 - Write down your reflections on the Mass - how was the homily applicable, points that stood out to you, a reading that spoke to you, a song that touched you, etc.
 - If visiting a different parish for Mass, you can transfer the information at the following class/youth group.
- Please be sure to return your journals to the inner Narthex following Mass. You must meet your minimum of **16 entries by April 8th, 2018.**

CONFIRMATION RETREATS

We are blessed to offer two overnight retreats for Confirmation preparation. Chaperones will be needed for both retreats. Details will be given as the retreats draw near.

- The first retreat is **December 2-3** in the parish center. This retreat will offer the chance for you to deepen your relationship with God. Information will be handed out in class in November.
- The Spring Retreat will be a two night retreat at Fr. Bernard Youth Center in Mt. Angel on **April 27-29, 2018.** This retreat is the pinnacle of our Confirmation preparation. This retreat will take candidates to a deeper level of experiencing the love of Christ.

SPONSOR

Please see the trifold insert.

MEETING FATHER JAMES

On the day of your Confirmation, Fr. James will attest to the Bishop of your readiness in receiving the Sacrament.

- Each candidate is asked to introduce him/herself to Father by greeting him after Mass or when you see him around. We would like each candidate to take a selfie with Father James.
- **Send selfie to Rachel at formorrow4@aol.com by November 12th.**

PARENT & CANDIDATE VIDEO

As the primary Catechist of your child, you are the main influence on your teen's spiritual life. (CCC 2223 & 2226)

- Parents are asked to sit with the candidate and view a video on the saint chosen as their Confirmation name. If resources are needed, please contact Rachel or Violet.
- Notify Rachel the name, source and brief summary of conversation had with teen following viewing (what was their favorite part, was there a point of conversion, what makes the person a saint, etc.).
- **View videos and notify Rachel by email (formorrow4@aol.com) by April 8th.**

SERVICE HOURS

Community Service

- Each candidate will be responsible for completing a total of 10 service hours.
- Five of these hours will be in the community. We will have several group opportunities available throughout the year, e.g., Oregon Food Bank, Blanchet House, etc.

Parish Service

- Candidates are required to perform 5 hours of service to St. Francis Parish.
- Set up a period of commitment to foster a sense of community within the Parish:
 - Contact **Anna Wilson (anna@stfrancissherwood.org)** to help with Hope Diner, the Food Pantry, Youth Mass or the Hope Shelter.
 - Contact **Violet Wanner (violet@stfrancissherwood.org)** to help with Children's Liturgy (during the 10:30 am Mass) or to assist with Faith Formation on Sunday mornings.

Please note: The Confirmation Candidates will be hosting a simple reception for the children receiving First Reconciliation on **Saturday, February 3rd**.

Service Log

- Please have your service supervisor sign your Service Log. Parents may also sign if needed. Family involvement of service activity is encouraged.
- **Service hours must be completed and form turned in by April 8th.**

Contact Information

Rachel Morrow

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Violet Wanner

Faith Formation Coordinator
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