

The Sacrament of Confirmation

ST. BENEDICT

Information for
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students

St. Benedict Catholic Church and School
165 Bethany Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733

August 2021

Dear Confirmation Parent(s)/Guardian(s),



As we watch our children grow physically, emotionally, and intellectually he/she also grows spiritually. You have seen that your child has been initiated in our faith through Baptism and the Eucharist. Now it is time for your child to make a lifetime commitment to our faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation and complete the Sacraments of Initiation.

In preparing your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation, consider the following points:

- Do I make time for prayer?
- Do I participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do we attend Mass as a family?
- Do I try to grow in the knowledge of faith and share it with my family?
- Am I involved with parish activities as much as I could be?

Attached are materials which explain the Confirmation process. Please read through these materials carefully and discuss them with your child.

Confirmation will be celebrated on:

Thursday, March 31st, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. for Religious Education.

Most Reverend Bishop David M. O'Connell CM will be officiating.

It is important that the information requested in this packet be returned to us as soon as possible. The deadlines are outlined in the packet.

Be assured that you and your child are in the prayers of the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If you have any questions regarding the information please feel free to contact the Faith Formation Office, 732-264-4712 ext.24.

Melissa Dayton, Director of Faith of Formation Mdayton@stbenedictnj.org

Ciro Saverino,
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Carol Cesario, Administrative Assistant, Cesario@stbenedictnj.org

Important Dates 2021-2022

November 1, 2021: Confirmation Forms/Paperwork Due

1-Confirmation Candidate Form 2021/2021 - to be filled out on the website.

<https://parish.stbenedictholmdel.org/confirmation>

2-Sponsor certificate of eligibility, (see page 5 of this document)

<https://forms.gle/cSXBv6WrsnRyFuox7>

Sunday Mass Obligation:

Continue to celebrate your commitment by attending Mass weekly and on Holy Days

Sunday, October 17, 2021: Confirmation Retreat

All students and a sponsor or parent are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat on Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church.

December 5th: Advent Reconciliation Service

January 23, 2020: Confirmation Saint Report

Can be handed in any class during the program but must be in by January 23, 2020.

February 6, 2022: Community Service requirements due

All students are required to complete a total of 10 hours of service for 7th grade + 10 hours for 8th. Dates due February 6, 2021 along with the completed essay. (**see page 5-6**)

Service Learning Event Dates: 10/2, 11/6, 2 /5

- **Each student will earn 2 hours for event**
- **Hours may be done outside of St Benedict**

March 5th: Interviews & reconciliation (details TBD)

March 6th: Letter to Bishop O'Connell Requesting the Sacrament due March 6th.

(See p.8)

March 29th, 2021: Confirmation Interview Saturday, March 5th, 2021, between 2:00-4:00pm, (See p. 7)

March 29th, 2021: Confirmation Practice Sponsor is not required to attend practice but we may ask for an adult stand in. RE students rehearsal will be Tuesday, March 29th, 2021, 4:00pm.

March 31st, 2022: **Confirmation** will be celebrated on **Thursday March 31st, 2022** 4:00 p.m. for Religious Education students with Most Reverend David M. O'Connell officiating. *All Confirmandi are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the ceremony with your sponsor.*



Choosing your Confirmation Saint

- A Confirmation name that is chosen is to be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church.
- This saint would symbolize a new beginning in your faith journey with Christ.
- Candidates should choose a patron saint's name because of the Christian life they have led.
- You will wear a **Nametag** that says your Confirmation "**Saint name**" that you've chosen as "**Inspiration**" for your life/journey of faith.
 - E.g. your name could be Christina "Therese" after St. Therese of Lisieux
- If you do not have a Saint name, we will cover in class different saints, but you can begin now by reading the links below

Read HERE: <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

<https://www.olqoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Choosing-a-confirmation-saint-name-.pdf>

The Role of the Sponsor (due date Nov. 1)

Submit here: <http://bit.ly/ConfirmationSponsor>

Candidates for the sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation need a sponsor. Each candidate is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the baptismal sponsor (godparent) also be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that men must be sponsors for boys and women must be sponsors for girls. A parent cannot be chosen as the sponsor .

The sponsor is a Catholic who knows the ways of faith and will be able to help the person who is receiving the sacrament to begin living the faith in the Catholic Church more fully.

There are certain qualifications that the Church has for sponsors. Consider choosing a sponsor after considerable reflection and responses to the following questions. The answer to the questions must be yes for your sponsor to be eligible according to the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

- My sponsor is 16 years old or older. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor is a baptized Catholic (or has made a profession of faith in the case of a conversion to the catholic Faith.) (Yes or No)
- My sponsor has been confirmed in the Catholic Church. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor is a practicing Catholic and attends Mass weekly. (Yes or No)
- If my sponsor is married, he/she was married in the Catholic Church. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor can obtain a certificate from his/her parish that they are a Catholic in good standing. (Every sponsor needs one.) (Yes or No)

If you answered "NO" to any one of the questions above, then that person cannot be a sponsor according to the Code of Canon Law (Church rules).

This guideline is given to you to help you in choosing a sponsor. Do not return it with answers. It is to help you choose a person who will be eligible. Your sponsor does not have to be present at the Confirmation, you may have another adult stand in as a proxy if your sponsor is unable to attend. If you cannot find an eligible sponsor, the church will help you find a fellow parishioner to be a sponsor for your child.

Any questions can be directed to the Faith Formation office at 732/264-4712 X24

Confirmation Community Service Essay: Due February 6th

- 5 paragraph essay
- Typed, double spaced, black font, 12 size font
- **Due date: Sunday, February 6, 2021. ***RE Students should bring their completed essay and timesheets to their session at 6:00pm on February 6th.***

Introduction: One paragraph

- Briefly list and describe the various service projects that you have participated in during this preparation period.
- What made you decide to volunteer where you did

Body Paragraph one:

- Describe an experience which affected you meaningfully during one of your projects. (a conversation with someone, or an experience with another volunteer/ etc.)

Body Paragraph two:

- Where was God at work in this experience; in you, in other people, and in the church?

Body Paragraph three:

- How your service affected you and your community.

Conclusion: One paragraph

- How did this make you feel like you are a living witness to Christ?
- How has your community service affected your plans for the future as a *Confirmed, fully initiated adult/member* of the Catholic Church?

Grade 7, Grade 8 St. Benedict Community Service Record Year 2021/2022

(Grade 8 due February 6th Grade 7 please hold)

Student Name: _____

Grade _____ Circle one that applies: (RE or SBS)

Date of Service	Number of Hours	Description of Service	Signature of Supervisor/email or phone

Total Number of Hours: _____

Parental Signature: By signing this, you certify that all information included in this record is correct.

This form MUST be returned no later than Sunday, February 6, 2021

Confirmation Interview (Saturday, March 5th)



To be conducted Saturday, March 5th between 2:00-4:00pm We will have a Signupgenius to facilitate the process. We are tentatively planning on having reconciliation at the same time. Details to follow

Each Confirmation Candidate will have an interview with Father Garry Koch, Pastor, or Father Al Gamalo, Parochial Vicar. The main purpose of the interview is to provide the candidate with a one on one conversation with a priest to discuss their journey and experiences toward reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The priest will review with them their journey of faith, their knowledge of basic Church teaching and why they are being Confirmed. Interviews will take place during School hours or Religious Education classes.

Candidates can prepare for the interview by reflecting on the following points:

- Be able to describe your prayer life
- Dialogue about your Family
- Basic Knowledge of the following:
 - o Sacraments
 - o The Mass
 - o Sin
 - o The Bible
- Why are you receiving Confirmation?
 - o How can you describe your journey toward Confirmation? Tell me about the positive experiences of your journey and any challenging moments.
 - o What is Confirmation? Why do you want to receive this Sacrament?
 - o What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
 - o Can you name the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
 - o What Saint name did you choose? Why?
 - o Who is your Confirmation sponsor? Why did you choose him or her?
- Do you have any questions before receiving Confirmation?

Letter to Bishop of Trenton, Rev. David O'Connell Requesting The Sacrament of Confirmation



Instructions: Each candidate is required to write **a letter** to the Bishop, stating your desire to be confirmed. The letter is your own description of your personal faith journey so far. They are also a reflection on both you and on St. Benedict Parish, so please write what is in your heart and take this endeavor seriously. Here are some guidelines. These topics should be covered, in your own words and style.

1. **Introduce yourself.** Say something about your family, your education and your parish
2. **Request the sacrament.** Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed
3. **Explain** how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service hours, your sponsor's name and why you chose them and/or your saint's name and why you chose it.
4. **Difficulties for young people:** Tell what difficulties young people today face and how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Plan to Put Faith into Action:** Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the Faith real and alive in your life.
6. **Conclude the letter.** There is no "right" way to write this letter. Everyone's letter will be different, as each of you have had a different experience. Most importantly your letter should be your own work and a personal reflection of your journey.

(Consider commenting on some of the things you learned from Retreat/Small Group/our other assignments/Interview with Fr. Garry or Fr. Al)

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- Read all information in the booklet
 - Complete the Confirmation Candidate Form - to be filled out on the website.
 - Submit sponsor certificate
 - Choose a saint name
 - Attend the retreat with sponsor
 - Christian service form completed with signatures
 - Christian service essay
 - Letter to the Bishop
 - Sign up for interviews (when link sent)
 - Mark your calendar with all important dates
 - Hand in all forms on time.

