



# Confirmation

*"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

## ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

### SUMMARY OF FORMS & IMPORTANT DATES

Parent & Student Informational Meeting	October 25, 2020
Confirmation Formation and Ministry Agreement Form Due	October 25, 2020
Baptismal Information Form Due	November 9, 2020
Confirmation Name/Sponsor Information Form Due	January 11, 2021
Retreat Permission Form Due	January 11, 2021
Dress Code Form Due	January 11, 2021
Confirmation Retreat	January 30, 2021
Service Experience Reflection Paper Due	January 30, 2021
Confirmation Mass	February 14, 2021, 2:00

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors,

Over the next several months, whether you are a young person planning to be confirmed, or you a parent or a sponsor, you will be engaging in a time of preparation. People engage a preparation process for many important moments and experiences throughout their lives. These include going to preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school, sometimes college, and maybe graduate studies. Athletes prepare and practice for games/competitions. People go through job training. One has to go through driver's education before being granted a driver's license. One who enters the military begins with Boot Camp. First responders attend a training academy.

Keeping these things in mind, it should be no surprise that in the Sacramental life of the Church, there are periods of preparation. Adults experience a preparation process before entering into marriage. Parents attend a preparation class before the Baptism of their child. Those over 7 years of age go through a preparation process before being baptized. Some of you may remember the preparation experience that you experienced before First Communion and First Reconciliation. Deacons and priests experience years of preparation before being ordained. So, hopefully it is not surprising that the same is true for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This packet describes what will be happening in the Confirmation preparation process. Many will be involved; candidates, parents, sponsors, teachers, clergy, and others. There are different roles that are fulfilled by various people and so the process is communal in nature. Through everyone working together and being committed to taking the process seriously, it should be a joyful and even exciting time. It is always good when we know that we are not going through something alone.

I ask that all read through this packet be attentive to and cooperative in engaging the process and what it entails. By doing so, it will make the celebration of the Gifts of the Spirit come alive not only on Confirmation Day itself but also throughout the days of preparation and actually throughout your lives. I want to assure you of my prayers and those of the entire Saint Cecilia Community during this special time as we all look forward to the completion of your Christian Initiation. God's blessings!

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Leo Connolly

## CONFIRMATION INFORMATION SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

**Please read this carefully, in order to understand what we expect of families in this preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation: If you have any questions/comments/concerns, please feel free to speak with your student's teacher, e-mail Lee Ann Breeze, Coordinator Parish School of Religion (lbreeze@ceciliachurch.org) or call the Parish Office (614) 878-5353.**

1. As a Sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation is intended to be received in an individual's home parish – within that community where the family regularly worships and of which they are members. If the Confirmation Candidate is a parishioner at another parish, he/she must receive written approval from their pastor to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Cecilia.
2. Weekly attendance at Mass, combined with regular participation in religion class, is paramount for readiness to receive this Sacrament. The Sacraments call us to continue the mission of Christ in the Church, which is to be Eucharist for the world. We cannot live the Eucharistic Life to which we are all called without the graces needed to sustain us in that life, graces given and received in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – namely The Word of God and the Sacrament of His Body and Blood in Holy Communion.
3. Parents are requested to review the information and due dates outlined in this packet with their child and **return the Confirmation Formation and Ministry Agreement.**
4. So that the celebration of this Sacrament can be properly recorded in church records, candidates are asked to **complete the Baptismal Information form and return it to their teacher by November 9<sup>th</sup>.** For many of our Confirmation candidates, we have this information already on file. More information related to Baptismal records can be found later in this packet.
5. Candidates are asked to **complete the Confirmation Name/Sponsor Information form and return it to their teacher by January 11<sup>th</sup>.** More information on choosing a Confirmation name can be found later in this packet. The choice of a Sponsor for each Confirmation candidate is very important in the formation and support of a young Catholic in the church. More information on the role and qualifications of a sponsor can also be found later in this packet.
6. Candidates, their parents, and their sponsors (or a “stand-in” for the sponsor) will participate in the Confirmation Retreat on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be following all necessary safety protocols during the retreat, including requiring all participants to wear masks and socially distancing those in attendance. As part of the retreat, we plan to include a sacramental preparation session for parents and sponsors. We will also incorporate a ‘rehearsal’ for the Confirmation Mass during the retreat. More information will be distributed as we get closer to the retreat date.
7. As one sign of readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation, candidates are also asked to enter into a life of service as a Catholic. More information on this service requirement can be found later in this packet. Students are asked to submit a one page reflection paper on their service experience prior to Confirmation. **This reflection exercise should be submitted to your teacher by January 30<sup>th</sup>.**
8. Parents are requested to review the dress code information outlined in this packet and **return the Confirmation Mass Dress Code form to their teacher by January 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## PROOF OF BAPTISM OR PROFESSION OF FAITH

We are required by the Diocese of Columbus to see proof of a Catholic Baptism or Profession of Faith before administering subsequent sacraments. For many of our candidates, we already have the records from the reception of Baptism and/or First Communion if they were completed here at St. Cecilia. For those candidates whose proof we need, please supply a certificate from the Church of Catholic Baptism or Profession of Faith.

Notice of Confirmation gets sent to the Parish of Baptism to be recorded in their sacrament book. In later life, your child may be invited to be a Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor, or will desire to be married in the Catholic Church. All of these require proof that he or she has been fully initiated in the Catholic Faith by receiving Confirmation, and the Parish of Baptism can provide such proof if the original certificate we give is misplaced.

**Name changes:** In the United States, all Catholic Sacramental records are kept at the Parish of Baptism. If there has been a **legal** name change since the time of baptism, it is the family's responsibility to inform the Parish of Baptism of the new name and to request an updated Baptismal Certificate to be turned in to us. If you need information on how to submit a name change, please call our Parish Office (614-878-5353).

## CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

The candidate should choose ONE name for Confirmation. Candidates may use their Baptismal Names, thereby "*renewing and confirming*" the Baptismal commitment. If they wish to choose a new name, they should choose a Christian name from among the recognized Saints of the Church.

Some Candidates may choose a Saint whose life is an inspiration; others will pay homage to a Saint who has made a real difference in the Catholic faith. In either case, just one saint's name is used. For example, if the saint that is chosen is St. Francis Xavier or St. Rose of Lima, the candidate uses "Francis" ("Frances" for a girl) or "Rose". However, if the candidate chooses a saint who has two names, such as St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, both Margaret and Mary may be used.

If a candidate chooses one of his or her Baptismal names, or a form of the same name, that name is not repeated. So if "John Michael Smith" chooses "John" as his Confirmation name, the certificate will read "John Michael Smith", not "John Michael John Smith".

## FINAL NOTES ABOUT OUR FORMS

All required forms are included in this packet. They are also posted on our parish website, [www.saintceciliachurch.org](http://www.saintceciliachurch.org), under the Sacraments tab, should you need additional copies. If you do not have access to the internet, we can have extra forms available from the teachers and in the Parish Office.

**Confirmation Formation and Ministry Agreement**  
**2020-2021**

By means of the Agreement, I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
Printed Name of Student

hereby state that I am requesting to be receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on February 14, 2021. With this request, I will engage in the following:

1. Be present on a regular basis and fully participate at Weekend Masses and School Masses
2. Be present and fully participate at Parish School of Religion Classes or St. Cecilia School Religion Classes
3. Give service by participating in service activities. See attached list of suggested family, community and church service projects.
4. Fully participate in the Decision Point Program and complete any assignments therein
5. Engage in behavior that is truly reflective of Gospel Values and Christian Discipleship
6. Be present and fully participate at the Confirmation Retreat
7. If desired, choose a Confirmation name that has some true meaning for you such as the name of a saint
8. Choose a Confirmation Sponsor who truly has been and will continue to be a support figure and who meets the requirements as stipulated in the Code of Canon Law
9. Compose a brief Essay describing what you many have learned from engaging in the Confirmation Formation and Service experience
10. If I am from a parish other than St. Cecilia and wish to be confirmed here at St. Cecilia, I will seek permission from the pastor of that parish to be so
11. Share this Agreement with my Parent(s), Guardian and have them sign below
12. Share any special circumstances with the Classroom Teachers that would keep any of the above from being completed

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

As a Parent or Guardian of the student above, I hereby sign below that I have read this Agreement and will support him/her in fulfilling it.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: November 9, 2020

**INFORMATION FROM RECORD OF CATHOLIC BAPTISM  
OR PROFESSION OF FAITH**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Name (First, Middle, Last)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Catholic Church of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Full Address of Church of Baptism** (Street Number and Name, City, State, ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Maiden Name of Candidate's Mother on the Baptismal Record

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Candidate's Father on the Baptismal Record

\*If Baptized at Parish other than St. Cecilia, please provide a copy of the Baptismal Certificate.



# QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES OF A GOOD SPONSOR

## **I. Qualifications**

1. A good sponsor has the expressed intention of performing his/her role – to assume an ongoing *spiritual relationship* with his/her candidate and not merely function as a passive witness to the sacrament.
2. A good sponsor is a faithful Catholic who is a fitting model of the Christian life.
3. A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
4. A sponsor must be a *fully initiated* Catholic, having received all three Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
5. A sponsor may be a grandparent, older sister or brother, but *may not* be a parent.
6. It is not required that a Sponsor be a person who was a Sponsor at the Candidate's Baptism. However, they should be a person who has been a role model for the Candidate.
7. Sponsors from parishes other than Saint Cecilia are asked to obtain an Eligibility Certificate from their Pastor/Parish.

## **II. Qualities**

1. Gratitude
2. Availability
3. Compassion
4. Openness to Questions
5. Honesty
6. Realism
7. Prayerfulness
8. Patience
9. Personal Warmth
10. An ability to Listen
11. Profound Respect for others
12. The willingness to share aspects of our journeys with another when and where it is appropriate.

Due Date: January 11, 2021

**PERMISSION FORM FOR THE CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to attend the Confirmation  
Student's Name

Retreat at St. Cecilia Parish on January 30, 2021.

Should an emergency occur, please call me at \_\_\_\_\_.  
Phone

If I cannot be reached, the following person should be notified:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any food allergy / medical condition of student (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ be able to attend the retreat (please check one)

If sponsor is unable to attend, please give the name of the adult who will attend in his/her  
place \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DRESS CODE FOR CONFIRMATION MASS**

Please remember that appropriate attire when attending Mass or receiving a Sacrament reflects our reverence and respect for the Holy Trinity. As a Catholic institution, we are responsible for setting standards that reflect our mission and our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ. The following guidelines are reminders of our expectations of all Candidates approaching the Bishop and presenting themselves before God. If a Candidate arrives for Confirmation and is inappropriately dressed, he/she will be given the opportunity to address the issue. Parents are asked to monitor this situation so no Candidate suffers the embarrassment of having to correct their dress.

**Young Ladies:** Dresses should not expose the midriff section, nor be strapless, and the shoulders must be covered (sweaters, jackets or shrugs). The dress should be no more than three inches above the knee. Hair should be neatly groomed. No excessive jewelry or make-up should be worn.

**Young Gentlemen:** Dress pants and dress shirts with a tie. Suit jackets are recommended, but not required. Dress shoes are requested. No tennis shoes should be worn for this occasion. Hair should be neatly groomed. No excessive jewelry should be worn.

Your signature on this form is requested to confirm your review and intent to follow these requirements.

Thank you for your assurance that the sacredness of this occasion is respectfully enhanced by a sense of modesty.

Student Name (Printed)\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

## Service Activities

Service is a core mission value of the Catholic Church. The service activities for 8<sup>th</sup> grade are meant to be an introduction for the students to find a way that they enjoy serving the Church and their community and discover what their gifts and talents are.

This year, we are adapting our options to make service activities more accessible to students. Service activities should be completed before the Confirmation Retreat on January 30<sup>th</sup>. After the service activities are completed, all students are asked to write a one-page reflection paper detailing what types of service he/she took part in, why he/she chose those activities, and what impact it had on his/her everyday life. The service reflection paper is due January 30<sup>th</sup>.

The students should find different ways in which they desire to serve the church and their local community. Covid safety precautions should be taken into consideration when participating in these activities. Examples of different service activities are outlined below:

### **Family**

- Help grandparents, aunts, uncles, with chores such as leaf raking, snow shoveling, etc. (without pay)
- Help parents with household chores such as taking in the groceries, making dinner for family, cleaning out their car. These should be chores outside of the student's 'normal' chores.
- Doing acts of kindness by spending time with a sibling, helping with homework, etc.

### **Community**

- Help with leaf raking or outside yard work for the elderly of our parish or community.
- Assist the St. Vincent DePaul Society make sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven. (Dates TBD)
- Help with the St. Vincent DePaul Christmas food basket assembly (December 11) and delivery (December 12). There is a great need with delivering these baskets each year.
- Make Christmas cards for nursing home residents and the elderly of the parish.
- Organize a food drive and deliver the non-perishables to an area food bank.
- Organize a clothing/sock drive and deliver the items to a homeless shelter.
- Make fleece blankets to give to Ronald McDonald House.

### **Church**

- Become a Minister of Hospitality at Mass (greeting, door opening, handing out bulletins, etc.)
- Making Rosaries
- Volunteer at Fish Fry