

COME HOLY SPIRIT

YOUR STUDENT'S JOURNEY THROUGH CONFIRMATION: A GUIDEBOOK FOR PARENTS



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WELCOME

As we start this new adventure of Confirmation, there are a few tools we want to equip you with as you prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts will provide the strength you will need to live out God's call to serve the Church in various ways, especially through faithful witness. Please know we are praying for you, as parents, as sponsors, and as confirmandi, that your discernment of faith leads you to be the saints you are called to be.

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Parents:

Parents have a most grave obligation and the right to educate their children. Therefore it is for Christian parents particularly to take care of the Christian education of their children according to the doctrine handed on by the Catholic Church. Parents above others are obliged to form their children by word and examples in faith in the practice of Christian life. Sponsors and those who take the place of parents are bound by an equal obligation.

Pastor:

It is a proper and grave duty especially of pastors of souls to take care of the catechesis of the Christian people so that the living faith of the faithful becomes manifest and active through doctrinal instruction and the experience of Christian life. The pastor is to promote and foster the function of parents in the family catechesis mentioned.

Mentors:

Your mentors are here to guide you on this journey, to accompany you. They are not just teachers but guides as they share their personal encounters of Christ. As if journeying along the road of Emmaus together.

YOUR GUIDES

LIVING YOUR FAITH

“At times, seeing a world so full of violence and selfishness, young people can be tempted to withdraw into small groups, shunning the challenges and issues posed by life in society and in the larger world. They may feel that they are experiencing fraternity and love, but their small group may in fact become nothing other than an extension of their own ego. This is even more serious if they think of the lay vocation simply as a form of service inside the Church: serving as lectors, acolytes, catechists, and so forth. They forget that the lay vocation is directed above all to charity within the family and to social and political charity. It is a concrete and faith-based commitment to the building of a new society. It involves living in the midst of society and the world in order to bring the Gospel everywhere, to work for the growth of peace, harmony, justice, human rights and mercy, and thus for the extension of God’s kingdom in this world”. (168 Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 2019)

Young & Committed:

- maintain communion with the Church
- lead a holy life and work towards sainthood
- Share the Gospel in all you do
- Reach out to your pastor for spiritual guidance when needed
- Discern your vocational life through prayer, the sacraments and open discernment
- Support the needs of the Church
- Promote social justice
- Create solid friendships built on faith
- Use your talents and skills creatively to help the common good
- Spend time with the elderly and the infirm to grow in wisdom

“Dear young people, please, do not be bystanders in life. Get involved! Jesus was not a bystander. He got involved. Don’t stand aloof, but immerse yourselves in the reality of life, as Jesus did”. Above all, in one way or another, fight for the common good, serve the poor, be protagonists of the revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism”. (174 Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 2019)

**"SHARE THE GOSPEL IN ALL YOU DO"
- POPE FRANCIS**

SERVING AS CHRIST



"Not to be served, but to serve"

Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve" (Mt 20:28). The Church is a servant community and all those accepting full membership in the Church are also accepting the responsibility to serve. Candidates will be completing service projects as a group on Wednesday nights. Of course service can be done outside of Wednesday nights. Each of us is called to live as Christ through our baptism, to serve our family, our parish church and our community as the hands and feet of Christ. These service projects allow students to explore areas that they may be called to live out in their vocational calling to religious life, married life or single life. Service opportunities will be provided throughout the year, through youth events, Parish Events, and community events. In an effort to disengage Confirmation as a check the box sacrament to a way to live your life as Catholic Christian focus on these works of Mercy. No service journal forms will be collected.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY • FEED THE HUNGRY • GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY • CLOTHE THE NAKED • VISIT THE IMPRISONED • SHELTER THE HOMELESS • CARE FOR THE SICK • BURY THE DEAD

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY • CORRECT THE SINNER • TEACH THE IGNORANT • COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL • COMFORT THE SORROWFUL • BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY • FORGIVE INJURIES • PRAY FOR LIVING AND DEAD

SPONSOR & CONFIRMATION NAME

SPONSORS:

There is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament. A student should choose sponsor before their second year of Confirmation.

To perform the function of sponsor, a person must be

- designated by the one to be confirmed and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function
- must be 16 years or older
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared, meaning they have a letter of recommendation from their pastor
- not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed
- it is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism

If not a member of St. Patrick - St. Anthony Parish, the sponsor will need to present proof that they are a member in good, active standing before they are approved.

CONFIRMATION NAME:

The name of a saint is chosen as a role model of faith for the person receiving confirmation. The saint may be a blessed but must be from the Western Catholic Church. A student should have a Confirmation name chosen before the second year of Confirmation.

- You may use your baptismal name (unless it is not a shared saint name)
- You may choose a saint's name of a different gender
- You may choose the name of a family member who exemplifies the faith, as long as it is a saint name, and know about the saint for whom that family member is named

“Dear young people, my joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you, outstripping all those who are slow or fearful. Keep running, “attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much, whom we adore in the Holy Eucharist and acknowledge in the flesh of our suffering brothers and sisters. May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us”. (299 Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 2019)

Mass Attendance:

Mass is the source and summit of the Catholic Christian prayer life. It combines all elements of prayer with Christ’s sacrifice on the Altar of the Cross. It unites all Catholic through time and space and brings us into unity with God through His Son and the Holy Spirit. As Mass contains the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, we need to attend as we prepare our hearts for Confirmation. Attendance of Mass will not only prepare you as the parent, but will strengthen your student and family life.

Private Prayer:

Without daily private prayer the Catholic Christian is lost. The once a week Mass leads to a daily communion with the Lord. It is in these personal times that the Confirmandi comes to know the Holy Spirit and Christ who called to them in the silence of daily prayer.

- Scripture
- Rosary
- Prayer before Meals
- Prayer as a Family

Retreats: Save the Date for an all Day Retreat on January 14th 2023 for 8th Grade!

The Confirmation Retreat is the high point of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It allows the Confirmandi to spend time with their peers along with leaders and mentors in prayer, community, study and reflection upon their service. There will be one retreat in 8th grade along with opportunities to attend diocesan events and the Shine Youth Rally.

A LIFE OF PRAYER: YOUR ROADMAP

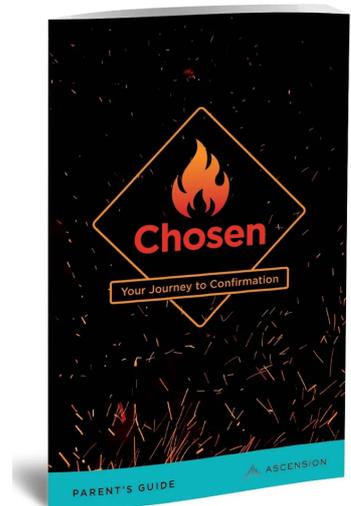
YOUR GUIDEBOOK

CHOSEN: YOUR JOURNEY TOWARDS CONFIRMATION

Chosen is a catechetical journey for teenage confirmandi. This program is designed to provide the essential intellectual and spiritual catechesis that is so vital to sacramental preparation.

- At home learning: Each lesson will include a Taking it Home paper sent home with the students. These include car or dinner time discussion questions to have with your student, a saint to learn more about and focus on as a family, any information you need about the lesson as well as an activity you can do at home with the family. These are all simply resources for you as a parent!
- Doing the "Challenge of the Week." Each week, candidates will complete a personal challenge that will help them apply that week's material to their own lives. This challenge will be on the Taking it Home sheet sent home weekly and posted online.
- Homeschool, Cyber school , Catholic School students all attend Chosen each Wednesday.
- Each month we will rotate between Prayer, Service, Theology & Social Nights

7TH GRADE: PARENT GUIDE
8TH GRADE: PARENT GUIDE
& SPONSOR GUIDE



THE PLAN: LOGISTICS



BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

If your student was not baptized or hasn't received First Communion at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Parish, you will need to provide a copy of their Baptismal Certificate for sacramental recording. Contact Mellan Hansen to find out if we have a copy of your student's Baptismal Certificate.

How to get a Baptismal Certificate:

1. Call/email the parish where your child was Baptized and ask for a copy of your student's certificate to be sent to St. Patrick - St. Anthony Parish.

2. Provide them with the mailing information:

St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church

% Mellan Hansen

920 Fulton Ave

Grand Haven, MI 49417

DRESS CODE FOR CONFIRMATION

Everyone is to dress modestly out of respect for the Eucharist.

Men:

A dress shirt and long dress pants are acceptable. A tie and jacket are optional. Please no sandals or sneaker; dress shoes are best. There is no need to wear white or red.

Women:

A dress, skirt, or dress pants are acceptable. Dresses and skirts must be knee length in order to sit and stand modestly. Chest, shoulders, midribs must be completely covered always. Please no spaghetti straps and no bare shoulders. Shoes can have a low or medium heel as long as you are comfortable walking in them. Flats are a great option. No stilettos, beach sandals, or sneakers.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

7th and 8th Grade students will meet weekly on Wednesday nights in the Youth Center. See Calendar for all dates.

7:00 - 7:30 PM is a social drop in time, when students will be able to hang out, play games, get a snack, talk to mentors and Pier Ministers. You may drop off your students starting at 7:00 PM and they must be there by 7:30 PM for the night to start.

8:30 PM the night wraps up and pick up may start. This end time is also for community building and wrapping up anything you as the parent might need from Makenzie or mentors, as well as the students. All students must be picked up by 9:00 PM.

ASSIGNMENT & SERVICE UPDATES

1. Service nights have become a part of the weekly nights. As well as service should be a continuation of how we live our faith as Catholic Christians. There also is no service journal or requirement of service hours. Service is a lived experience.
2. A student is to attend weekly.
3. Due to the change in Wednesday nights there will be no assignments needed this year for Confirmation.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR FOR ALL DATES FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AND EVENTS FOR STUDENTS. BELOW ARE HIGHLIGHTED IMPORTANT DATES.

A DAY OF REFLECTION, PRAYER AND REHERSAL FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN FEBUARY WITH FR. CHUCK. DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUCNED.

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

OCTOBER

31 - BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE DUE IF CONFIRMANDI DID NOT RECEIVE BAPTISM AT ST. PATRICK - ST. ANTHONY (7TH & 8TH)

31 - CONFIRMATION SPONSOR CHOSEN & SPONSOR FORM COMPLETED (8TH)

DECEMBER

31 - LETTER OF GOOD STANDING FOR SPONSORS DUE IF NOT PARISHIONERS OF ST. PATRICK - ST. ANTHONY (8TH)

31 - CONFIRMATION NAME WORKSHEET DUE (8TH)

JANUARY

14 - 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT, ALL DAY

MARCH

19 - CONFIRMATION 2023 FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. ANDREW WITH THE MOST REV. DAVID J. WALKOWIAK. CONFIRMANDI AND SPONSORS ARE TO ARRIVE AND BE IN PEWS AT LEAST 30 MINUES PRIOR TO MASS. MASS BEGINS AT 3:00 PM.

IMPORTANT DATES



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HALLOW PRAYER APP

Listen on the way to work, on a plane, in the morning, or at night with downloadable offline sessions and customized lengths anywhere from 1, 5, 10, 15, 30, or 60 minute options! Personalize your prayer experience. Choose your guide, length, background music like Gregorian chant, set your favorites, and create your own personal prayer plan. Connect with your friends, family, prayer group, parish, & community to share prayers, intentions, or journal reflections and grow together in your faith. Prayer takes practice and discipline; it requires showing up and spending time with God. Hallow helps you build a habit of prayer. You can set prayer reminders, invite others to pray with you, and track your prayer goals and streaks. Download it free today to get started or learn more at hallow.com.



SHINE YOUTH RALLY

Shine Youth Rally is a unique event specifically designed for middle school youth with a goal of helping them to have an encounter with Jesus or renew and deepen their encounter with Jesus. This rally exists to inspire conversion, prayer and love of Christ Jesus in the context of the Catholic faith.



OFFICE HOURS WITH MAKENZIE

If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have ideas to share feel free to set up an appointment with me or better yet, let's meet over a cup of coffee! Students are also welcome to visit the office.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date on the parish Facebook, Instagram and Youtube:
 Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/stpatsghmiddleschool](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stpatsghmiddleschool)
 Instagram: [@stpatsmiddleschool](https://www.instagram.com/stpatsmiddleschool)
 YouTube: St Patrick St Anthony

RESOURCES



SIGN UP FOR REMIND TEXT MESSAGES

Please sign up for our text message system, this is the best way to get in touch with you & send reminders for upcoming things.

Text this message @7th8thstp

To 81010

To be added to the remind text messages.

LET'S TALK!



7TH & 8TH GRADE: CONFIRMATION

Calendar 2022-2023



SEPTEMBER

18 Family Night with
Amanda Vernon

OCTOBER

5 Family & Pizza Night
(one parent must attend)
12 Who is the Holy Spirit?
19 Candle Rosary
26 Seminarian Service Night

NOVEMBER

2 All Souls Mass
9 Why do I go to Mass?
16 Fireside Chat with Fr. Chuck
30 Advent Wreath Making

DECEMBER

7 What is Marriage?
14 Steve Angrisano & Sarah Hart
Concert
21 Christmas Party

JANUARY

11 Free, Total, Faithful, Fruitful
14 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
18 Kids Food Basket Service
25 Where is God calling me?
With Fr. Stephen Durkee

FEBRUARY

1 How does God speak to me?
8 Why do we pray?
15 Battle of the Small Groups
22 Ash Wednesday Mass

MARCH

1 Who is Mary?
8 Mary's Way of the Cross
15 Our Lady of Fatima Movie Night
22 Blessed are who?
26 Shine Youth Rally
29 Homebound Service Night

APRIL

12 Your Guide: The Virtues
19 God's Plan for Love & Sex
26 Men & Women's Panel & Pizza

MAY

3 The Journey Continues: Called for Mission
10 Mamma Mary & Our Mother's Service
17 St. Pat's Pancake Party
24 Sun, Sand and Souls: Living your Faith in
the Summer
31 The World's Longest Sundae

Wednesday Nights

7:00 - 7:30 PM Social Time & Drop off
7:30 PM Night Starts
8:30 - 9:00 PM Pick up time

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PRAYER FOR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Lord,

You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.

Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.

As we prepare these students for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand.

Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us.

**Through Christ our Lord,
Amen**

