

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. 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. Service 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 a 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. These forms of approval maybe found by emailing Makenzie.

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

Save the Date for an all Day Retreat on January 11th 2025 for 8th Grade!

Retreats:

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

YDISCIPLINE: YOUR JOURNEY TOWARDS CONFIRMATION

At YDisciple, We Understand...

PROGRAMS DON'T MAKE DISCIPLES, DISCIPLES DO.

A robust library of training content ranging from practical to spiritual skills helps train faithful adults to be more than instructors, but disciple-makers.

TEENS NEED TO BELONG IN ORDER TO BELIEVE.

YDisciple gives you tools to create small group environments where teens are known, loved, and cared for.

AUTHENTICITY IS KING.

With adolescents, you need to earn the right to be heard. Our video resources for teens center around personal testimony in order to communicate theological truth and are never filmed in a studio, but in real life.

PARENTS MATTER.

Study after study shows that no one has more influence on teenager than his or her parents.

YDisciple provides strategies for engaging parents and parent resources (in English and Spanish) to help parents engage their teens in meaningful conversation.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ARE UNIQUE.

An ever-growing number of YDisciple studies have guides with activities and questions specifically designed for middle school students alongside the standard guides for high school students.

- Each week students have a Commit Challenge of the Week to complete. This is located on the Parent Sheets sent home in a physical copy and in an email.
- Homeschool, Cyber school, Catholic School students all attend Confirmation Prep each Tuesday.

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 Makenzie 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
% Makenzie Conner
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 sneakers; 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.

TUESDAY NIGHTS

7th and 8th Grade students will meet weekly on Wednesday nights in the Youth Center. Confirmation is a two year preparation at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Parish. See Google Calendar for all dates. We gather every week 7:00 - 8:30 PM unless otherwise stated. Students must be present to all meetings and only miss a couple a year. If a student misses multiple nights makeup will be determined with the leader and pastor. If a student will miss a Tuesday night due to sickness or other absence a courtesy email is okay to be sent to Makenzie.

ASSIGNMENT & SERVICE UPDATES

1. In the past there has been a requirement of service journals. 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 Tuesday nights there will be no assignments needed this year for Confirmation.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR FOR ALL DATES FOR TUESDAY NIGHTS AND EVENTS FOR STUDENTS. BELOW ARE HIGHLIGHTED IMPORTANT DATES.
DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DECEMBER

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

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

JANUARY

11 - 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT, ALL DAY

FEBURARY

2 - 8TH GRADE DAY OF REFLECTION WITH SPONSORS 1-4PM*

16 - 8TH GRADE DAY OF REFLECTION WITH SPONSORS 1-4PM*

*SIGN UP FOR ONE DAY

MARCH

23 - SHINE YOUTH RALLY

CONFIRMATION 2025 DATE HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED 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
 YouTube: St Patrick St Anthony

RESOURCES



FLOCKNOTE

Please sign up for our text message system & email System, this is the best way to get in touch with you & send reminders for upcoming things.
<https://StPatrickStAnthonyParish.flocknote.com/Confirmation>

LET'S TALK!

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**

