

SMV 2020-2021 Confirmation Formation Handbook

2020-2021 Confirmation Handbook

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Introduction:

The Church asks that preparation for a sacrament be two-fold. There is what is called “remote” preparation and then “proximate” preparation. Remote preparation for the reception of a sacrament is that preparation which has been taking place since the moment of Baptism. It is accomplished through regular attendance at Sunday Mass, through the faith-life of the home, and by participation in religious formation in either a religious education program or in a Catholic school. Proximate preparation is the immediate preparation which is given for a specific sacrament, helping the recipient understand the graces and the call that is present in every sacramental encounter with the Lord.

In line with that two-fold preparation process, the SMV Confirmation Formation Program was revamped a few years ago to reflect this call for proximate preparation.

The Confirmation Program will be primarily focused on

- completing an online Confirmation program with a parent or sponsor before January 1, 2021
- attending and participating in at least two small group study sessions for minimally one hour in person each month from September to December
- attending and participating a one day retreat in January (8:00 AM-8:00 PM transportation by a parent)
- listening to and discussing four online pre-recorded talks with the selected sponsor
- handing in all required forms and papers on time (candidate and sponsor forms)
- attending and participating in the Confirmation rehearsal on Friday, February 26th at 7:00-7:30 PM
- attending and participating in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, February 27th at 10:00 AM

NOTE:

At the study group session candidates are to be prepared to share insights about specific topics covered in the chapters they agreed to finish prior to attending the study group. They can pull information from the actual study or from other resources. The parish members, or adult leaders are there to facilitate if needed.

We understand that many of the teens know their faith having attended either a Catholic school or Catholic Formation program through our parish from grade school through high school. However, the Holy Spirit engages our intellect and hearts to become more advanced in our awareness to the meaning and application of these teachings if the mind and heart are open. The key is to be open to new insights that the Holy Spirit gives by prayerfully approaching the study before diving in. Unlike Math or other school studies, we are seeking knowledge, wisdom and understanding only possible by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is not enough to rely on our own human capabilities and instead desire to become docile in virtue to admit our level of knowledge is never complete as God continues to reveal what each of us needs to know in his time and way.

*If a teen has not been enrolled in a Catholic school or Catholic Formation program prior to the 11th grade, he/she must study *Chosen* and attend 9th -10th grade sessions offered online.

St. Mary's Visitation Parish schedules an annual Mass for the celebration of Confirmation with the expectation that most teens will receive Confirmation during their junior year according to Archdiocesan norms. However, if one is unsure of their intention to receive Confirmation, it is also acceptable to delay the Sacrament until a teen's senior year of high school.

Registration for Confirmation indicates that the teen is committed to full participation.

This includes completing all online studies and participating in study sessions, viewing and discussing the speaker series with his/her sponsor, attending and participating in the day retreat and providing service within our parish community.

Coming to the study sessions prepared and ready to share with group members will be noted by the group leaders responsible for assuring teens are engaged.

The teens are also responsible for selecting a sponsor and communicating the sponsor responsibilities to the person selected. The sponsor is to complete a brief record of the speaker series discussed with the candidate and write a letter of recommendation for the candidate.

Pre-Registration Expectations

- 15 minute pre-program meeting
- Selection of Confirmation Study
- Meet Study group leader, pick up Confirmation Handbook and review program expectations.

Registration Expectations

- Baptized in the Catholic faith, actively practicing the faith, 16 years of age in 2021.
- Copy of Baptismal Certificate if not baptized at SMV
- *Completed 9th & 10th Catholic Formation in school or parish program
- Committed to attending Mass weekly and following the precepts of the Catholic church
- Committed to attending **all** sessions and completing **all** assignments on time
- Complete registration form and fee payment before September 4, 2020.

CONFIRMATION 2020-2021 Program Checklist:

- _____ **August** Prior to registering for the program, the candidate needs to:
Complete 15 minute Zoom meeting to describe the life of a disciple
Select a Confirmation Study: Chosen or Decision Point
Meet study group leader & pick up Confirmation program materials
- _____ **September**
Complete Confirmation registration form with a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate if not baptized at SMV. Make a copy of both, retain one copy for self and then drop off form, fee and certificate at parish office via mail slot open 24x7
Attend the family rosary at SMV or visit the Adoration Chapel
Start study group sessions (meet in person for 1 hour/2x per month)
- _____ **October**
Select a sponsor according to the guidelines provided in the handbook & drop off sponsor certificate to the parish office no later than December 1st.
Confirmation Retreat Parent Permission Form signed & delivered to parish office
Attend the family rosary at SMV or visit the Adoration Chapel
Continue with online study and attend two study sessions with your group
Attend Make a Difference Day on October 31st 9-noon
- _____ **November**
Choose a Confirmation name
Written Assignment:
-Fill out the Confirmation name form and write a one page reflection paper
Attend the family rosary at SMV or visit the Adoration Chapel
Continue with online study and attend two study sessions with your group
- _____ **December**
View four pre-recorded talks with sponsor, before end of January
Attend the family rosary at SMV on the 2nd Sunday of the month
Written Assignment:
-Using the sponsor & candidate record sheet, write a short summary of each talk you listened to and what the main take away was for the candidate.
Complete online study and attend last two study sessions with your group
- _____ **January**
Attend Confirmation Retreat on January 23rd at Schoenstatt Retreat Center, Waukesha, WI, 8:00 AM-8:00 PM, Candidates are to be dropped off and picked by parents.
Receive the sacrament of Reconciliation
Attend the family rosary at SMV or visit the Adoration Chapel
Written Assignments:
-Write a letter to the confirming Bishop requesting to be confirmed. Drop off at the parish office no later than January 20th in an envelope with your first and last name on the outside of the envelope
-Sponsor to write a letter of recommendation for the candidate and drop off at the parish office no later than February 1st.
- _____ **February**
Attend the family rosary at SMV on the 2nd Sunday of the month
Attend rehearsal on Friday, February 26 and Confirmation Mass on February 27th

Confirmation Name Form

Due December 1st

Why do we choose a “Confirmation Name”?

Within the Christian tradition, names hold great meaning. For example, Jesus gave his disciple Simon the name “Peter”, which literally meant “rock”, as a foreshadowing of Simon becoming the foundation, or rock, of the Church. Historically, people preparing for Confirmation chose a new name to symbolize this new chapter of their life in Christ. Choosing a Confirmation name is a great honor and allows you to choose a name that means something to you as you are now.

What kind of name should I choose?

Archbishop ListECKI, asks that it be the name of a Saint. These are all different kinds of people who lived exceptional lives. They each boldly witnessed God’s love for the world in a unique way – so look for someone you relate to and/or are inspired by. You may wish to choose the patron saint of a particular area of interest. Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life – occupations, illnesses, causes – anything that is important to us. For example, Francis of Assisi loved nature and so he is patron of ecologists. Francis de Sales was a writer so he is patron of journalists and writers. There are patrons for pretty much everything, so I’m confident you’ll find someone that connects with your life.

Confirmation Names - Guidelines from our Bishops

Candidates may use their baptismal name or another Christian name when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- A Christian name would be the name of a saint or blessed.
- Derivatives of names (Kelly for Catherine; Jenna for Genevieve) or Old Testament names are also appropriate.
- Candidates may use their first or second names if they are Christian names, or they may select a new Christian name.
- Exceptions can be made if a particular non-Christian or family name has significant meaning for a candidate that can be articulated to the bishop.
- Most importantly, candidates should be encouraged to learn about their patron as part of their preparation for the sacrament and should particularly focus on the virtues of their patron they wish to emulate.

St. Mary’s Visitation Confirmation Name Form 2020-2021

Legal First Name

Legal Middle Name

Legal Last Name

Confirmation Name

Saint Named After

Example: [Therese -- Saint Therese of Lisieux]

Confirmation Name Questions

- Don't think of this as an essay or paper for school; rather, view it as more of a journal entry.
 - Please type. No need to write more than a page.
1. Which Saint did you choose? Where was she/he from? What time period?
 - a. Were they the patron saint of something personally relevant to you? Did the way she/he lived resonate with you? Is the saint's name, a family name?
 - b. What's the origin of this name?
 2. What name did you choose? Why?
 3. If there are multiple saints by that name, make it clear which one you mean. If the Saint has a subtitle (such as "Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower of Jesus"), include it because that will help clarify who you are talking about.
 4. What do you admire about this Saint?
 5. Name a few positive characteristics (virtues) that she/he exemplified. (i.e. courage, compassion, perseverance, etc.)
 6. Why do you need those same virtues today?

Please turn your responses and your Confirmation Name Form to Youth Minister, by December 1, 2020.

THE ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

A sponsor should play an important role in preparing the candidate for Confirmation, is required to participate in the Confirmation ceremony, and should serve as a guide and role model afterward in the life long journey toward Christ.

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents. Although one of the Confirmation candidate's godparents is the ideal, this is not the only choice. (CCC 1311)

Like the godparents chosen at Baptism, sponsors "must be firm believers, able and ready to help (the Confirmed) on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function....bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism." (CCC 1255)

Like parents and godparents, they share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them. Because our life on earth is "a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart" (Pope John Paul II, *The Trinity's Embrace*), the sponsor should be a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith. This is evident in a person who spends time in daily prayer and frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor's heart reflects the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

Specifically, sponsors must:

- Commit time to help prepare the Candidate for Confirmation(online study)
- Attend all Sponsor/Candidate Confirmation Formation Sessions with teen.
- Write a letter to the Candidate encouraging them in their faith.
- Attend Mass with Candidate when possible.
- If possible, participate in some form of community service activity with the Candidate.
- Attend Confirmation rehearsal and Confirmation ceremony.
- Be available to guide the confirmed after Confirmation.
- Encourage the confirmed to practice their faith by frequenting the sacraments, serving as a good example to society, and living up to their commitment to spread and defend the faith.

Pages 10 & 11 - Signing the Confirmation Sponsors Certificate indicates that the sponsor meets the following expectations: 1. Must be at least 16 years of age. 2. Received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church. 3. Attend Mass regularly on Sundays and on the Holy Days of Obligation 4. Receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion regularly. 5. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church. 6. Follows the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. 7. Not be the parent of the candidate to be confirmed. 8. A stand-in or proxy may be used; but a proxy must meet these same expectations and have this form completed and signed by parish priest.

REQUIRED FOR CANDIDATES & SPONSORS:

- *Online/pre-recorded - **Morality** – Father Peter Berger*
- *Online/pre-recorded- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** – Father John Gibson*
- *Online/pre-recorded – **Vocations.**- Father Justin Weber*
- *Online/pre-recorded - **Praying from the Heart** – John Paul Shimek*

Confirmation Rehearsal and Liturgy

Friday, February 26 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, February 27th at 10:00 am

Sponsor/Proxy and Candidates expected to attend

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting suggestions:

You should plan to begin meeting with your candidate right away! By January 1, 2021, sponsors and candidates should have met at least four times. These meeting should include the four online pre-recorded talk discussion notes and any of the other items listed below.

Sponsor/candidate meeting ideas:

- Attend Mass at a Catholic Church together (go out for a meal afterwards)
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Attend a Reconciliation service
- Make and share dinner together
- Read Scripture together
- Do a service project together
- Discuss questions of the faith
- Discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom- the ability to see things as they truly are in an open-minded manner

·Who would be an example of a wise person?

Understanding- a heart that accepts, cares, listens, understands and forgives

·What situation might call for the gift of understanding?

·Name three people you with whom need to be more understanding

Knowledge- the ability to comprehend the truths of the universe

·What are your areas of strength, what do you feel you have a lot of knowledge about?

·What would you like to learn more about?

Counsel- the ability to make good and wise decisions

·What situations cause each of us to really use right judgment?

·Tell about a good or bad decision you made that has had long-range consequences.

Courage- the strength to do what is right in spite of challenges

·Who do you know who can always be counted on to stand up for their moral convictions?

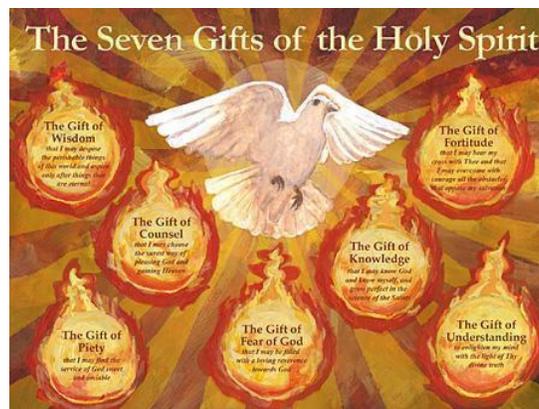
·Tell about a time when you did (or did not) stand up for yours.

Piety- a deep respect for God, for others and for all creation

·What are examples of Reverence when you think about family members?

Fear of the Lord- a sense of the greatness and majesty of God coupled with a deep realization of God's nearness

·Tell about a special event in your life (or in your family experience) that made you realize that God was present for you.



Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

(due by December 1, 2020)

Confirmation Candidate Name _____

Name of Sponsor _____

Address of Sponsor _____

Sponsor's Phone Number _____

Sponsor's Email Address _____

Sponsor, please read and initial the following - I affirm that:

_____ I am at least 16 years old and am not the mother or father of the Confirmation candidate.

_____ I have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

_____ I am a registered member of my parish. I regularly participate in Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist. If/when possible, I will attend Sunday Masses with my candidate.

_____ I will participate in my parish community through giving my time, talent, and/or treasure.

_____ I will actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the parish life of the Church by my interest, support and loving response to those I meet in daily life.

_____ I will give my support to the person I am sponsoring and to his/her parents by my prayers and by the example of my Catholic faith as practiced in my daily life.

_____ I will have one-on-one meetings with the Confirmation Candidate, at least four total, to discuss faith issues and/or questions arising from their formal studies and preparation for the sacrament.

_____ I will be present at the Confirmation rehearsal and celebration of Confirmation.

Signature of the Sponsor _____

Date: _____

[PLEASE TURN OVER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION]

Statement of Parish Priest Certification:

(If sponsor is registered at St. Mary Visitation Parish, please return the form without a priest's signature and it will be given to Father Peter)

This is to certify that _____ (Name of sponsor) is to the best of my knowledge:

- A registered member of this parish
- A regular participant at Sunday Mass
- A Catholic in good standing according to the laws of the Church

Pastor's Name _____

Pastor's Signature _____

Date _____

Parish _____

Parish address _____

Please affix Church Seal

Completed *Confirmation Sponsor Certificate* may be faxed, mailed or dropped off at parish office, or given to Co-Director of Catholic Formation by **December 1, 2020.**

St. Mary's Visitation Parish
Attn: Elizabeth Harrison,
Co-Director of Catholic Formation
1260 Church Street
Elm Grove, WI 53122

Sponsor Record of Meetings 2020-2021

Due February 1, 2020

Candidate Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Please keep a record of the times you and your candidate get together to discuss Confirmation. We ask that this be turned in with your *Recommendation of Candidate* letter which is due no later than **February 1, 2021**.

Meeting #1

Date: _____

Place: _____

What did you do? _____

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

Meeting #2

Date: _____

Place: _____

What did you do? _____

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

Meeting #3

Date: _____

Place: _____

What did you do? _____

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

Meeting #4

Date: _____

Place: _____

What did you do? _____

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

Recommendation of Candidate by Sponsor 2020-2021

Due February 1, 2020

Please write a short recommendation letter for your candidate. Please turn it in, along with the *Record of Meetings* form no later than **January 20, 2021**. You may include the following:

- Note the growth of faith and relationship with God of the candidate throughout his/her Confirmation year and any significant points of transformation.
- Affirm the gifts/talents that you see in the candidate that will help build up the Church and the Kingdom of God.
- State why you feel the candidate is ready for Confirmation.

Here is an example format for the Recommendation of Candidate letter:

I, _____ (sponsor's name) recommend
_____ (candidate's name) for Confirmation. He/She has
grown in their relationship with God in knowledge and love in this
manner: _____

He/She has also shown gifts/talents in the following ways:

_____ in furthering the kingdom of God and building up the Church. I
consider him/her to be ready for Confirmation and open to all the Holy Spirit has for his/her
life by virtue and example.

_____ (Your signature) Date: _____