

Family Information Packet For Confirmation

St. Francis Xavier
Catholic Church

Confirmation Important Dates

Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 - CCD Saint Report Due

Wednesday, February 17, 2021- Sponsor interview page 4 sheet is due.

Saturday, March 6, 2021 - Mandatory Confirmation Retreat – This will be held at St. Francis Xavier and facilitated by Mrs. Sieja and Mrs. Bauer

Time: 10:00 – 4 p.m.

Cost for Retreat: \$10.00 per student

Agenda:

10:00 a.m. -12 p.m.—Confirmation Retreat lessons and discussions.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch with sponsors in the Father Nardecchia Hall (gym)

1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.- Confirmation Retreat lessons and discussions

3:30-4:00 p.m. - Confessions at 3:30-400 p.m.

4:00 p.m. Mass with family

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 - Works of Mercy Project Due – this form must be filled out by the student. With acts done for others outside of immediate family. Service to others.

Wednesday, 31, 2021- Confirmation Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 3, 2021 – Location to be determined: time: TBA Easter Vigil Mass

Expectations of Confirmation Sponsors

1. Get to know your confirmation candidate.
2. Be a good role model.
3. Be available to answer questions or offer guidance throughout life.
4. Assist your candidate with Works of Mercy - not only this year, but throughout your lives.
5. If possible, attend practice.

Sponsor Requirements

1. Must be baptized, confirmed, and have received First Eucharist.
2. Must be at least 16 years old.
3. Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.
4. Parents are not allowed to be sponsors; however, they are encouraged to take an active part in confirmation preparation.
5. Pray for your confirmand.
 - Should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment.
 - Should support the confirmandi in their commitment to a Christian life.
 - Support the candidate to grow in a faith relationship.
 - May be either male or female for any candidate.
 - May be a baptismal Godparent.
 - Should know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence for the candidate.
 - Must belong to the Catholic Church and be fully initiated.
 - Non-Catholics cannot be sponsors.

Confirmation Names

When the candidate chooses to take a new name for confirmation, the name selected should honor Jesus or Mary, or from the list of recognized Saints of the Catholic Church. Names of Saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life or virtues can be imitated, someone that they can relate to.

If the candidate's given name is a Saint name, they may use that name.

Acceptable websites to find a Saint:

Catholic.org

Catholicsaints.info

Catholicsupply.com

Some question asked early on...

Attire for confirmation (Taken exactly from the Diocesan Guidelines)

For the liturgy of Confirmation, the candidates and their sponsors should wear “appropriate attire”. Contemporary society does not provide much guidance as to what is truly “appropriate,” so some specific direction needs to be given.

The U.S. Bishops state that “as Christians we should dress in a modest manner, wearing clothing that reflects our reverence for God and that manifest our respect for the dignity of the liturgy and for one another” (Happy Are Those Who Are Called to His Supper, p. 15)

Jeans, shorts, tennis shoes, and flip flops are not appropriate. Girls shoulders should be covered. If they wear sleeveless or spaghetti strap dresses, then they are to wear a sweater, cover-up, or shawl as well throughout the entire Mass.

Boys: Dress shirt with tie, sport coat/suit jacket, dress pants, dress shoes and socks, and belt.

Girls: Dress, skirt, or dress pants that are at least knee length and modestly cut at the top. Shoulders need to be covered. Dress shoes must be worn. High heels can be worn if the girl is comfortable walking in them. Sandals can be worn if they have a strap around the back of the ankle.

Candidates should also wear a name tag with their confirmation name clearly printed and visible to the celebrant. It is helpful to have the candidates wear the name tags in the same place so that the celebrant knows where to look. Confirmation names should be reviewed for a Christian significance. The candidate’s names should not be called out. (Name tag will be provided.)

If you are not sure about an item of clothing, it is probably not a good choice. Please be safe and choose a more modest approach.

Once a student chooses a Saint name, they will need to write a report on their Saint. Some Saints have a lot of information known about them and some have very little. The report must include the following information (if known):

Name of Saint

Dates of birth/death

What they did in life to make them Saint-worthy

Why you chose this Saint as your confirmation name

How you can imitate your Saint to become holier

The Saint's Parents' names

General background information on the Saint

Any other facts that you find interesting

Confirmation - General Information

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration that provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation is a time in the parish when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

The Rite of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated within a Mass. It begins after the Liturgy of the Word and is presided over by the bishop or someone whom he designates. The four parts are: renewal of baptismal promises, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and sign of peace.

Candidates for Confirmation

- Must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- Must be in the state of grace
- Must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and participate in learning sessions
- Must be practicing their faith
- Should attend Mass and receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- Are responsible for completing all requirements
- Must be aware of the Sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion
- Must be willing to participate in the program, prayer, retreat, sacrament of reconciliation, etc.

Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. We must work to get these gifts and pray that God will help us receive them throughout our lives. The candidates need to know the following:

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- Wisdom**-To see things as God sees them
- Understanding** - Insights into the mysteries of faith
- Knowledge** - To see everything in relation to God and eternity
- Counsel** - To make correct decisions about God's will for our lives
- Fortitude** - The strength to be faithful to Christ when it is difficult
- Piety** - To worship God and love Him as our Father
- Fear of the Lord** - To see the evil of sin and the goodness of God

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit come to us naturally from God especially after we work on receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are:

- Charity** - Love for God and for others
- Joy** - Happiness in living the Christian life
- Peace** - Inner calmness, even in difficulties
- Patience** - Bearing the difficulties of life with resignation to God's will
- Kindness** - Sympathy and concern for others that moves us to help them
- Goodness** - Giving good example in all that we do
- Generosity** - Willingness to share our time and possessions with those in need
- Gentleness** - Being gentle in our words and deeds toward others
- Faithfulness** - Loyalty to God and the people we are committed to
- Modesty** - Respecting ourselves and others in conversations, dress, etc.
- Self-Control** - Proper balance in our desire for pleasure
- Chastity** - Proper attitude toward others and control over our sexual desires

Effects of Service on Youth

In Building Bridges: Teens in Community Service, researchers have shown the many positive benefits of youth service involvement. Some of the benefits of service to young people are:

- Building skills: improving young people's critical thinking, leadership, and communication skills
- Enhancing self-esteem and personal responsibility: positively influencing social development; giving young people a sense of being a contributing part to something bigger than themselves
- Promoting positive values: relational skills, ability to empathize and consider new perspectives
- Helping others: providing needed assistance to school and community groups

- Building bridges across barriers: building understanding and empathy across intergenerational and social lines
- Reduces risky behavior: reduces the likelihood of at-risk behavior

Works of Mercy Reflection Sheet

In order to live as Christ did, one must practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Instead of performing a set number of service hours, students are encouraged to perform each of the works of mercy as a chance to show them how they should live their lives. They must fill out the Works of Mercy Reflection Sheet to show that they understand both the works of mercy and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. The works of mercy should be continued throughout their lives - not just as part of the confirmation preparation period.

Clearly, students cannot visit the imprisoned, however, they may visit those who are in a nursing home as they are comparable to the imprisoned.

Also, they cannot bury the dead, but they can send a card to the family of someone who has died, or serve at a funeral Mass.

Please encourage your child to be creative to make someone else's life a little better.

**Sacrament of Confirmation
Candidate/Sponsor Information Form**

Please return this form to Mrs. Monica Sieja by, January 20, 2021

Candidate's Name

Father's Name

Mother's Name _____ **Maiden Name** _____

Address _____

Phone

Number _____ **Email** _____

School Student is

Attending _____ **Grade** _____

Candidate's Birth Date _____ **City/State of**
Birth _____

Church, City, State of

Baptism _____

Church, City, State of First Eucharist (If other than St. Francis
Xavier) _____

Our Family is a registered member of ST. Francis Xavier Church or

Other _____

Sponsor

Name _____

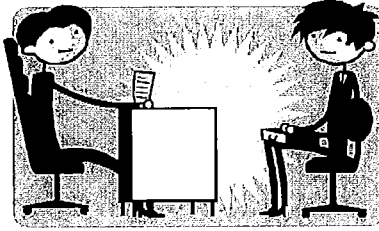
Sponsor

Parish _____

Must have proof of Baptism if baptized anywhere other than St. Francis Xavier Church. (All sacramental records are kept at the church of baptism, so we need to send the church a record of Confirmation.)

St. Francis Xavier Church
Monica Sieja ~ Coordinator of Religious Education
25 W. Perry St., Willard, OH 44890- 419-935-1149

Walking Together #1: Interviewing Your Confirmation Sponsor



Now that you have chosen your sponsor, it is time to spend a little more time with him/her to really get to know more about his/her faith journey. After all, the life-long role of your sponsor is to walk with you and support you on your own faith journey! You may find that you already know a lot or that there is a lot that you can learn!

Sometime during January, please set up a time to meet with your sponsor to “interview” him/her. It would be **best** to meet with your sponsor in person, but if this is not possible, because your sponsor lives out of town, you can interview your sponsor by phone or by computer facetime. You can meet at your house or your sponsor’s house; you could meet for breakfast, lunch, or dinner; you could go for a walk together. **BE CREATIVE!**

You should plan to meet with your sponsor for **at least one hour** for this meeting. But feel free to meet for as long as you would like or multiple times!

Although you will be asking your sponsor questions in the format of an interview, your meeting should really be a discussion, with you adding your own insights and thoughts to the conversation. **AND YOU NEED TO INVITE YOUR SPONSOR TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS TOO!** (Your sponsor can ask you questions from the list on the next page or he/she can ask some of his/her own.) You are also welcome to ask your sponsor a question that is not included in the list! The questions are there to guide your discussion. **You do not need to get through all of the questions, but feel free to do so!**

- ✦ Start your meeting by praying together! Say the Our Father.
- ✦ At the end of your meeting, write your name and the date at the top of page 4. Write your sponsor’s name and then have your sponsor sign it.
- ✦ You will need to write short answers to the reflection questions on page 4 sometime after meeting with your sponsor (NOT while you are meeting with your sponsor).

YOU WILL TURN IN PAGE 4 OF THIS PACKET- on February 17, 2021



Twenty Questions to Ask Your Confirmation Sponsor

1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA program? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult.
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
5. Do you have a favorite saint (or favorite saints)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
6. How do you define the word “holy”? Do you know people in your life that you would describe as “holy”? Do you think anyone describes you as “holy”? How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
7. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic—perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith or a time when you struggled to believe in the teachings of your Catholic faith. What did you do to “keep your faith” or find answers to your questions during these times.
8. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week (or maybe every day) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? What do you think caused the change?
9. What is your understanding of what it means “to sin”? What does “forgiveness” mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
10. One very special aspect of our Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell me about your own feelings and thoughts about and experiences with this Sacrament. Is it difficult for you to celebrate this Sacrament or was there a time when it was? What kind of preparations do you find helpful before you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

11. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, who do you usually pray to: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mary, a particular saint? Who or what do you usually pray for?

12. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or in your neighborhood?
Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.

13. How would you answer someone who told you that “Catholics worship Mary”?
Who do you turn to or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?

14. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.

15. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God. Tell me about it and how you kept your faith in the end.

16. Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your Catholic faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?

17. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?

18. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Tell me why.

19. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism:

Wisdom	Understanding
Right Judgment (Counsel)	Courage (Fortitude)
Knowledge	Reverence (Piety)
Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)	

are strengthened and increased within each of us. These seven special gifts represent all of the gifts and blessings that God gives us to lead a good and holy life. They are special graces that are given to us through the Holy Spirit to enable us to respond to God’s call to holiness.

Reflecting back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you used a lot? Which gift do you need to use more?

20. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

***Don’t forget to ask any of your own questions!
AND REMEMBER- Your sponsor should ask you a few too!***

St. Francis Xavier Confirmation 2021 Walking Together Activity #1 Form

*This form must be completed and turned in at
our February 17, 2021.*

Confirmation Candidate's Name: _____
(Please print first and last name)

Date Sponsor Meeting #1 Occurred: ____/____/____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

* If the interview took place by phone or computer meeting, parent may sign for sponsor.

DIRECTIONS:

Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during your meeting?

2. Write about one story or experience that your sponsor shared that you felt showed that he/she was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation to live a life of holiness.

3. Did you make a good choice of who you asked to serve as your Confirmation sponsor? If you are not sure if you did, pray about it, talk to your parents, and feel free to talk to Mrs. Sieja about your decision and where to go from here.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your Love.

Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created; and You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray:

O God, Who teaches the hearts of Your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and forever to rejoice in His holy comfort.



Works of Mercy

Confirmation Reflection Sheet



Living as a Disciple of Christ means living the works of mercy. As part of your Confirmation preparation, you are to perform each of the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy. You are to write a reflection on each work of mercy performed. Include how it connects with being a Disciple of Christ and what connection these may have with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more room.

Work of Mercy	Reflection
Feed the hungry	
Give drink to the thirsty	
Clothe the naked	
Visit the imprisoned	
Shelter the homeless	
Visit the Sick	
Bury the dead	

Work of Mercy	Reflection
Admonish the sinner	
Instruct the ignorant	
Counsel the doubtful	
Comfort the sorrowful	
Bear wrongs patiently	
Forgive all injuries	
Pray for the living and the dead	

Gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel (right judgment), fortitude (courage), knowledge, piety (reverence), fear of the Lord (wonder & awe)

Fruits of the Holy Spirit—charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity



Confirmation Covenant

I promise, as a Confirmation Candidate of St. Francis Xavier Parish, to fulfill the requirements for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation as best I can. These requirements are:

- *to participate in our weekly classes*
- *treat others in my class with respect*
- *meet with my sponsor three times*
- *do all class assignments*
- *complete my service*
- *attend week-end mass*
- *attend the Confirmation retreats*
- *prepare for and complete my Confirmation interview*
- *do my saint, service report and letter to Fr. George*

I ask that the Holy Spirit walk with me on this journey so that I may grow closer to God, my family, and my church community.

I sign this covenant as a symbol of my commitment to this portion of my journey in faith.

Signature

Date

I promise, as a parent of a Confirmation Candidate, to support and encourage my son or daughter in the journey of faith to full initiation in the Catholic Church by:

- *making confirmation preparation a priority in our family during this year*
- *attending mass each week-end*
- *taking an active interest in the material being covered in class and with their sponsors*
- *assisting my son or daughter in meeting their above commitments and all expectation of the Confirmation candidates*
- *reading all mailings and correspondence from the CRE of St. Francis Xavier and by responding to all requested material by the date requested*
- *sharing in the joy and excitement of this special time in the life of my son or daughter – as they will only be Confirmed once!*

I sign this covenant as a symbol of my commitment to walk this journey in faith with my son or daughter.

Signature

Date