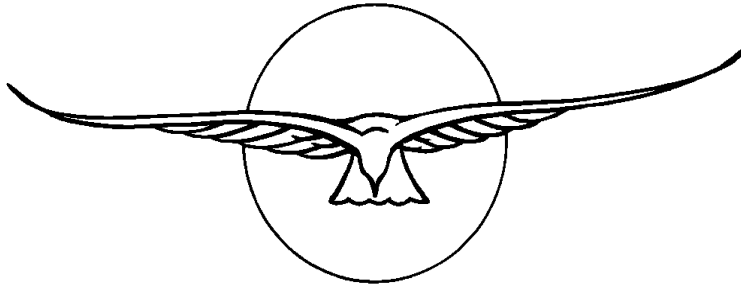


CONFIRMATION

2022 - 2023



Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 5:00 PM and be administered by Abbot Gary Hoover. Before that date, all of the paperwork must have been submitted to Mr. Steve Dutkiewicz or Mrs. Darlene Bednarz.

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The word initiation refers to the formal process of joining an organization or a chosen way of life. Together these three sacraments initiate Catholics into an ever-growing relationship with Christ and his Church.

Through Baptism, we are reborn as we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit for the first time. We are born to a new life in faith. Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism. In Confirmation we receive a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit, which seals or perfects the grace of Baptism. Confirmation, as it is in Baptism, is so powerful that it imprints us with a special spiritual mark. That is why Confirmation, like Baptism, can be received only once.

Preparation for Confirmation is part of a total formational process which flows from Baptism and leads to ongoing discipleship.

The Confirmation process has three phases:

I - Preparation

II - Celebration

III - Mystagogy

- During all phases, systematic catechesis is ongoing. Faith formation prior to the immediate preparation phases enables the candidate to have sufficient knowledge about the Catholic faith to discern whether to proceed with further preparation.
- At least one year of ongoing catechesis directly preceding immediate preparation for the sacrament is required.
- Following the celebration of the sacrament, involvement in mystagogy and the life of the community continues the lifelong journey of faith development.

This handbook includes the information and forms needed to prepare a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please read it carefully and refer to the PSR/JYM and Eighth Grade Sacramental schedules for the dates and times of JYM and Confirmation sessions, retreat, parent meetings, liturgies and special events. If you have questions or concerns about preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please call me at (330) 659-6321 - [REO – Religious Education Office] or Email me at: stvictorpsr@roadrunner.com.

Sincerely,
Darlene Bednarz, Pastoral Associate/DRE

I - PREPARATION

Preparation for Confirmation begins in grade seven with the “We Live Our Faith As Disciples” Program published by Sadlier and continues through grade eight with the “Christ In Us” Program published by Sadlier and the Confirmation “Confirmation for Teens” Program by Debbie Repp. Key topics are covered in the two-year program to prepare candidates for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. **It is important that the candidates attend all scheduled JYM sessions and retreats so please make every effort to do so. In this particular year, some sessions may be virtual and adequate time will be given for your student to complete the assignment.**

Confirmation Program Curriculum

Believe, Celebrate, Live Confirmation

The Confirmation Program Curriculum includes family-based sessions using some of the text from *Confirmation for Teens*. Sessions will be held during scheduled Families of Faith Sessions on Sunday mornings and will be led by our grade 8 catechists or Mrs. Bednarz.

The dates are:

- Sunday, November 6, 2022 – students, parents and/or sponsors. **RMS Cafeteria**
- Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022 - students, parents and/or sponsors. – RMS Cafeteria
- Sunday, January 8, 2023 - students, parents and/or sponsors. RMS Cafeteria
- Sunday, February 5, 2023-students, parents and/or sponsors. RMS Cafeteria
- Sunday, March 19, 2023 – Students, parents and/or sponsors. RMS Cafeteria
- Sunday, April 16, 2023 – Students, parents. St. Victor Church for tour
- Sunday, April 23, 2023 – Students, parents and/or sponsors. RMS Cafeteria

The objectives of the program are to help teens:

- Understand the significance of being a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation and explore what is expected of Confirmation candidates
- Explore the life-giving and the destructive power of water and the significance of this for understanding the meaning of Baptism and understand the effects of Baptism
- Understand the meaning of the renunciation of sin and the profession of faith that are part of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and reflect on the significance of renewing one's Baptismal Promises as part of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Examine the meaning of the ritual gesture of the laying on of hands and understand the meaning of the Holy Spirit in their lives today
- Understand the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and recognize the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives
- Explore the connection between being anointed with Chrism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and understand how Confirmation makes them more like Christ
- Understand that Confirmation leads us to the Eucharist and outward to mission and grasp the connection among the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – and the Paschal Mystery
- Identify what they need to do for final preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and reflect on one of the Scripture readings for the celebration of Confirmation and consider its meaning for their lives

EACH CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN PARISH LIFE INCLUDING:

LITURGIES: Candidates should attend Mass and receive Eucharist weekly. Participating actively and consciously in the celebration of the Mass is part of being a faithful Catholic Christian.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) may be celebrated in the Gathering Room on Sunday at the 8:45 am Mass during the PSR/JYM year. Right now we are searching for a CLOW leader. Each confirmation candidate **is asked to volunteer at least once** as an aide to. Please check the Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule in the Gathering Room and sign up for a Sunday that is convenient for you.

Ash Wednesday Mass – Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM: Candidates attending this Mass will help as lector, altar servers or participate in the Offertory Procession.

Communal Penance Service –It is recommended that confirmation candidates receive the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Watch the parish bulletin for the date.

Confirmation Retreat – Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 11:00AM until 6:00PM in the Church Hall. All Confirmation candidates **must attend** a Confirmation Retreat. If they cannot make it on that day, please contact Darlene Bednarz, DRE **immediately** so that she can assist you in planning for the candidate to attend a Confirmation Retreat with a neighboring parish. It will be your obligation to contact that parish for dates and permission.

Mass following the Confirmation Retreat – Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 5:00 PM: Candidates attending this Mass will help out as lectors, altar servers or participate in the Offertory Procession. Parents and sponsors are asked to join candidates for this Mass.

PARISH SOCIALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS: Participating in parish socials and special events helps build community in the parish and is an important part of parish life. It is recommended that candidates participate in some of these events to experience the fullness of parish life.

(Should return soon) Donut Sundays: Candidates along with at least one parent can volunteer their time at a Donut Sunday scheduled for the 11:30 Mass. There are sign-up sheets in the Donut Sunday Binder in the Gathering Room. Please sign-up if you would like to help with a Donut Sunday. Candidates volunteering for Donut Sunday should arrive prior to the 11:30 Mass to begin setting up and turn on the coffee pot. There are instructions for set up, serving and clean up in a folder in the Lending Library/Bridal Suite. Donuts and all supplies are furnished by St. Victor and will be in the Gathering Room and Lending Library/Bridal Suite.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE: *“So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master’, and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”* John 13:12-15; 15:12-14

By virtue of our baptism, we are called to be Disciples of Christ and to serve one another. Participating in a Christian Service Project gives candidates the opportunity to work for justice and to give of oneself, helping them to develop a good habit of giving generously and consistently to others. Candidates will be asked to participate in a service project that falls under one or more of the *Corporal Works of Mercy*.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feeding the hungry
Sheltering the homeless
Clothing the naked
Visiting the sick (and imprisoned)
Burying the dead

Saint Victor Parish - Children’s Liturgy of the Word Guidelines for Student Volunteers

- 1** **Before Mass** check in with the CLW Adult Leader when you first arrive.
- 2** **The Children’s Lectionary** is located on the CLW Table in the Gathering Room.
- 3** **The CLW Adult Leader** will carry the Children’s Lectionary in the entrance procession along with the Adult Mass Lector (side by side). You as Volunteer for the Children’s Liturgy of the Word will also be a part of the entrance procession. After the CLW Adult Leader reaches the altar, bows, and stands the Lectionary on the right-hand corner of the altar, you and the CLW Adult Leader will sit in the front pew on the right-hand side.
- 4** **Father Corrigan** will call the CLW Adult Leader and volunteer up after the opening prayer. At this time, the CLW Adult Leader will approach the altar and take the Children’s Lectionary, hold it up and face the assembly as Father Corrigan invites the children to come forward.

- 5** **The Music Minister** will play a special song as the CLW Adult Leader, holding the Children's Lectionary up, leads the children into the Gathering Room. The volunteer will follow the last child in the procession.
- 6** **When you get to the Gathering Room** the CLW Adult Leader will close the doors and turn down the microphone (the switch is in the west corner of the Gathering Room behind the fire extinguisher). You as the volunteer will gather the children near the CLW Table. The CLW Adult Leader might begin with the opening prayer. The volunteer assists the CLW Adult Leader by following their directions.
- 7** **Before leaving the Gathering Room:** the doors should be opened, and the microphone switch should be turned all the way on. The Children's Lectionary can be left on the CLW Table.
- 8** **Children return to Parents.** Children return to their parents after the Prayers of the Faithful. They follow parishioners who are presenting the gifts. **However, the children themselves do not bear the gifts.** Instruct the children to join their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Saint Victor provides the items needed each week for CLW. You do not need to bring anything with you – except for your notes. The CLW table in the Gathering Area will be set up before you arrive
 - **If the assigned CLW Adult Leader is unavailable,** an adult or older sibling (over the age of 18) needs to be present for CLW with the 8th grade student. It is okay to have two (2) students be a team – but, at least one adult must be present.
 - About one (1) week before the date you signed-up for – Sue Heckel, Program Coordinator, will email you copies of the readings, a copy of the instruction, a copy of the prayer and order of worship which is a step by step guide on what to do.

Confirmation Forms – Due Dates

Sunday, November 6, 2022

- ❖ **Confirmation Application** with student and parent reflection. This is your official request to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Sunday, December 4, 2022

- ❖ **Saints Survey**

Sunday, January 8, 2023

- ❖ **Sponsor Form** this is your official request to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ❖ **Sponsor's Letter** from their Parish
 - (no letter needed if sponsor is a parishioner of Saint Victor)

Sunday, February 5, 2023:

- ❖ **Candidate's Chosen Confirmation Name Form**
 - (attach your Name Chosen Reflection Paper to this form)
- ❖ **Certificate Name Form**

Sunday, February 26, 2023:

- ❖ **Confirmation Retreat RSVP Form**

Sunday, April 16, 2023:

- ❖ **Service Hours Verification Form** with authorized signature
- ❖ **Reflection on Service Paper**
 - (attach to the Service Hours Verification Form)

II - CELEBRATION

Practice for the Celebration of Confirmation is on Monday, April 24, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in the Church. Parents, candidates and sponsors are required to attend. Parents can fill in for out-of-town sponsors.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the 5:00 PM Mass and be administered by Abbot Gary Hoover.

III - MYSTAGOGY

The Greek term “Mystagogy” implies a continuing of a journey. With the grace of Baptism and Confirmation, you will be ready to continue your lifelong journey in faith. You will be ready to grow ever more aware of the presence and power of Jesus in your life and to become ever more completely a part of the life of the Church. With all the baptized, you have been called to strive for holiness and to become saints.

Holy Spirit Empower Us



**Lord, you empower only us –
the human beings of this world –
with the gifts of your Holy Spirit,
yet we so often claim we can't do great things
because we are only human.**

**Forgive us, for using our humanity
as an excuse for not sharing your love
and doing your work.**

**Open our hearts to your Spirit,
so that we will use our humanity
to make Christ present
and active in our lives.**

**Help us relive the transformation
of the apostles on Pentecost
to enable us to use our gifts and talents
openly and courageously in your name.**

**Guide us toward making our world a better place
by realizing our human potential
and aiding the development of that potential in others.**

**Grant us a “daybreak” in which we can illuminate
the world with our Spirit.**

**Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,
against all odds and forever,
in our quest for you.**

Amen