



23 STUDENT MINISTRIES CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

"...BY THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION, [THE BAPTIZED] ARE MORE PERFECTLY BOUND TO THE CHURCH AND ARE ENRICHED WITH A SPECIAL STRENGTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HENCE THEY ARE, AS TRUE WITNESSES OF CHRIST, MORE STRICTLY OBLIGED TO SPREAD AND DEFEND THE FAITH BY WORD AND DEED." - CCC 1285



A FAMILY AFFAIR

“TIME FOR FAMILY PRAYER, WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY MASS AND HONEST FAITH SHARING WITH YOUR CHILD WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO THEIR GROWTH DURING THIS PROCESS.”

Michael Puppas
Confirmation Coordinator
23STUDENT MINISTRIES

Welcome to the exciting journey of Confirmation preparation! I am eager to begin this year's program and look forward to getting to know your families. The Sacrament of Confirmation is an exciting time in a Catholic's life to become a fully initiated member of the church. In many ways people see this as a “graduation” from religious education, but this perception couldn't be more incorrect. In reality, Confirmation is a springboard with which a candidate simply begins the next chapter as an adult member of the church and the continual journey of faith formation that happens throughout all of life.

Speaking of which, I hope you see this year as an opportunity for your entire family to grow in faith and not simply a place to drop off your child a few times a month. It is my hope that our programming will become a source for the real conversation and formation to take place in each of your homes over the next nine months. Time for family prayer, weekly attendance at Sunday Mass and honest faith sharing with your child will be essential to their growth during this process.

In an effort to keep all of the information you will need over the next nine months in one convenient location, we have compiled this handbook for your reference. Please keep this in a safe place so you can refer to it throughout the course of the program. If any dates or information change, please check your e-mail on a regular basis to ensure you are receiving the latest updates from me. Please carefully read through all of the information in this booklet and if you have questions, contact me at anytime in the parish office or via e-mail.



BUILDING COMMUNITY



ROOTED IN FAITH



NEW: ADULT GROUP

23STUDENT MINISTRIES

INTRODUCING ALPHA



Asking Life's Biggest Questions *September - December*

FACT: Confirmation is an important time in a Catholic's life.

FICTION: Confirmation is a time to teach middle school students everything they could ever hope to learn about the Catholic faith.

As we prayed and brainstormed about our hopes and dreams for this year, it became eminently clear that we have three goals that we hope to achieve:

- 1) That the teens will enter more deeply into a relationship with God, who already unconditionally loves them.
- 2) They will get connected with the church community and with each other so that they desire to come back after Confirmation.
- 3) That they will have have mentors (sponsors and CORE members) that can share their faith and walk this journey along their side.

To achieve these goals, this year we are introducing the Alpha program.

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha runs in church buildings, restaurants, coffee shops and homes all around the globe. Alpha includes food, a short talk and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment.

Some of our Alpha nights will be hosted in homes (refer to page 8). Small group leaders will contact parents to see who is willing to host.

Something for Parents

This year we are excited to offer an Alpha group designed specifically for parents that would like to grow alongside their teen. The adult group will meet separately from the eighth graders on the same nights as Confirmation gatherings. (September - December only)

HELPFUL INFORMATION

➔ Meet & Greets

Students will participate in an Meet & Greet along with their parents (both if possible) to get to know members of the team.

Please supply a copy of the candidate's (teen's) baptismal certificate at the entrance interview if it is not already on file at the parish.

Note: We would only have a copy on file at the parish if the student received their First Eucharist at our parish.

To sign up for a Meet & Greet, please visit the parish website: www.stjohn23.org/confirmation

➔ Selecting a Confirmation Name

If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation, however, it should be a name selected in honor of 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.

➔ Confirmation Retreat November 17-18, 2017

All students in the Confirmation program will be required to participate in a retreat prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat will take place overnight at the Wide Water Retreat Center located at 4050 Old US 24 Liberty Center, OH 43532.

Teens will report to camp at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, and we will conclude with Mass at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 18.

Families and sponsors are highly encouraged to attend the closing Mass.

Since Confirmation is a once in a lifetime experience, all other commitments will need to be postponed during this time.

RETREAT FEE: \$90



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH *January - April*

When we return after Christmas break, we will dive into the specific topics that are important to our Catholic faith like the four Marks of the Church, Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, morality, chastity and more.

That will springboard us into a more focused conversation about the Sacrament of Confirmation and why it is important to their spiritual lives. We'll discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they will be sealed with and the fruits of the Holy Spirit that should enrich their lives.

We will conclude with a wrap-up party to welcome the teens to the High School Ministry (HSM).



23STUDENT MINISTRIES

HELPFUL INFORMATION

➔ Reconciliation Service

Reception of Confirmation calls for the candidates to be “properly disposed” (Canon 889). The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that “to receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit...” (no. 1310).

Teens will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6:30 p.m., **Wednesday, February 21**. We hope that all family members (who have made their first Reconciliation) and sponsors will join us and participate too!

➔ 30 Hour Famine February 23-24, 2018

Each year, middle school students from our parish gather to experience hunger, raise money to feed families in third world countries, and do service in the local community.

Students will begin their fast after lunch at school on Friday, February 23 and will report to the Parish Life Center in the evening. (Time TBD) Teens will spend the night at church, do service projects during the day on Saturday and break their fasts after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Although this isn't a requirement for the Confirmation program, it is an incredible experience for teens to learn how fortunate we are for the food that we have. The 30 Hour Famine may count towards Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Shelter the Homeless, or Give Alms to the Poor. (Only One) (See Page 6)

➔ Confirmation Mass Attire

It is preferable for boys to wear:

- collared shirt and tie
- dress slacks
- dress shoes

It is preferable for girls to wear:

- a dress or a skirt and blouse
- dress slacks and blouse
- dress shoes

Girls' shoulders should be covered. If girls wear sleeveless, or “spaghetti strap” dresses, then they are to wear a sweater or shawl as well.

- Skirt length should be modest.



SELECTING A SPONSOR

Guidelines from Diocese of Toledo

There is only one sponsor per candidate.

- It is preferred that one of the candidate's godparents at Baptism exercises the role of sponsor at Confirmation. A candidate (with his/her parents) may choose another person as a sponsor. A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age, and have received Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. A parent, step-parent or guardian may not be a sponsor for his/her child. The sponsor's gender need not be the same as that of the candidate. Sponsors should be practicing Catholics that attend Mass on a weekly basis.

- If the sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation cannot participate in the celebration of the Sacrament, a proxy is chosen beforehand who fulfills the same requirements of a sponsor as listed above. A parent, step-parent or guardian may not act as a proxy for the sponsor.

At Saint John XXIII, we hope that the sponsors will become an active part of the teen's faith life. Sponsors will need to be present at sponsor nights on the following dates:

January 17 / February 21 / March 7 / April 4



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

"CHRIST HAS NO BODY NOW BUT YOURS. NO HANDS, NO FEET ON EARTH BUT YOURS. YOURS ARE THE EYES THROUGH WHICH HE LOOKS WITH COMPASSION ON THIS WORLD. YOURS ARE THE FEET WITH WHICH HE WALKS TO DO GOOD. YOURS ARE THE HANDS THROUGH WHICH HE BLESSES ALL THE WORLD."

- ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Throughout the course of our Confirmation program, students will be required to participate in each of the seven corporal works of mercy at least once.

The seven corporal works of mercy are (Matthew 25:35-36):

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the prisoners
- Bury the dead
- Give alms to the poor

It will be the responsibility of each teen to come up with an idea for each of these. Of course, we are called to do more than fulfill requirements. We are called to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. These works of mercy should become natural extensions of our discipleship throughout our lives. For this reason, we encourage families to participate together!

TO DOCUMENT your Corporal works of Mercy, you must take a photo or video and post it to Instagram. BE SURE to tag [@23Students](#) and [@stjohn23pburg](#) in the post. You should also use [#23CWOM](#)

This will allow us to track and record each student's progress.

If you don't have an Instagram account, please contact Michael for a paper form to fill out. You will need to submit a picture with the paper form.

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION:
March 7, 2018

NEED SOME IDEAS?

Visit:

www.stjohn23.org/mercy



Saintly Social Media

23STUDENT
MINISTRIES

DUE DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2018



This project will be completed on two separate poster boards.

Part One (Poster board A)

After choosing your Confirmation name, do extensive research on this saint, finding out as much information about them as possible.

Design and create a social media profile for this saint on one of your poster boards. It can be modeled after a familiar platform like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat. You may also create your own generic profile.

Try and include the following information about your saint:

When and where they were born

When, where and how they died

Famous Quotes (as status updates or Tweets)

People that lived at the same time as them (friends / followers)

A picture (Profile Pic)

Any Memes that have been created about this Saint (Check CatholicMemes or other sites)

Other important or interesting Information about them

At the bottom of the poster board create a "WHY I CHOSE THIS SAINT" box and write one paragraph (4-5 sentences) about why you choose this person as your Confirmation Saint.

****PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR MOST CREATIVE PROFILES****

Part Two (Poster board B)

Find a person or organization that is using social media or the internet to evangelize. This could be through podcasts, blogs, social media accounts, memes, journalism, video production, or any other type of media available on the Internet. (BONUS - this (hopefully) might be someone you already know!)

Research the person or organization and find out what type(s) of media they use, where they are located, who runs it (if it's on organization), their mission statement, why they chose to begin the ministry, and other information you find important. (Note - you may need to e-mail or call someone to find some of this information out.)

Create a profile on this person or organization to display as much information about them as possible. You can even provide examples of their blogs or other visual media on it. Be sure to include a logo of the organization or picture of the individual.

Master Schedule

Regular class times are 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday in the Parish Life Center

BIG NIGHTS are 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Sundays

August

8 - Information Night

14-24 - Meet & Greet

September

6 - Life: Is This It? (Launch Party)*

20 - Jesus: Who is He?*

October

4 - Cross: Why Did Jesus Die?*

18 - Faith: How Can I Have Faith?*(
Small Group in a Home)

22 - BIG NIGHT* (Families)

November

8 - Prayer: Why and How Do I Pray?*

15 - Bible: Why and How Do I Read the
Bible?*(*Small Group in a Home*)

17-18 - Retreat*

29 - Healing: Does God Heal Today?*

December

3- BIG NIGHT* (Families)

6 -Church: What About Church and
Telling Others?*(
Small Group in a Home)

13- XLT / Nerf Night*

January

3- Four Marks of the Church

17- Mass Class (sponsors)

31- Morality / Chastity

February

7- Community Dinner

21 - Reconciliation Service (with families and Sponsors)

23-24- 30 Hour Famine

March

4- BIG NIGHT (Families)

7 - What is Confirmation? (sponsors)

21 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit

April

4 - Rehearsal Night (sponsors)

8 - Confirmation Mass (3:00 p.m.)

11- Wrap Up

**Dinner Included*