



2017-18

SAINT HILARY CONFIRMATION

7th GRADE

DISCIPLESHP I

INFORMATION AND FORMS



A note to Confirmation candidates...

You are about to begin a very important journey---becoming a full member of the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is very special, as it is the last of three Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church, after Baptism and Holy Communion.

The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens and celebrates the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. You already received the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Confirmation renews the Holy Spirit's presence so you can live out your baptismal call to share God's life with others in your own unique way. As you get older, you will be making some very important decisions in your life---some are daily choices and others are decisions about your future. All of these choices will impact how you live your life. You are not only preparing for Confirmation...you are preparing for life!

In order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Hilary, you will be responsible for fulfilling certain requirements. These are described on the attached pages. It is important that you attend and actively participate in your class sessions so that your teachers will be able to attest to your readiness to receive the Sacrament. You will also need to submit completed paperwork when it is due so that your preparation stays on track. Please review these requirements with your parents so they can help you along the way.

As you grow toward adulthood, you become more aware of yourself as a unique individual. The Holy Spirit will help you be your best self--- the person God created you to be. With the Holy Spirit as your helper and guide, you can make the world a better place. You will be learning and growing alongside other teens your age in this fun and faith-filled journey. So open your heart and your mind, and get ready to experience the incredible grace that God wants to give to you!

If you or your parents have any questions along the way, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Lisa Veto, at [lisaveto@gmail.com](mailto:lisaveto@gmail.com). We look forward to supporting you during this preparation process. God bless you!



A note to parents...

The sacrament of Confirmation is a wonderful part of your son or daughter's journey of faith and a very special time in your teen's life. Your son or daughter will deepen the commitments you made on his/her behalf at Baptism and grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith.

The specific requirements which each candidate for Confirmation must meet are described in the attached pages, along with accompanying paperwork. Please review these pages with your son/daughter so that you can help him/her plan and make the most of the preparation period. How well a candidate is prepared to celebrate the sacrament depends greatly on how seriously he/she approaches the opportunities and experiences we will provide.

In order for you to best support your child's preparation for Confirmation in the weeks and months to come, it is important for you to be familiar with our program, which includes two stages of faith formation, which we call "Discipleship I" and "Discipleship II". During these two stages, each candidate will participate in a comprehensive program to lead him/her to faithful discipleship in Jesus. Discipleship I takes place during the candidate's 7th grade year and Discipleship II takes place during the candidate's 8th grade year prior to Confirmation. Discipleship I is described below.

From our experience, we have found that those students who practice their faith after Confirmation are those whose families go to Mass together. It is very important that you are the role model for your child in the practice of the faith. They will follow in your footsteps and look to you as the first teachers of the faith. We strongly encourage you to attend weekly Mass as a family and to live your faith as a family. While we at Saint Hilary can support you in teaching the faith, it is within the family that the faith is put into practice.

We look forward to working with you to prepare your child for Confirmation and for a life of Christ-centered living. We are happy to be partnering with you on this faith-filled journey! If you have any questions, please contact our parish Director of Religious Education, Lisa Veto, at [lisaveto@gmail.com](mailto:lisaveto@gmail.com).

## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, each candidate must:

- **Attend classroom sessions.** Attendance is required. Saint Hilary School students must follow the attendance policies of the school. Saint Hilary Parish students must follow the following policy: Students must be present for the start of class in order for the student to be considered present. Students are permitted up to four unexcused absences over the course of each year of Confirmation preparation. Absences due to a student's illness or a family member's hospitalization or death will be considered excused. While we understand that students have other commitments, the integrity of our program must be maintained by attendance. If a student has four unexcused absences over the course of their current year of Confirmation preparation, the student and his/her family will need to meet with one of our parish priests to discuss participation in our program so that we can best meet the faith needs of your children.

During classroom sessions, key principles of the Catholic faith will be reviewed and discussed, including Baptismal promises, sacrament study, gifts of the Holy Spirit, morality, and much more. The materials we use are designed specifically for teens. Classroom sessions incorporate prayer and planning for service opportunities, thus helping teens experience more fully the Church community.

- **Attend weekly Mass.** Attending Mass, ideally as a family, is an important part of the Confirmation preparation process. Many candidates enjoy attending the 5:00 PM Sunday guitar Mass.
- **Submit completed Discipleship I forms by May 1, 2018.** These forms (*Covenant for Confirmation Preparation, Confirmation Name form and Sponsor Covenant*) are included in this packet and are also available on the Religious Education page of the St. Hilary parish website ([sthilary.org/religious-education](http://sthilary.org/religious-education)). In addition, fillable PDFs of these forms are also available on the Religious Education page of the St. Hilary parish website. Candidates may submit forms electronically to our parish Director of Religious Education, Lisa Veto, at [lisaveto@gmail.com](mailto:lisaveto@gmail.com), or in paper form.
- **Perform acts of service.** Service is an essential component of Confirmation preparation and can be very powerful by providing teens an opportunity to put their faith into action, reach out beyond themselves, and give freely of their time, energy and talents to others who are in need. We will offer one or two group service projects for Confirmation candidates. In addition, candidates are expected to take an active role in other service activities individually and/or with their family.

- **Choose a Confirmation name.**
- At your Confirmation Mass, the presiding Bishop will call you by your Confirmation name, as he makes a cross on your forehead with Holy Chrism Oil and seals you with the Holy Spirit. This name would be used after your middle name and before your family's last name. You may choose a new name using the guidelines below, which most candidates do, or you can choose the name you were given at birth.
- Choosing a "new" name: You may want to select a "new" Confirmation name to symbolize a new beginning in your faith life. The name you choose should be the name of a Christian whose example of following Christ inspires you to do the same. You should learn as much as you can about the person or saint whose name you choose before you make your decision. You may choose a new name in part to show that you are in some ways becoming a new person in Christ.
- Keeping your birth name: You may choose the name you were given at birth, also called your Baptismal name, to symbolize the connection to your Baptism. You should ask your parents how they chose your name. If it has Christian significance (e.g., it's a saint's name, or you were named after a grandparent who was a good example of Catholic living or if it expresses a Christian virtue like "Grace" or "Hope"), you might want to keep it as your Confirmation name as well. If your name does not have a connection to Catholicism, you may want to prayerfully think about taking a Confirmation name that does. Even if your birth name DOES have Christian significance, you still may select a "new" Confirmation name to inspire you for this important step in your faith journey.

Whether you keep your birth name or select a new name for Confirmation, you should do some research about your Confirmation name and talk with your loved ones about it.

- **Choose a Confirmation sponsor.** Your Sponsor for Confirmation has an important role. He/she will be supporting you as you prepare for Confirmation and should maintain a faith-based relationship with you after Confirmation.
  - Recognizing this important role, the Church requires that a Sponsor be:
    - at least 16 years of age
    - fully initiated into the Church (has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
    - a practicing member of the Church
    - if married, marriage must be blessed/recognized by the Catholic Church as valid
    - someone other than a parent or stepparent

## Discipleship I

- able to attend the Confirmation Mass with you
- The *ideal* Sponsor is someone who:
  - has a relationship of trust with you
  - is willing to meet frequently with you as you prepare for Confirmation
  - is prepared to accompany you on your faith journey after Confirmation
  - is willing to share his/her faith with you
  - is an older friend or relative in whom you can confide
  - is an open, honest, caring committed and encouraging person who will help you grow in your understanding of the Catholic faith
  - Is a person who will serve as a role model and mentor to you in your faith life

Please ask someone who meets the above requirements and whose Catholic way of life inspires you if they would be willing to make the commitment to be your Confirmation sponsor. Upon acceptance, please ask your sponsor to sign the Sponsor Covenant form which is attached, and return it to us by May 1, 2018.

MY COVENANT FOR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Due May 1, 2018

I have made a personal choice to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Program at St. Hilary Parish. By enrolling as a candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation, I promise to attend and fully participate in the scheduled Confirmation classroom sessions, Sunday Mass, the Confirmation retreat and the service projects offered through St. Hilary Parish. I promise to attend and fully participate in these events with an attitude that is one of cooperation, respect and gratitude.

I agree to read the materials given to me as part of the Confirmation Preparation Program and to complete all of the exercises and activities assigned by my instructor. I will discuss these with my Sponsor and my parents in order to understand my Catholic faith and the commitment I am preparing to make to live my faith as a Confirmed Catholic.

My parents also understand what is expected and will cooperate fully with all that is asked of us, including submitting all necessary forms, fees and Baptismal Certificates by the date on which they are due. I understand further that failure to complete all necessary steps in the preparation process will cause my celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation to occur at a later time, after all requirements have been met and I have demonstrated that I am ready for the sacrament of Confirmation.

I have asked my parents for their support of my participation in the Confirmation Preparation Program at this time. I ask to be accepted as a candidate for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Hilary Parish.

Candidate's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

MY CONFIRMATION NAME

Due May 1, 2018

In the space below, state the Confirmation name you have chosen, along with a description of why you chose that name.

My Confirmation name will be: \_\_\_\_\_

I have chosen this name because:

Confirmation candidate's full name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

THE SPONSOR'S COVENANT

Due May 1, 2018

Thank you for asking me to play such an important role in your life. As a representative of the larger Catholic community, I promise to support you, guide you, and listen to you in the best way possible. I agree to the following in my role as your Sponsor:

I will be available by phone, e-mail or in person to discuss what you are learning with you and I will try to answer any questions you may have. I will help you find answers to any questions we cannot answer together.

I promise to share with you the answers to any questions you may have about my faith experience.

I will attend Mass with you on dates to be specified during your preparation program. I will attend the rehearsal for Confirmation as well as the Mass at which you will receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

I promise to continually pray for you, for your spiritual growth, and for your decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

I promise to support your parents in helping you to live a full Christian life.

Sponsor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the following items:

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name and city of Sponsor's Catholic Parish:

\_\_\_\_\_