



Dear 8th Grade Students and Parents,

Sometime in the fall of 2019 you will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The Holy Spirit, whom you received when you were baptized, will work in a powerful and unique way for each of you. If you pray and cooperate with this grace you will begin to identify the special gifts you have been given, not just for your benefit, but to build and strengthen the faith of others.

Our Confirmation formation has changed this year. In lieu of the weeklong formation process in June, the students will prepare within the context of their Religion class, be it through SASEAS, PREP or PRP. We would like to ask you to begin to prepare for this gift in the following ways:

1. If you are not currently enrolled in one of these three programs or an approved homeschool program, please contact either Patty Norris or Kathy Bitzer, depending upon your registered parish.
2. Please pray for the grace to grow closer to Jesus each day. This can be as simple as saying, “Jesus, be with me today” or “Jesus, I trust in you” before you get out of bed every morning.
3. Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days.
4. Choose a patron saint now to be with you on your journey. A patron saint is a person who has died and is in heaven. The Church, through careful examination of their lives, has determined that these people lived in a heroic way and were examples of how to love the way Jesus loved, some even dying for their faith. Choose your hero in faith and ask that saint to intercede (pray) for you each day. You will take this saint’s name as your Confirmation name.
5. Choose a sponsor now. A sponsor is someone who is a fully initiated and practicing Catholic. This person cannot be your parent, but should be a mentor and friend in faith. Why now? Because like your patron saint, you need this person to be praying for you every day. You need this person to share this time with you. The attached sheet will assist you.
6. Once you have chosen 4 & 5 above, Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/2019Confirm>
7. The fee that helps cover Confirmation costs has been reduced to \$25. Please remit this to your parish along with your permission/emergency medical form.
8. If you did not receive the Sacraments of Baptism or First Communion at St. Andrew or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, we also need a copy of your Baptismal Certificate.

On **Saturday, April 6th**, all students from the three religion programs will join together for our Confirmation **retreat from 9:00 to 3:00 at the Jesuit Center at Milford**. Additionally the candidates will participate in **two service projects** of their own choosing, followed up **with a written reflection** for each one. Please have at least one of the reflections complete by June 1; the second by September 1. We encourage partnering with your sponsor for at least one of these projects. Finally, both the Sponsor and Candidate need to attend the rehearsal, which is usually the Saturday prior to Confirmation. **We will let you know the dates for the rehearsal and Confirmation** as soon as we have been assigned a date by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Confirmation is not the end of anything, certainly not your growth in knowledge or grace. Confirmation is the beginning of a new life in Jesus Christ. Let us know if you have any questions. We will be praying for you!

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