

St. Thomas More Parish



Confirmation Preparation class 2024

Reverend Michael J. Yatron, Pastor
Miss Emily Hackett, Director of Religious Education

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. (1Cor 12:4-6)

Parent guide

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations! Your child is about to take a very important step in his/her faith journey. Thank you for all the hard work you have done to help your child get to this point. I am excited to participate in this part of the journey with you.

I would encourage you to continue being involved with your child's religious education, especially during this year, as there are many assignments that need to be completed and steps that need to be taken. Please help your child to turn in his or her assignments and materials in a timely manner, to make this process as smooth as possible. Ask your child to tell you what they are learning in religion class and talk with them about it.

I would also encourage you to make a special effort to help your child deepen his or her faith life this year. Take time to pray as a family and encourage your child to make the time for personal prayer each day. Making going to Mass as a family a priority, and also make time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation together.

If you have been away from the Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a while, use this year as an opportunity to return. Attendance at Mass is our opportunity to give one hour back to God for all the hours He has given us that week. It is also the one place where we can receive the Body, Blood Soul and Divinity of Jesus in Holy Communion. He is waiting for you.

Please remember that the Sacrament is not the end of your child's faith journey. After Confirmation, continue to attend Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation together. Encourage your child to become an active member of the church by joining one of the many ministries offered. Saint Thomas More also has a youth group, 1 Direction 2 God, for high school students that I would suggest you encourage your child to join.

Please know that you and your child are in my prayers as you make this important step. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have during the year. I look forward to working with you.

May God bless you and yours,

Miss Hackett
Director of Religious Education



To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.
(1Cor 12:7)

Important dates for candidate preparation.

Saint Report Due: November 8/9

The report should include the following information if available:

- The report should be typed, double-spaced.
- The cover page should include the saint's name, your name, your catechist's (teacher) name and picture of the saint.
- Name and feast day of saint
- Your reason for choosing this saint
- Summary of saint's life story in chronological order; birth, major events and dates, death
- Beatification and sainthood dates and under what circumstances
- Saint's special virtues – ways they were like Jesus
- Ways you can imitate saint
- Most impressive aspects of the saint's life and why
- A paragraph about why YOUR STUDENT wants to be Confirmed. He/She should explain why this sacrament is important to them and why they desire to be confirmed.

Sponsor Certificate Due: November 8/9

Interview Assignment Due: January 10/11

Part 1: Students are to interview their parents and sponsor by asking them the following questions:

- Why have you remained a Catholic?
- Why is the Sacrament of Confirmation important?
- What do you feel called to do as a Catholic?
- How does being a Catholic make a difference in your life?
- What are your hopes for me after making Confirmation?
- How will you help me prepare for Confirmation?
- How will you help me to live out my Confirmation?

Part 2: Record their responses in a report that should be typed and turned into your Religion Teacher by **January 10/11** The report should include:

- Student's name
- The name of the person interviewed
- Their comments
- The student's reaction and reflection to their comments
- How will the student live out their Confirmation after they have received it?

Confirmation Retreat: Friday, January 12th 8:30-2:30

Acts of Service Due: March 13/14

Each student is required to complete different Acts of Service. A student can perform the same service for 1 hour or 7, but it will count as only 1 act of service. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS must fill out a reflection form for each Act of Service they complete. The service forms can be found on the parish website <http://www.stm-church.com/religious-ed.htm>

REQUIRED ATTIRE FOR HOLY CONFIRMATION MASS

***Boys:** Dress slacks, dress shirt with collar, tie (jacket or sweater optional; long necktie is mandatory)
No jeans, athletic shoes or T-shirts

***Girls:** Dress, skirt with appropriate sweater or blouse, or pantsuit
Skirts must be at least knee length.
No low cut tops; shoulders must be covered
No tight fitting clothing

*Do not wear any ornamentation that denotes non-Christian attitudes and values.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

From the Gifts of the Holy Spirit come the Fruits, which are:

| | | |
|---|----------|----------------|
| are: | Charity | Long-suffering |
| | Joy | Mildness |
| 1. Wisdom | Peace | Fortitude |
| 2. Understanding | Patience | Modesty |
| 3. Counsel - Right Judgment | Kindness | Self-control |
| 4. Fortitude – Courage | Goodness | Chastity |
| 5. Knowledge | | |
| 6. Piety - Reverence | | |
| 7. Fear of the Lord - Wonder and Awe in God’s presence | | |

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

Parents are:

- Primary educators of their children
- Responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Models for their child by being committed Christians
- Leaders in their family faith life
- Nurturers of their children’s faith life
- Encouragers of their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service
- The important part of the Sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active role in the celebration of Confirmation
- Able to stress the initiation aspect of the Sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- Guides to their child in understanding that the Confirmation service project is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service

CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Candidates must:

- Freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- Be in the state of grace
- Have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions
- Be practicing their faith
- Attend Mass and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- Be responsible for completing all required home study and service projects
- Acquire an awareness of the Initiation of the Sacrament of Confirmation and commit to continuing faithful practice and study of their religion
- Be willing to participate in the Confirmation classes and retreat.

AFTER CONFIRMATION

Although Confirmation DOES mark the end of your child’s religious education classes, it does NOT mark the end of their faith journey. Confirmation is the time in a person’s life when the gifts they

received at Baptism are confirmed and strengthened in them. They become full-fledged members of the Church. Encourage your child to take a more active role in their church by choosing a ministry to participate in. Saint Thomas More offers a wide variety of ministries for them to choose from. Some of the ministries include lecturing, ushering, cantering/choir or Eucharistic Minister. Also encourage your child to continue deepening their faith through weekly Mass attendance, personal prayer time, studying the Scriptures or reading more about their faith. You might consider participating in these activities with your child. The world needs more Catholics to know and live their faith.

Important Dates to Remember

**November 8/9 Saint Report is due AND
Confirmation Sponsor form is due**

January 12- Confirmation retreat 8:30-2:30

January 10/11 –Interview Assignment is due

March 13/14 – Acts of Service due



Teen Saints

St. Philomena — Philomena was a 13-year-old virgin when she was martyred by Roman emperor Diocletian for refusing to marry him; many miracles have been attributed to her intercession. Recommended biography: Saint Philomena, the Wonder-Worker

Blessed Laura Vicuna — Laura attended a boarding school run by religious sisters and prayed ardently for her mother's conversion. She was abused by her mother's boyfriend and died when she was 13.

“O my God, I want to love You and serve You all my life. I give you my soul, my heart, my whole self.” ~ Blessed Laura Vicuna

St. Agnes of Rome — Agnes was a beautiful young girl born to a noble Roman family in 291 AD. She had many suitors but wished to remain a virgin consecrated to God, and was martyred because of that when she was 13.

St. Bernadette Soubirous — Bernadette was 14 when Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to her sixteen times and revealed the name Immaculate Conception to her. Recommended biography: Bernadette of Lourdes: Her life, death and visions

St. Dominic Savio — Dominic was a student at St. John Bosco's school who showed early signs of piety. He began serving at the altar at age 5 and underwent severe physical penances, but died of lung disease when he was 14. Recommended biography: The Life of St Dominic Savio

St. Kizito — Kizito was only 14 when he was martyred by the King of Uganda for his faith.

Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis — Marie-Leonie joined the Holy Cross congregation when she was only 14 and taught for many years, encouraging young women in their vocations.

St. Anna Wang — Anna was 14 when she and other Christians were rounded up during the Boxer Rebellion and asked to recant their faith. Anna refused and was martyred.

St. Pancras of Rome — Pancras was orphaned when he was 14 and came to Rome with his uncle, St. Dionysus. He was martyred with several other early Christians for proclaiming his faith.

St. Bona of Pisa — Bona experienced mystical visions as a child and became a Third Order Augustinian when she was 10. At age 14, she went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to see her father, who was fighting in the crusades. She also traveled the Santiago de Compostela ten times, becoming ill and dying on her last pilgrimage.

St. Dymphna — Dymphna was 15 when her own father (a pagan king) attempted to force her to marry him; she refused and fled with her priest, but was discovered and martyred by her father. Recommended biography: The King's Prey: Saint Dymphna of Ireland (God's Forgotten Friends)

St. Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio — Jose Luis fought as a soldier in the Cristero War in Mexico. He was 15 when he was put to death by government officials for refusing to deny his faith. Recommended biography: Saint José: Boy Cristero Martyr (New Vision Books)

St. Prisca — Prisca was raised in a Christian family during the reign of Claudius II. She was arrested as a teenager, defended her faith to the emperor, and was tortured and martyred.

St. Eustochia Calafato — Eustochia entered a convent in her mid-teens after seeing a vision of Christ crucified, but her family forced her to return home. Later, she joined the Poor Clares; she had great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the poor in her community.

St. Agnes of Montepulciano — Agnes joined a monastery when she was 9 and became abbess when she was only 15. She was a peacemaker who also experienced ecstasies in which she held the baby Jesus and received Holy Communion from an angel.

St. Fusca of Ravenna — Fusca converted to Christianity and was baptized when she was 15, along with her nurse. Her family ordered her to recant her faith, but she refused and was martyred.

Venerable Cecilia Eusepi — Cecilia was inspired by St. Therese and yearned to be a missionary nun, but suffered from tuberculosis. She made her final vows and wrote *The Story of a Clown* before dying at age 16.

St. Denis Ssebuggwawo — Denis was the personal page to the Ugandan King Mwanga II of Buganda. He was also a Christian and catechist who taught others, until he was arrested by the King. He was 16 when he was martyred.

Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine — Catherine felt a call to holiness even as a child; at age 5, she had mystical experiences with God in prayer and when she was 10, she dedicated herself to Mary. She joined a convent when she was 12 and volunteered for missions in Canada when she was 16, just after making her final vows as a nun.

St. Lucy — Lucy's mother wanted her to marry a rich Roman man, until they made a pilgrimage to St. Agatha's grave. Lucy's mother was healed and allowed Lucy to distribute her dowry to the poor, but Lucy's betrothed turned her in to the Emperor Diocletian and she was martyred.

Blessed Karolina Kozka — Karolina was a pious girl who prayed many rosaries and catechized the neighborhood children. When she was 16, a Russian soldier attempted to rape her; when she resisted, he killed her.

St. Cecilia of Rome — Cecilia had taken a vow of perpetual virginity, even though she married a Roman man. She converted her husband (who respected her virginity) and his brother. They helped bury Christians who were martyred by the emperor and then were martyred themselves.

Below are some ideas for Confirmation Service Projects based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry/Give drink to the thirsty

Participate in a meal packing event.
Work in a Soup Kitchen with Mom or Dad. Make dinner for a needy family.

Clothe the naked

Participate in a coat drive for Catholic Charities. Do a clothing drive.
Volunteer at a non-profit clothing store.

Visit the sick

Visit a nursing home.
Offer your service without pay to an elderly neighbor to mow, shovel snow, rake leaves, weed, etc.
Help out a sick person in your neighborhood.
Make care packages for pregnant moms or people in the hospital.

Shelter the homeless

Participate in a blanket drive or a walk for the homeless.
Help build a ramp or install safety equipment in the homes of the elderly or the disabled.

Visit th imprisoned

Collect books to donate to a jail library.
Help with organizations that serve the families and children of those incarcerated.

Bury the dead

Participate in Wreaths Across America.
Assist at a bereavement luncheon.

Instruct the ignorant/ Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowful

Assist with a CCD class or at events for First Holy Communion or Confirmation.
Help out with Vacation Bible School.
Write encouraging notes and care packages for soldiers on the field.

Saint Thomas More Parish Sponsor Certificate

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Catechist _____ of _____ Candidate: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Dear Sponsor: This form is a requirement and must be approved for a sponsor in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

A sponsor must meet the following requirements:

- At least 16 years old
- A practicing Catholic who has received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Good standing with the Church
- Not a parent
- If married, in a valid Catholic marriage

If you are a **parishioner of St. Thomas More**, please fill in your name, the Confirmation candidate's name and STM under parish and return the certificate.

If you are a member of **another parish**, please take this form to **your home parish** to be filled out and return it to the Religious Education Office, St. Thomas More Parish, 8501 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN 46321. Please be sure that the certificate is stamped with **your parish seal**.

Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

This certificate acknowledges that
Sponsor name:

_____ is a full and active practicing Catholic, maintaining good standing within the church, and is eligible to serve as sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sponsor's Pastor: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

Sponsor's Parish Address: _____

Date:

SPONSOR'S PRAYER

God of all ages,
You send out Your Spirit
to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You
and in Jesus whom You sent.

Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit
and bring to fulfillment the good work
that You have begun in them.

As I reach out to my candidate,
make me an instrument of Your love.
Teach me to reverence what is holy in others,
and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel
and help me to pass it on by my example.

With those who are hesitant or afraid,
let me be a source of encouragement;
and with those who are weak,
let me be a pillar of strength.

I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor
and pray that You will continue to guide me
and sustain me.

We praise you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.