

St. Thomas More Confirmation Program 2017-2018

Dear Parents,

We are excited to begin a new year of preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation! Along with a New Year come a few improvements we hope will help the students in the program.

Within this packet you will find:

- Confirmation Candidate Requirements
- Sponsor & Parent Roles
- Confirmation Registration Form
- Sacramental Worksheet (Ivory Worksheet)
- Confirmation Sponsor Form (**Confirmation II Students ONLY!**)
- Permission Slip/Medical Release

*We often schedule extra activities through text messaging and phone calls. Please provide a current number that would be best to contact **BOTH parents and teens**.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS:

- To be turned in by September 30th:
 - Copy of Birth Certificate (Confirmation I & II)
 - Copies of Baptismal and First Communion Certificates (Confirmation I & II)
 - Confirmation Commitment Form (This form signed by Candidate & Parent, Confirmation II Only)
 - Confirmation Registration Form (Confirmation I & II)
 - Permission/Medical Consent Form filled out and signed (Confirmation I & II)
 - Sacramental Worksheet (Ivory paper, Confirmation II Candidates)
- Attend Confirmation Classes
- Participation in Life Teen Events
- 2 Confirmation Retreats (1 each year)
- Minimum of 20 hours Community Service or 1 Community Project
- 2nd Year Candidates – find a sponsor meeting the requirements and have paperwork turned in by **October 30th**.

Birth Certificate, Baptismal & First Communion Certificates

To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, all candidates must turn in a copy of their Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate and First Communion Certificate. If you do not have a copy, contact the parish in which you were baptized and they will provide you with the proper certificate. (Ask for a copy of your Baptism Certificate with all Notations.) Bring these with you to the first class on August 31st.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes are on Wednesday's from 6:00-7:00 p.m. In addition, the candidates must actively attend Sunday (Life Teen nights) from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., for the 2 years that they are pursuing their Confirmation.

Participation & Conflicts

Participation is crucial to a meaningful Confirmation process. Your presence at Confirmation related events and Sunday Mass is expected as a sign of your serious commitment to discipleship. Please adjust your schedules in advance to make time for your commitments to your Confirmation as your top priority.

PLEASE NOTE:

Since class time is limited, Candidates are only allowed to have 1 absence for Class, and 2 absences from weekly Life teen events. That is a total of 3 absences for the whole year. **NOTE: ABSENCES ARE PER YEAR!** Your teen will be required to sign in every week.

Confirmation Retreat

One of the major events on the journey towards Confirmation is the retreat experience. This fun, faith-filled retreat brings Confirmation candidates together to closely examine the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the relevance to their own lives. **This is a requirement for all Confirmation candidates for each year of formation. If unable to attend a retreat, the candidate must attend a Confirmation retreat through another parish.**

Community Service

Each candidate will need 20 hours of community service per year. Check the calendar for service opportunities, but not all 20 hours will be provided. If you prefer, you may do 1 major community project in its place. Please look for other local opportunities and approve these with the Youth Minister. Your community service projects should not be viewed as a way to earn confirmation, but as an experience of what it means to be a Catholic Christian building up the Body of Christ.

Sponsor Requirements are only for Confirmation II Students

Sponsor Requirements:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church (**Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation-PROOF IS REQUIRED**)
- Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church
- If Married, they **MUST** be married in the Catholic Church (**PROOF REQUIRED**)
- The Sponsor Affidavit must be filled out by Sponsor and his/her pastor and **must be turned in by October 30th**
- **There will be a Sponsor and Candidate day that must be attended.**

Role of the Sponsor:

- Be a model of the Catholic faith
- Make yourself available to the Candidate for prayer, discussion, sharing, questions and conversation.
- Attend all Sponsor/Candidate functions.
- Renew or establish a close personal connection with your Candidate that will last beyond the date of Confirmation

Role of the Parents:

- Be a model of the Catholic Faith.
- Be involved with your child during the Confirmation process
- Be available to answer questions and discuss the Catholic faith with your child
- Read and/or discuss with your child what is required for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ****The responsibility of ensuring that the candidate attends Sunday Mass and regularly receives the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation falls primarily to you at this point in your child's life. If you are unable to provide transportation, feel free to make other arrangements with the Youth Minister.**