

CONFIRMATION
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA



Information Packet

2022-2023

Youth Director: Ed Snyder

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SCS School Students: This packet is NOT for You.

Please speak with your teacher.

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For Parents:

This is an exciting time for your family! Your child is preparing for Confirmation, a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit meant to strengthen them for a life of following Jesus as a disciple. It is our privilege to help you during this time with your ministry to your child. In that spirit, it is important to note that this is not a process that takes place solely in class. This is a process that involves you. It is a continuation of the work you've done throughout your child's life to help them to follow Jesus as a disciple.

Please, take some time to review this packet and then have a talk with your child about Confirmation and what will be required. Catechists will not review the packet with your child. The best use of their time is really being present with your child and going through the material they need to teach. It will be your responsibility as a parent to ensure that the information in this packet is understood and completed by your child.

PARENT MEETINGS:

To better communicate with you as a parent, and support your work, we will have mandatory parent meetings this year. During these meetings, parents will get to know the catechists for their child, meet other parents and receive important information meant to help support you in raising a disciple of Christ.

At least one parent should be present for each candidate, but ANY adult (an aunt, uncle, grandparent, sponsor, etc.) may come in the place of a parent if a parent cannot attend. **Attendance will be taken on these nights and absences will count toward the two absence maximum for all candidates.** If parents have more than one child in the Confirmation program, simply choose one class/meeting to attend and that will be fine. No minors will be allowed to attend parent meetings due to the subject matter.

General Information

Class Time:

Sundays, 5:15PM-7:45PM

Class calendars will be posted online for your convenience by mid-August.

Submitting Forms (Very Important)

Forms should be submitted via email to confirmation@scswf.org. A full-size picture of the form is fine. This is the best way to ensure your form reaches our office. If this is not possible, contact the Youth Director for an alternate method.

Attendance:

Keeping in mind that unexpected or unavoidable situations do occur in our lives, **TWO absences** per year are allowed. Parents should notify the Youth Director when possible of the upcoming absence so that it may be logged. Excessive illness, or some other great hardship should be discussed with the Youth Director at an appropriate time and will be taken into consideration.

Tardiness: It is an act of CHARITY to be on time for class and pick-up. Arriving late disrupts the flow of class and causes delays for everyone. **Two late arrivals, of more than 5 minutes, may be counted as one absence.**

Mass Attendance: As candidates preparing for Confirmation, it is expected that youth attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Classes this year will include time to attend Mass so that all candidates have that opportunity and so that Father can meet your children. If you prefer to go to Mass as a family at a different time, please reach out to the Youth Director.

Cancellations/Severe Weather:

In the case of inclement weather, a Flocknote text/email will be sent out. Please do not assume classes are cancelled unless a message is sent out. Always use your own judgment as to whether it is safe to travel. Nobody will be penalized for missing a class due to safety concerns.

Confirmation Requirements: Year I

“During Year I, catechists are to give special attention to assisting the candidates in their evangelization, exposure to the essentials of the faith, experiences of conversion, community, liturgy and prayer.” – General Norms for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Year I:

1. **Attendance**
 - a. Candidates should attend all scheduled classes.
 - b. Parents should attend all parent meetings.
2. **Year I Confirmation Retreat** (There is only one option this year.)
 - i. Saturday, March 4th (9am-4pm), Off Campus, Cost: \$15

You must register for a retreat in advance.

To register, please go to the “Confirmation” section of the parish website. **Click the “Retreat” link and fill out the form.** To request financial assistance, email Ed Snyder at esnyder@scswf.org.

Retreat Address: The retreat will be at Falls Lake. The address is 4201 Baptist Rd, Durham and we meet in the Community Building. Just follow the signs.

3. **20 Community Service Hours** (Due: June 2)
4. **Patron Saint Essay** (Due: June 2)
5. **Sponsor Form** (Due: June 2)
6. **Make-up Work from Absences** (This does NOT excuse absences.)

STMA/Gibbons Students: If enrolled in STMA or Cardinal Gibbons, you do NOT need to attend classes in Year I. However, you must still fulfill all the other requirements in order to complete Year I, including all paperwork, service hours and the patron saint essay. Contact the Youth Director to register for Year I.

Confirmation Requirements: Year II

“In the Diocese of Raleigh, a two-year formation program is required prior to the celebration of Confirmation.” –General Norms for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. **Attendance:**
 - a. Candidates should attend all scheduled classes.
 - b. Parents should attend all parent meetings.
2. **Confirmation Workshops** (Attend with your sponsor/mentor.)
 - a. September 21st, 6:30PM-7:45PM

AND
 - b. March 8, 6:30PM-7:45PM
3. **Letter to the Pastor** (Due: September 25th)
4. **Baptismal Certificate** (Due: September 25th)
 - a. If baptized at St. Catherine of Siena, please email the year and month of baptism to confirmation@scswf.org
 - b. The Youth Ministry Office does NOT keep baptismal certificates from 1st Holy Communion OR St. Catherine of Siena School. Unless you have submitted the baptismal certificate to us, our office does not have it. Please talk to us if these circumstances apply to you.
5. **Interview with the Pastor.** (TBD- We are working on dates for this requirement.)
 - a. To sign up for your interview:
 - i. Go to the Confirmation page of the parish website.
 - ii. Click “Interview with a Priest”
 - iii. Sign up

6. **Year II Confirmation retreat.** You may select from TWO options:

- i. Saturday, September 24th, 9AM-4PM (On Campus) Cost: \$15 **OR**
- ii. Saturday, March 25th, 9AM-4PM (Off Campus) Cost: \$15

You must register for a retreat in advance. There is a cap on the number of youth each retreat can hold. Do not wait.

To register, please go to the “Confirmation” section of the parish website. **Click the link “Retreat”, scroll down and fill out the form.** To request financial assistance, email Ed Snyder at esnyder@scswf.org.

Off Campus Option: The retreat will be at Falls Lake. The address is 4201 Baptist Rd, Durham and we meet in the Community Building. Just follow the signs.

7. **20 Community Service Hours** (Due: February 26th)

8. **Make-up Work from Absences** (This does NOT excuse absences)

STMA/Gibbons Students: If enrolled in STMA or Cardinal Gibbons, you complete the entire program in Year II as stated above, including weekly classes.

Explanation of the Requirements:

Patron Saint Essay:

By the end of Year I, candidates should choose a patron saint for their Confirmation name. This will be the name of a saint whom the candidate particularly identifies with and wants to model their life after. Candidates will research their chosen patron and write a short (about one page, double spaced) essay on their life. Candidates must explain in this essay why they identify with or feel drawn to this saint. The reasons given should strive to go deeper than, “she is the patron of music and I play the piano.” The candidate should want to be like this saint and model their life after them.

Service Hours: (See Appendix C for Opportunities)

Current Year I: All current Year I candidates are required to complete 20 hours of community service before the end of Year I. They will require an additional 20 hours in Year II, for a total of 40 hours.

Current Year II: All current Year II candidates are required to complete 20 hours of community service (in addition to the 20 hours they did during Year I) before Confirmation.

Service hours should be submitted by the deadline for your year. Candidates submit hours by completing the service hour form (found online) and submitting it to the Confirmation email (confirmation@scswf.org). It is the candidate’s responsibility to maintain a log of their own hours.

Please use the “Works of Mercy” as a guide to whether something qualifies for a service hour.

Service hours may not directly benefit the candidate. As such, school or team fundraisers would not normally qualify. Altar Serving does not count towards hours.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. To Feed the Hungry
2. To Give Drink to the Thirsty
3. To Clothe the Naked
4. To Shelter the Homeless
5. To Visit the Sick
6. To Ransom the Captive
7. To Bury the Dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. To Instruct the Ignorant
2. To Counsel the Doubtful
3. To Admonish Sinners
4. To Bear Wrongs Patiently
5. To Forgive Offences Willingly
6. To Comfort the Afflicted
7. To Pray for the Living and the Dead

Interview with the Pastor:

To prepare for the interview, candidates must be ready to answer the following:

- a. Why did you choose your patron saint?
- b. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? (Be ready to define them.)
- c. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
- d. Know how to take part in the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)
- e. Candidates should have memorized: (See Appendix D)
 - i. Our Father
 - ii. Hail Mary
 - iii. Glory Be
 - iv. The Creed
 - v. Prayer to St. Michael
 - vi. Morning offering

Letter to Fr. Bill John:

A letter (about one page) addressed to Fr. Bill John and requesting the sacrament of Confirmation should be submitted to the Confirmation email (confirmation@scswf.org) by the deadline. Please do not give these to Fr. Bill John. This letter must be typed, double spaced and include the following:

1. Candidate's Name
2. A formal request for the sacrament
 - a. "I am writing to request the sacrament of Confirmation."
3. The Candidate's patron saint and why they chose them
4. A short explanation of why the candidate is requesting the sacrament
5. A short explanation of what the candidate has done to prepare for the sacrament

Sponsors and Mentors:

Sponsor: “The sponsor sees that the one confirmed acts as a true witness to Christ and fulfills the obligation of the sacrament. Specifically, the sponsor 1) helps the candidate live the Catholic life, 2) serves as a role model of faith for the candidate and 3) in the case of a candidate who is a child of catechetical age, supports the candidate’s parents in their child’s faith development.”

As such, Sponsors are expected to work with their candidates to prepare for Confirmation throughout the year and to pray regularly for their candidate. Sponsors must also, when possible, attend all Confirmation Workshops.

Qualifications to be a Sponsor:

1. A member of the Roman Catholic Church
2. A minimum of 16 years of age
3. Recipient of the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
4. A Catholic in good standing
6. Currently in a marriage recognized by the Church as valid, if married
7. Living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Church, if unmarried
8. Parents may not serve as sponsors for their children.

In order to confirm that these requirements are met, a completed “Confirmation Sponsor” form must be submitted via email by the date assigned. Forms must be signed by the Sponsor’s Pastor.

Mentor: If a Sponsor, due to distance or some other unavoidable circumstance, cannot attend the workshops, then a Mentor must be chosen to help the candidate prepare throughout the year. This person should meet the same requirements of a Sponsor.

Appendix A: Communication

Contact Information

Ed Snyder, Youth Director: esnyder@scswf.org

FLOCKNOTE MESSAGES: (VERY IMPORTANT)

Flocknote messages are the primary way in which the Youth Director will send announcements to parents and youth throughout the year. This free service allows texts and emails to be sent to youth and parents when they sign up. Many opportunities for service, youth events and gatherings are distributed via this service. We will also send reminders of upcoming deadlines. It will be important for parents and youth to make use of it.

To sign up for Flocknote messages:

Text saints520 to 84576.

After doing this, you will get a link to complete the process. Click on the link and follow the directions. While signing up, choose any parish groups that you are interested in joining or learning more about. At any time you may join or leave new groups.



Website:

All essential information, forms and calendars will be posted online by mid-August, on the CONFIRMATION page of the parish website: www.scswf.org. To find this page, highlight "Our Youth" on the home page and select "Confirmation" from the drop down menu.

Appendix B: Classroom Conduct and Procedures

Cell Phones:

No cell phones are allowed. If a candidate takes out a cell phone, or a cell phone rings during class, the phone will be taken. A parent must come to the parish office in person to reclaim the phone.



DISCIPLINE:

In order to provide a good experience for all youth and volunteers, the following will be implemented regarding discipline:

- 1) Catechist Warning: A candidate is informed that they are not behaving in an appropriate way.
- 2) Call Home: If a candidate continues to act out, the Youth Director will call parents and the Pastor will be notified of the situation.
- 3) Second Call Home: If a second call home is necessary, the candidate will either:
 - a. Be required to have a parent sit with them during each class.
 - OR
 - b. Be asked to return next year.

Appendix C: Service Opportunities

Companions: This is a group of middle school youth who meet for dinner, prayer and to learn about a virtue and bible story to better live out their call to holiness. Every meeting counts for TWO service hours. Companions meets on Wednesdays (about twice a month) from 6:00pm-7:30pm in the dining room. Meeting dates are found online. **No registration required. FREE.**

Bingo Buddies: Visit the residents of a nursing home and play bingo. Youth must register on **signupgenius.com** and bring a permission slip with them to the event. We are still waiting for clearance to go back to senior living homes and will advertise new dates via Flocknote when we have them. **Select Saturdays, Monthly, FREE**

Catholic Parish Outreach: Help to provide those in need with access to food.

Contact George Blasiolo at 919-435-7230 for more information.

Miracle League: Be a buddy to youth with disabilities. Help them run the bases, play catch and cheer them on! Our youth group usually goes once in the Fall and once in the Spring, but you may also participate as an individual. Go to miracleleagueofthetriangle.com for details and to volunteer as individuals.

Operation Harvest: Deliver food to dozens of individuals in Wake Forest. Contact Anthony Nacional at 919-637-7752 to participate. **When:** Every Saturday, 9:15 am **Where:** Trinity Center

Brown Bag Ministry: Make and deliver food to a local community. There is a signup for this online on our Youth Group page under "Service". **When:** Select Saturday Mornings. **Where:** Trinity Center

Appendix D: Prayers to Memorize

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

Glory Be:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence
He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.
Amen.

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works,
joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions
of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world,
in reparation for my sins,
for the intentions of all my relatives and friends,
and in particular
for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Amen.