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Dear St. John's and St. Mary's Parents,

I hope and pray that this next school year is a true blessing for you and your family as your child(ren) prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation. As I hopefully conveyed during our meeting, I truly desire the best for you, your children, and your family. I want you all to have the fullest possible experience of God's love, peace, and joy in this life and to enjoy His Presence forever in Heaven. Everything I say and decide is ultimately ordered to that goal. And I firmly believe that living our Catholic faith as faithfully and wholeheartedly as we can is the best possible way to achieve that goal. I invite you see this next year as a beautiful opportunity for your whole family to grow in their relationship with Jesus and with His Church.

In order to help facilitate this continued growth in your faith and to better prepare your child to receive the most grace possible from their Confirmation, I'm setting the bar high for them to receive Confirmation this next school year. Think of me as the coach or teacher who is very demanding and expects a lot from you. While we may not always appreciate it in the moment, we all know that those are the coaches and teachers who help us the most. The love, joy, peace, and other fruits of the Holy Spirit that God wants us to experience are only realized when we are truly invested in our relationship with Him and strive to be faithful to what He asks of us. And like a good coach, I will be there to help and encourage you.

The **first** and most important "requirement" for your child to be confirmed next year doesn't come from me though; it comes directly from God and the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 2180-2182 teach us that "the [first] precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." ... The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin. ... Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church."

Sunday Mass is foundational and non-negotiable for the living out of our Catholic faith. That is why your child will be required to attend Mass every weekend in order to be confirmed. This has been and always will be obligatory for all Catholics and it is a very important habit for your child to form, not just for this year, but for life. The Church does recognize however that on rare occasions this may not be possible; in which case you can contact me in advance, explain the situation, and receive permission not to attend Mass on a given weekend.

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Mass attendance sheets will be prepared and explained when classes start up. (They can be signed while traveling, although the majority of weekends need to be attended at St. John's or St. Mary's.) However, I encourage you to begin attending Mass every weekend right away. As the Church teaches, deliberate failure to do so is a grave sin that separates you from God and robs you of His life.

The **second** requirement is for your child to consistently attend PRE/CCD classes. I hope why this is important is obvious and not controversial. All absences will need to be made up through homework and more than 3 absences will call into question whether your child is ready for Confirmation.

The **third** requirement is for your child to have memorized basic prayers and teachings of the Church. For example, the Apostle's Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, St. Michael, Angel of God, the 10 Commandments, 7 Sacraments, 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, 5 Precepts of the Church, 4 Gospels, etc. All of this will be clearly communicated as we move forward. The sooner they start committing these to memory though the easier it will be! These are basic truths that every Catholic should really know by heart.

The **fourth** requirement will be some kind of half-day retreat. One for parents and one for students. This will be explained in greater details in the fall.

I intend to try and meet with each of your families over the course of the next year. I truly want to get to know you and hear how I can help you in your faith journey. I'm willing to listen to any challenges you may have with what I've shared so far. If there are extenuating circumstances for your child that may require some slight modifications to the requirements, I'm open to discussing that. However, I do want to be clear about how seriously I take my responsibility to make sure that your child is truly prepared for Confirmation. Based on the above requirements and my conversations with you, if I decide that your child is not yet ready for Confirmation, then it will be delayed until they are. They can always be confirmed the following year if they need more time to be ready for this commitment.

As I'm sure you've told your children, the more you put into something the more you get out of it. That is true for our faith as well. That is why I am inviting and encouraging you to invest fully in your faith so that you can receive all that God wishes to give you. I promise you won't regret it. And I really do mean it when I say I want to hear from you regarding any questions, concerns, difficulties, etc.

God Bless,

Fr. Andrew Rockers



Dear Confirmation Candidates and Parents,

Our very special process of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation Spring 2027 is underway! Confirmation continues the Sacraments of Initiation and brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit alive in us so we can take all we have learned and who we have become and apply it in action, full of faith and hope that what God has planned for us will come to be through the power of His Spirit. We hope to come together in our Catholic faith, grow closer to God and become more aware of God's love for us in our lives.

This packet contains information that will help you and your student as we get closer to our confirmation date **Wednesday, April 21st 7:00 PM for St. Mary and Wednesday, April 28th 7:00 PM for St. John.** A few other upcoming important dates include:

- **Confirmation Retreats - Date TBD**

Everyone involved in helping you and your child during this sacramental year is praying that this process of formation be a powerful time of faith, hope and love.

Fr. Andrew Rockers

Megan Nobert, DRE - St. John

Susan Bechard, DRE - St. Mary

Confirmation Preparation Expectations

Confirmation, together with Baptism and Eucharist, constitutes the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Confirmation is not just one more thing that you need to do before graduation. Confirmation is not an end, but a new beginning. It is a new relationship for you with God, the Church, your family and yourself.

Through the Confirmation preparation process, students will grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith and will mature in his or her faith. In Baptism, parents ask the Church to welcome their children into the body of Christ. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidates freely ask the Bishop to deepen his or her initiation into the Catholic Church. The confirmed young Christian chooses to embrace the faith that was freely given at baptism.

1. As a responsible Catholic you will make every effort to attend weekend Mass each week in your home parish. Attendance will be tracked (check in with Megan or Susan first, your teacher second, or me third after Mass and they will mark you present). Should you be out of town, a signed bulletin from the attended Mass may be accepted as attendance for the week.
 - **Missing more than 3 Sunday/Holy Day Masses** without a legitimate reason (serious illness, family emergency, severe weather, etc.) will result in the postponement of your child's Confirmation until they have demonstrated the necessary commitment to this responsibility of our faith.
 - **If you know in advance that you have a serious conflict with attending Mass, you can contact me in advance and I can excuse you.**
2. As a responsible Catholic, you will take an active part in your faith formation by attending Wednesday night classes. If class time must be missed, please speak with your teacher to schedule a make-up session. Attendance will be tracked and is required to meet the requirements for Confirmation.
 - **Missing more than 3 classes** without a legitimate reason (serious illness, family emergency, severe weather, etc.) will result in the postponement of your child's Confirmation until they have demonstrated the necessary commitment to the importance of preparing for Confirmation.
3. The candidate for Confirmation will memorize basic prayers and teachings of the Catholic faith, as provided by Fr. Rockers. They will be orally quizzed at the beginning of every class and there may also be written quizzes throughout the year. Knowing by heart these basic elements of our Catholic faith is necessary for one to be a mature and responsible Catholic.
 - 5 mins a night
4. Attend all scheduled events for Confirmation preparation:

- Confirmation Retreats - Date TBD
 - Confirmation Practice - TBD (about a week before Confirmation)
5. The candidate will select a sponsor. The sponsor can be one of the candidate's Godparents. The sponsor must be at least 16 years old, fully initiated in the Catholic Church and a practicing Catholic. Sponsors may not be a parent of the Confirmand. All sponsor names must be submitted by Thanksgiving 2027.
 6. Each candidate will choose his or her Confirmation saint. A saint report will be completed, due February 3rd, 2027.
 7. Each candidate will compose a letter to Bishop Vincke to request the Sacrament of Confirmation, share why they want to be Confirmed, and how they have prepared their heart for the sacrament. All typed letters will be submitted to the Bishop as a class. Due date to class is Wednesday, March 10th, 2027.

Confirmation Saint Report

Due February 3rd, 2027

Candidates for Confirmation should understand that saints' names are chosen because these saints act as models and intercessors in their lives. We seek this intercession of the saints because the Church has always believed and taught that all the baptized are part of God's family. God's family includes all the saints in heaven and all the "saints" on earth who continue to persevere and grow in holiness while living the Christian life with the help of God's grace.

Those of us on earth need the powerful intercession of all the saints in heaven, who stand before Jesus' throne of grace. Candidates should research several saints in whom they are interested. They should choose a saint who they see as a role model and who inspires them in their faith.

Saints are men and women in heaven, who, while on earth responded to God's call and now share eternal life with Christ. They intercede on our behalf. By completing the saint report you will become more familiar with the saints of the Catholic Church and how they were called to holiness in different ways.

Saints Report Format

- I. Introduction
 - 1-2 interesting facts about the saint you chose
- II. Biography
 - When he/she lived
 - Where he/she lived
 - Feast day, special devotions, symbols for which he/she is known
 - Qualities that made him/her a saint
 - Contributions to the Church
- III. Conclusion
 - Why did you choose this saint?
 - What qualities do you admire?
 - What characteristics would you like to imitate?
 - How and why does this inspire you to be a disciple of Christ?

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

"Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament" (Can. 892) The confirmation sponsor is to guide the one confirmed to act as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfill the duties of the sacrament. It is preferable for the godparent from baptism to serve as sponsor. However, another person may serve as sponsor.

In addition, your sponsor may attend any sessions with you, share his/her faith story with you and invite you to participate in parish life. Your sponsor will pray for you during this Confirmation journey.

To become a sponsor, a person:

1. should be sufficiently mature (having completed the 16th year) in his/her faith commitment, and should be actively expressing it within the Catholic community by regularly attending Mass and fulfilling the precepts of the Church;
2. must not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed (Canon 874);
3. need not be the same gender as the candidate;
4. must belong to the Catholic Church and be fully initiated, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (Canon 874);
5. need not be married, but if they are married, it must be in a valid marriage recognized by the Church
6. must present a written statement of eligibility from his/her Pastor;
7. knows the candidate and is able to help him/her on the spiritual journey, sharing faith and modeling the life of a mature Catholic;
8. encourages the candidate to grow in a faith relationship with Jesus;
9. assists and encourages the candidate with the study and practice of the Catholic faith;
10. accompanies the candidate to special liturgies and event in the preparation program.

Prayerfully consider your choice of a sponsor and ask them as soon as you make your decision. Being asked to be someone's sponsor is an honor. It is not an imposition to ask. Your sponsor will be excited to share this journey with you!

Appropriate Attire for the Sacrament of Confirmation

While students will have the choice to wear the outfit he/she chooses, the requirements below must be followed:

Girls

1. Dresses/skirts must be knee length or longer
2. No cleavage
3. No tank or spaghetti straps
4. No flip flops

Boys

1. Dress pants and dress shirt, tie preferred
2. No tshirts
3. No flip flops

If there is a question regarding the appropriateness of an outfit, please ask Megan or Kristi. The class has discussed the dress code extensively, and all students should be aware of the expectations.

Sample Letter #1

February 8, 2013

Your Excellency,

My name is Jackie Johnson and I am a 10th grade student at St. Phillip's Parish in Worchester, MN. I am currently preparing for Confirmation and I wanted to share a couple of my experiences.

We were asked to select a sponsor at the beginning of the Confirmation process. I thought it was difficult at first to ask someone to fill this role. But then Tricia, a friend of the family, said yes. During the process, Tricia and I attended a retreat, participated in sponsor and candidate sessions and volunteered to do service work together. I particularly enjoyed the time we spent serving a meal for the local soup kitchen. It was then that I realized, again, how fortunate I am to come from such a good family and live where I do.

I am the oldest of three children. I enjoy participating in cheerleading, soccer, drama, and the youth events at my parish. My parents are involved in the parish as Eucharistic ministers. They have been good role models for what it means to live out my faith.

When you come to St. Phillip's on October 9th, I want to be confirmed to publicly state that my faith is important to me and it's something I plan to work on the rest of my life.

I look forward to meeting you.
Sincerely,

---Hand Written Signature Here----

Jackie Johnson

Sample Letter #2

January 23rd, 2013

Most Reverend John M. Quinn,

Hello. My name is Mark Smith and I am currently preparing for Confirmation. I am 16 years old and I am a sophomore at Kennedy High School in Farmington, MN. I have been preparing for Confirmation for almost two years now and I want to be confirmed.

I want to be confirmed because I have been preparing for this sacrament and I am ready. I have learned that Confirmation is not the end of my faith life, but just the beginning. I am ready to take my faith seriously, become active in my parish, and live out my faith through service.

I have had several service experiences throughout the past couple of years that have been very meaningful to me. One service project in particular was important to me. I had the opportunity to go on a mission trip with my parish youth group to Texas. There we built houses for people in need. The days were long and the work was hard. But at the end of the trip I could look back on what we accomplished and I realized that we had done a lot for someone in need.

Confirmation means that I am ready and willing. I am ready to live out my faith with the help of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I feel that I have been well prepared for Confirmation through all of the classes, service projects, faith sharing and small group sessions I have attended.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

---Handwritten Signature Here---

Mark Smith

Students will be tested in class beginning 1st of month

Memorize by September 30:

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

The 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 our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father

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.

The Apostles' Creed - 1st "part"

(1) I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding in the Temple

The Two Great Commandments

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your
strength.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The 5 Precepts of the Church (1st Precept)

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of
obligation and avoid unnecessary work.

The 7 Sacraments (1-3)

Sacraments of Initiation

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist

New material is in addition to previous months

Memorize by October 28:

The Apostles' Creed - 1st half of 2nd "part"

(2a) 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.

Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of
Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in
need of thy Mercy.

The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

1. The Baptism of Jesus
2. The Wedding Feast of Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

The Ten Commandments (1-3)

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have other
gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in
vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S day.

The 5 Precepts of the Church (2nd Precept)

2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.

The 7 Sacraments (4-5)

Sacraments of Healing

4. Confession (or Reconciliation or Penance)
5. Anointing of the Sick

The 3 Theological Virtues:

1. Faith
2. Hope
3. Charity

The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: (1-3)

1. Fear of the Lord
2. Piety
3. Knowledge

The Four Marks of the Church

1. One
2. Holy
3. Catholic
4. Apostolic

Basic Trinitarian Belief (1-2)

1. There is only One God.
2. The One God exists as Three Divine Persons.

Students will be tested in class beginning 1st of month

Memorize by December 2:

The Apostles' Creed - 2nd half of 2nd "part"

(2b) He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty, from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our
protection against the wickedness and snares of the
devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power
of God, cast into Hell Satan and all evil spirits who
prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Angel of God

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

The Ten Commandments (4-7)

4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.

The 7 Sacraments (6-7)

Sacraments of Communion

6. Marriage
7. Holy Orders

The 5 Precepts of the Church (3rd Precept)

3. You shall receive Holy Communion at least once a
year during the Easter season.

The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: (4-5)

4. Fortitude
5. Counsel

The 4 Cardinal Virtues:

1. Prudence
2. Justice
3. Fortitude
4. Temperance

Basic Trinitarian Belief (3-4)

3. Each of the Three Divine Persons is fully God.
4. Each of the Three Divine Persons are truly distinct
from one another.

New material is in addition to previous months

Memorize by January 6:

The Apostles' Creed - 3rd "part"

(4) 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.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you,
and I detest all my sins because of your just
punishments, but most of all because they offend you,
my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no
more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth

The Ten Commandments (8-10)

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: (6-7)

6. Understanding
7. Wisdom

The 5 Precepts of the Church (4th & 5th Precepts)

4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence
established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The 4 Marian Dogmas:

1. Mother of God
2. Perpetual Virgin
3. Immaculate Conception
4. Bodily Assumption

The 4 Last Things:

1. Death
2. Judgment
3. Heaven
4. Hell

Basic Christological Belief

1. Jesus is one Divine Person, God the Son
2. Jesus has two natures: divine and human
3. Jesus is fully God and fully man

Memorize by September 30

1. The Sign of the Cross	In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. 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.
3. The 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 our death. Amen.
4. Glory be to the Father	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.
5. The Apostles' Creed (1st "part")	I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
6. The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary	1. The Annunciation 2. The Visitation 3. The Nativity 4. The Presentation 5. The Finding in the Temple
7. The Two Great Commandments	1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. 2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
8. The 5 Precepts of the Church (1st Precept)	1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and avoid unnecessary work.
9. The 7 Sacraments (1-3) <u>Sacraments of Initiation</u>	1. Baptism 2. Confirmation 3. Eucharist