

# CONFIRMATION

2023-2024

## THE SACRAMENT

We are so excited that you are preparing to enter into the Church through Confirmation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, *"by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."* This new responsibility within the Church requires preparation and discernment.

## PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

*Before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in 10th grade, expectations include:*

- **Participating in Small Group Meetings and missing no more than 4** - Why? It is important that before deciding to be Confirmed in the Holy Spirit, you have the opportunity to form a relationship with Christ, learn more about the Church, ask questions, understand where doctrine comes from, and learn how to defend the faith. If you miss more than 4 meetings in the year, you must make up the fourth one missed. If you miss 5 or more classes in a year, you will have to repeat the program the following year.
- **Getting involved in the Church for 15 hours** - Why? James 2:14-17 says, *"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."* If we truly believe in the Gospel, then we must put our faith into action and serve others in love and joy. Also, if we desire to be confirmed into the Body of Christ, we must learn what the Body of Christ is! Church involvement hours can be anything that one does to help another out of love and not incentive, such as visiting a nursing home, helping with VBS, being an usher or lector, helping at the Italian Festival, bringing food to a neighbor, etc. Church involvement hours will also include any involvement in Church ministries, such as stopping in at hospitality Sunday, checking out Joy in the Spirit, attending a Social Justice event, visiting the Creative Arts Ministry, coming to a Parish Clean-up day, etc.
- **Attending a Retreat** - Why? Sometimes we need to get out of our comfort zone, retreat from the distractions of life, and enter into a designated space and time where we can more fully encounter our Lord.
- **Choosing a Sponsor** - Why? It's important to build a community around us of people who are praying for us and journeying with us. Our Sponsor will agree to walk with you on your faith journey!
- **Meeting with Father Fabio** - Why? After sacramental preparation and discernment, you should be able to express your reasons for desiring to be confirmed and become a full initiated member of the Catholic Church. Father Fabio wants to meet with you to discuss this as well as offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Creating a Saint Project based on the Saint of choice** - Why? Saints are beautiful examples of how to live out our universal call to holiness. They are witnesses for Christ, and they are praying for us! Choosing a Saint and learning more about their spirituality helps to better understand the universal Church and the many ways to have a relationship with the Lord. Find a Saint you love and take their name at Confirmation!

# IMPORTANT DATES

## FOR CONFIRMATION

- September 17th - Retreat Permission Forms Due
- October 6th-8th, 2023 - Confirmation Retreat
- November 12th/15th, 2023 - Sponsor Forms due
- February 21/February 25 - Saint Projects to be brought to class
- All of March - Interviews with Father
- April 1st - Confirmation Hours due

**Confirmation Mass** is scheduled by the Bishop's Office, not by us. They have given us the Confirmation date of **Friday, April 5th at 7pm**. Our rehearsal will be Thursday, April 4th at 7pm. We understand that this is the week of Fort Mill School District's Spring Break. Unfortunately, this is not a date we can change and the Bishop is the one who confers this Sacrament.

# CONFIRMATION HOURS 2023-2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Service/volunteering or Ministry event attended	Hours	Signature of Person in Charge
<b>NOW THAT YOU GAVE YOUR TIME AND LOVE THROUGH SERVICE OR ATTENDING A MINISTRY EVENT, WHAT DID YOU LEARN OR GET OUT OF IT?</b>			
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Date	Service you did or Ministry event	Hours	Signature of Person in Charge

**NOW THAT YOU GAVE YOUR TIME AND LOVE THROUGH SERVICE OR ATTENDING A MINISTRY EVENT, WHAT DID YOU LEARN OR GET OUT OF IT?**

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# SAINT PROJECT

## WHY DO WE PICK SAINTS?

Through the process of canonization, when someone is declared by the Church to be a saint, the Church is proclaiming that this member of the faithful practiced heroic virtue during their life on earth, 'the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors' (CCC 828). To aspire to be like a saint is the same as trying to imitate an actor, musician, or athlete; a confirmation saint is someone cool who we want to be like!

It is also important to remember that as members of the Church, we are never been alone, as St. Paul said, 'We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1). These witnesses are the saints who continually intercede for us (CCC 956); in choosing a confirmation saint, we are choosing a special friend to intercede for us in heaven and after whom we can model our lives while here on earth.

**Once you research and choose a Saint (or a Blessed) who inspires you, theirs will be the name you take at Confirmation. When you are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, you will be sealed with your new name.**

## EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PROJECT

*You will be creating a poster about the Saint you are choosing for Confirmation. This poster must include the following questions and include these points:*

- **A short biography** - Your Saint's full name; where and when they lived and died.
- **How, why, and when they became a Saint** - His/her date of canonization; what miracles have been performed through his/her intercession.
- **Why you would like to model your faith life after this person** - What is the Saint's spirituality like; how do you want him/her to pray for you; why do you choose this specific Saint.
- **Include a picture of your Saint** - Also decorate the poster with symbols associated with your Saint or what they are a patron Saint of. Honor your Saint by taking time and putting effort into this project.
- **Bibliography of websites, books, and other sources** - Recommended Catholic websites for Saint information include: catholic.org, mycatholic.life/saints, newadvent.org, saintsresource.com
- **Posters should be neat, creative, and authentic** - A sample template is shown below. Have posters ready to present by February 19th, 2023.



# MEETING WITH FATHER FABIO

**You will be meeting with Father Fabio before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. To sign up for your 15 minute meeting, a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out in the spring to the parents.**

**Before you meet with Father Fabio, prepare! Be ready to respond to the questions asked and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

**Be prepared to answer the following questions:**

- What is a story or passage in the Bible that really resonates with you?
- Be prepared to explain why this story stands out to you, how you relate to it, and more!
- Be prepared to share about the Saint you have chosen!
- What did you enjoy about your Confirmation Preparation?
- Do you have any questions for Father Fabio?

**Prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

- Review the Examination of Conscience
- Review how to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
  - Make the sign of the cross saying: *"In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*
  - Say: *"Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been \_\_\_\_\_ (however many days, weeks, months, or years) since my last confession."*
  - State your sins
  - Father Fabio will give you some advice and give a penance (prayers to say)
  - You will be asked to make an act of contrition:
    - *O My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with the help of your grace, to do good, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Your Son, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In His Name, my God, have mercy. Amen.*
  - Father will absolve you with a prayer - at the end, make the sign of the cross and answer "Amen"
  - Father will dismiss you with a prayer and encouragement "God has freed you from your sin. Go in Peace." Respond with "Thanks be to God!"
  - After Confession, find a quiet place in the Church to praise and thank God for His mercy, and fulfill the penance given to you.

Father Fabio is excited to meet with you and hear your desire for Confirmation. Be joyful! You are so close to receiving an amazing Sacrament.