Dear Confirmation Families,

I am writing to you to inform you of a change happening in the Benson and Murdock Faith Formation confirmation program. Over the past few years there have been students who are unable to do a 2-year program. Rather than only getting half the material for confirmation, we are going to focus on a one-year program. We have considered the length of the curriculum, the confirmation requirements, and the amount of time we have with the students, and we are confident that they will still be formed and prepared by April 19th. The entire Chosen (Ascension Press) confirmation curriculum will be taught, and we will still have time for J-Term activities. We will also be offering faith formation for all who have been confirmed in the years after they are confirmed. This means we will have faith formation for those who were confirmed in 10th grade when they are in 11th and 12th grade focused on Christian living and growing in our faith. More information will be coming about this.

In summary, on April 19th, all students in the confirmation program, grades 10-12, will be confirmed! Some of the dates to get forms in, as well as sponsor nights, are changing, please mark your calendars and please be prompt when getting everything in. All forms will be handed to students in class. They are also all on the faith formation website. <https://www.stisidorethefarmerafc.org/faith-formation>

**All candidate commitment forms and baptismal forms should already have been turned in!**

**October 29 – Sponsors chosen and sponsor commitment forms due**

**October 29 – Saint Reports due**

**November 9 – Sponsor/Confirmand 8:30am Mass and meeting after Mass in Murdock**

**\*\*\*sponsors and candidates will choose 3 more dates to meet at this initial meeting. The other meetings will be on your own and should fall close to or on the following dates. Come to Mass and meet afterwards, or meet up for pizza, or meet at your favorite coffee house! Meeting #2 February 9 Meeting #3 March 22 Meeting #3 April 20 (post confirmation)**

**February 25 – Letter to the Bishop due**

**20 hours of service (at least 5 church related) – *forms can be handed in as you get hours*! If you worked the fall supper, get your form in ASAP! Please reach out to Jessie if you are unable to complete the required 20 hours.**

**April 15– Last in class lesson and rehearsal. All classes meet in Murdock at 6:30.**

**April 19 – Confirmation - Time and place to be determined.**

*If you have any questions or concerns with this change please contact Father Brian Mandel or Jessie Collins, Faith Formation Director*

Father Brian Mandel 320-905-6529 [bmandel@dnu.org](mailto:bmandel@dnu.org)

Jessie Collins 320-220-0016 [jesscollins@stisidorethefarmerafc.org](mailto:jesscollins@stisidorethefarmerafc.org)

October 1 – Lesson 2

October 8 – Lesson 3

October 22 – Lesson 4

October 29 – Lesson 5

Sponsor Commitment form and Saint Reports due!

November 5 – Lesson 6

SUNDAY November 9 – Sponsor/Candidate Meeting following 8:30am Mass in Murdock

November 12 – Lesson 7

November 19 – Lesson 8

December 3 – Lesson 9

December 10 – Lesson 10

December 17 – Lesson 11

January 7 – Family Mass and Service Project Night (Murdock)

January 14 – Lessons 12/13

January 21 – Father Shawn Polman Vocations Night

January 28 – Brother Brandt Night

February 4 – Lesson 14

February 11 – Lesson 15

February 18 – No Class ASH Wednesday

February 25 – Lesson 18 (lesson 16 & 17 covered by Father Shawn in January!)

March 4 – Lesson 19

March 11 – Lesson 20

March 18 – Lesson 21

March 25 – Lesson 22

April 1 – NO CLASS Holy Week

April 8 – Lesson 23

April 15 – Lesson 24 and Rehearsal ALL CLASSES MEET IN MURDOCK

April 19 – Confirmation

April 22 – Last Day of Classes PARTY

***CONFIRMATION RETREATS – ALL candidates are required to attend a retreat. Here are some options.***

**COR Night is an event for middle and high school youth. Each night consists of games, social time, praise and worship music, a great speaker, a meal, and Cor Jesu (adoration). Bring your friends! Bring your youth group! Bring your family!**

**Information:**

**Location:** St. Aloysius, Olivia, MN  
**Time:** Event begins at 4:00 PM and ends at 8:00 PM  
**Cost:** $20  
**Registration:** Register your group below! All youth are required to be accompanied by adults as per safe environment guidelines (8:1 youth to adults).

**2025-26 dates**

**December 7th** - **Brendan McCauley, founder of the Humanum Project**

**February 22nd - Fr. Andy Davy, MIC**

***\*\*\*\*\*\*YOU MUST GO TO BOTH COR NIGHTS FOR THIS TO COUNT AS A RETREAT. \*\*\*\*\*\****

**TEC RETREAT** [**https://www.riverbendtec.org/**](https://www.riverbendtec.org/)

**When: February 14-16, 2026 (Saturday - Monday)  
Where: Winsted - Holy Trinity Church and School**

**NET RETREAT** [**https://www.netusa.org/mn-events#crw**](https://www.netusa.org/mn-events#crw)

**WHEN:** [**November 8-9**](https://register.netusa.org/event/confirmation-retreat-weekend-november-8-9-2025/e682620)**,** [**November 22-23**](https://register.netusa.org/event/confirmation-retreat-weekend-november-22-23-2025/e682631)**,** [**February 21-22**](https://register.netusa.org/event/confirmation-retreat-weekend-february-21-22-2026/e682848)

**WHERE: NET Center 110 Crusader Ave. W., West Saint Paul, MN 55118**

**OTHER OPTIONS: Coming soon! Keep your ears open!**

**Volunteer Hours – 20 hours over 2 years – at least 5 church related – Complete the forms and turn in to the office or Jess. Refer to the handbook for more information.**

* 1. **Altar serve**
  2. **Lector**
  3. **Usher**
  4. **Decorate church**
  5. **Help in the office/church with office/church work (call Jess)**
  6. **Help at afternoon faith formation classes (call Jess in Murdock, Cindy Carruth in Benson)**
  7. **Help with meals, church events, etc.**
  8. **Community service – call the library, the food shelf, community ed, etc.**
  9. **Vacation Bible School**
  10. **Get creative! Call a neighbor and ask if they have any projects for you! Ask a teacher at school if you can help with anything! Use your imagination!**