

St. Michael & Sts. Peter & Paul

CONFIRMATION DATES AND EVENTS

Parent and Candidate Meeting

- Sunday, October 5th
- 6:30pm @ St. Michael's Hall

Parent-Family Letters of Love for Retreat

- November 4, 2025
- Between 4-7 letters per student

Retreat

- November 9th
- at St. Michael's Hall, details TBA

Paperwork Due

- December 3, 2025
- Confirmation Information Form
- Sponsor Eligibility Form
- Patron Saint Report
- Baptism Certificates (if not baptized at our Family of Parishes)
- Submit to Religious Education Office

Confirmation Practice for Candidate and Sponsor

- Wednesday, January 7, 2026
- 8:00-9:00pm

Confirmation Mass

- Sunday, January 11, 2026
- 11:00 am Mass @ St. Michael Church
- Celebrant: Archbishop Robert Casey

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Because of the connection between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the Church encourages you to invite your godmother or godfather to be your Confirmation sponsor. "It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor (godparent) at Baptism be your sponsor at Confirmation" (Code of Canon Law, Canon 893).

Your godparent is encouraged but does NOT have to be your sponsor and should NOT be your sponsor if they do not meet the following requirements. Your sponsor cannot be one of your parents. In order to be a valid sponsor, one must meet the following requirements:

- Baptized
- Legal canonical age (at least 16 years old)
- Received the sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- Attend mass every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation
- Attends confession at least once a year
- Be a participating Catholic and in good standing with the Catholic church (living out Catholic dogma and doctrine)

Additional qualities to look for and consider when choosing a sponsor:

- A person of prayer and virtue
- A living witness to the Catholic faith
- Aware of their Christian duty to follow Jesus by serving others
- A person of honesty and integrity

In making your choice, you will also want to consider the following questions:

- Who will help me prepare for my Confirmation?
- Who will help me continue to grow as a Catholic after my Confirmation?

It is a privilege to be asked to be a Confirmation sponsor. The person you ask should recognize this and take it seriously. He/she should be your prayer partner and be your faith mentor leading up to Confirmation and long after you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

The Holy Spirit has enabled Christians of every century to live like Jesus and become saints. A saint is someone who is in heaven. We are ALL called to be saints. However, some become canonized Saints.

In official Church procedure, there are three steps to Sainthood: a candidate becomes "Venerable," then "Blessed" and then "Saint." Venerable is the title given to a person formally recognized by the pope as having lived a heroically virtuous life or offered their life. To be beatified and recognized as Blessed, one miracle acquired through the candidate's intercession is required in addition to recognition of heroic virtue or offering of life. Canonization requires a second miracle after beatification (USCCB).

The Saints are holy people who tried to follow Jesus with all their hearts. They were ordinary people, just like each of us. Saints have been men, women and children. Some were married and some were single; some were members of religious orders and some were laity. From heaven, Saints continue to pray for the Church, and intercede for all of us. As Catholics, we remember and honor the Saints and ask for their intercession.

As a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you have two options concerning the choice of a Confirmation name:

1. Stay with your present Baptismal name (your regular first or middle name).

If your baptismal name is that of a recognized Saint of the church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using your baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Sticking with your baptismal name would demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to make this formal through Confirmation.

2. Pick a Saint's name whose life you want to imitate, symbolizing a new beginning in your faith life.

This would be fitting if you feel that you have not been particularly strong in your faith and are making a renewed commitment to Christ. Taking a new name symbolizes that you are, in some ways, a new person. The chosen Saint's name should represent a Saint you want to imitate. **Taking a new name is not to be used because you like the sound of the name, how it fits with your names, or because it is the name of a nice friend or relative.** You should honor the Saint through prayer and imitation and ask for their intercession, because no person's prayer is more powerful than someone who is already in heaven and in union with God.

CONFIRMATION SAINT ASSIGNMENT

Due: Wednesday, December 3rd

Each year Confirmation Candidates are asked to write a small report about the Saint they have chosen. The goal of this assignment is to help students build connections between themselves and the Saint they have chosen and to help them realize that one day, they too can be a saint.

The custom of adopting a Saint's name at confirmation is done in order to adopt the Saint as a special heavenly patron or to honor a Saint to whom one has a special devotion (Catholic Answers). It is so powerful to have a canonized Saint praying and interceding for you. **For this reason, the Saint the student chooses needs to be a Catholic Saint.**

The final assignment should be no less than one page and typed (double-spaced, Times New Roman, size 12 font). Below are a few things to include in your report.

- The Saint you have chosen
- Why this Saint resonates with you and why you are choosing this Saint
- Details about your Saint and what he/she did to become a Saint
- At least three unique things about your Saint
- The miracles that were attributed to your Saint's beatification and canonization. (In order for a Saint to be beatified, they must have 1 miracle attributed to them. In order to be canonized, 2 miracles must be attributed to them).
- Some similarities you see between yourself and the Saint you have chosen

Please use caution when using the internet as a resource for information on Saints. The internet is full of false information about religion, especially the Catholic faith. Below are links to great sources of Catholic Saints. There are also many resources in the CCD office.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname.aspx>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Here are some good questions to reflect upon. These questions are meant to help you focus on important aspects of our faith & your journey.

1. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ? With God?
2. What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?
3. What are the characteristics of a faithful Catholic?
4. With what activities or ministries in the parish or community have you helped?
Do you have gifts or talents leading you to serve your family, parish, community?
5. How much is prayer a part of your life?
6. How much is reading the Bible a part of your life?
7. How much is weekly Sunday Mass a part of your life?
8. Is the pattern of celebrating Mass every week the center of your life as a Catholic?
9. What Saint did you choose for your Confirmation name? Why was this saint so inspiring to you?
10. What two actions can you take to improve your participation in Mass?
11. Why do you want to be confirmed?

As a family:

What is one goal that we, as a family, can commit to doing during this time of preparation?

To ask parents:

1. What do you remember about your Confirmation?
2. What do you want me to get out of Confirmation?
3. What do you value most about the Catholic Church?
4. Why is faith important to you?
5. Who or what has been an important guide in your faith?
6. What gifts and talents from God do you see in me?

Parents to ask teens:

1. How do you think your faith might change through Confirmation?
2. What is one thing you are looking forward to in the Confirmation process?
3. What is one thing you are hesitant about in the Confirmation process?
4. Who is the person you feel most comfortable sharing your faith with?
5. What is one thing I can do to help you as you prepare for Confirmation?

SPONSOR QUESTIONS

After careful prayer and consideration, write a letter to the person you choose to be your sponsor. Ask them to be your sponsor and share why you are asking them to be your confirmation sponsor, e.g. you look up to them for their example of faith, courage, integrity, or other virtues, their relationship with God, their support of you, etc.

Questions to ask and discuss with your sponsor:

1. How did you become Catholic? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
4. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
5. Do you have a favorite saint (or favorite saints)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
6. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic - perhaps you were ridiculed because of your faith or struggled to believe in the Church teachings. What did you do to "keep your faith" or find answers to your questions?
7. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week (or maybe every day) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic?
8. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray?
9. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or in your community? Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.
10. How do you define the word "holy?" Do you know people in your life that you would describe as "holy"? Do you think anyone describes you as "holy?" How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
11. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.
12. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?
13. What gifts and talents from God do you see in me?

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

PRACTICE

When: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 @ 8:00PM

Where: St. Michael's Church

Who: Confirmandi & Sponsor

CONFIRMATION DAY

January 11, 2026

Mass begins @11:00AM.

Confirmandi and sponsor need to be in their designated seat by 10:30AM

** ONLY students and sponsors will have reserved seating. Parents may fill in the pews behind the students

CONFIRMATION DAY DRESS GUIDE

MEN

- Dress shirt and tie
- Dress pants
- Dress shoes
- **NO:** Hey Dudes, Gym Shoes or Jeans

WOMEN

- Dress or Skirt & Dress Shirt (Dress & skirt length no shorter than top of knee)
- Shoulders covered
- Appropriate neck lines (no low v-necks)
- **NO:** open backs, leggings as pants, Hey Dudes, gym shoes

Optional: Wear red of some kind to symbolize receiving the Holy Spirit