

# CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Date of Confirmation: Tentatively August 2025 ~ Form Due: November 17, 2024

**CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME** (as it should appear on the Confirmation certificate):

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Father (first, last): \_\_\_\_\_ Mother (first, maiden): \_\_\_\_\_

Parish of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parish of First Communion: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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\*Give complete address(es) if the Baptism and/or First Communion did not take place at St. Michael the Archangel.\*

*If the candidate was not baptized at St. Michael, and/or did not make his or her First Holy Communion and Reconciliation at St. Michael, it is the parents' responsibility to provide a copy of the certificate(s) to the Religious Ed. office: c/o Arica Swygart, [dre@stmichaelwaterloo.com](mailto:dre@stmichaelwaterloo.com).*

## **SPONSOR INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Address (if other than St. Michael): \_\_\_\_\_

**A sponsor must be someone other than a parent who is at least 16 years of age, a practicing Catholic who attends Mass weekly, has been confirmed, lives a life that reflects the beliefs of the Church, is active in his or her parish and capable of discussing their faith journey, and, if married, must be married in the Catholic Church (see the Confirmation Handbook for more information). Please note, the sponsor must have an active parishioner form filled out by his or her priest.**

## **CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME**

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The candidate will choose a Confirmation name of a saint, a blessed, or may use his or her baptismal name if it is that of a saint. A saint report will also be assigned.

# Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025



A Guidebook for Confirmation  
Candidates and Parents

St. Michael the Archangel  
Waterloo, IN

## WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED?

Confirmation candidates:

- have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist
- are practicing their faith
- are in the state of grace
- demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of a member of the Catholic Church
- are aware of the initiation aspect of the Sacrament of Confirmation and are committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion
- have a sincere desire to receive the sacrament, as well as, an appreciation of sacramental life

## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS | *Overview*

- participate in weekly Mass and regular confession
- participate in classes (missed work must be made up)
- choose a qualified sponsor and meet/communicate regularly with him or her
- choose a saint's name as your Confirmation name and write a biography about that saint - assigned in the Spring
- complete a minimum of **15 hours** of community service
- participate in our parish Confirmation retreat – MANDATORY
- participate in the diocesan Confirmation retreat - optional
- participate in the Confirmation rehearsal
- participate in the Confirmation liturgy

## IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ Sunday, October 6, 2024, 3:00-4:30 pm – Special class in Parish Hall
- ❖ Sunday, November 17, 2024 – Candidate Information sheet due
- ❖ Sunday, April 27, 2025 – Saint report due to Mrs. Swygart
- ❖ Saturday, May 17, 2025 – *Mandatory* Confirmation Retreat at St. Michael Parish (10:00 am-8:00 pm)
- ❖ July 20, 2025 – Service hours and pictures OR reflections due
- ❖ Saturday, August 2025 – Confirmation Rehearsal for candidates and sponsors (10:00 am in the church)
- ❖ Sunday, August 2025 – Confirmation Liturgy at the 10:30 am Mass (arrive to the Parish Hall by 10:00 am)

## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS | *In Detail*

### **Participate in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week**

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents and family must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. If your family has not been attending Mass regularly in the past, we are confident that by doing so you will notice many benefits by the time Confirmation approaches.

### **Participate in Confirmation Classes**

Attendance in Religious Ed. is very important in preparing candidates for this sacrament. When a class is missed, the candidate loses time for fellowship and prayer, as well as, the material covered that day. Please make this class time a priority. Students are expected to be prepared for the class, which includes completing any assigned readings or homework.

### **Choose a Qualified Sponsor & Meet (or communicate) Regularly with Your Sponsor**

The Confirmation sponsor should be a person who has been a strong role model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in your faith journey and will vouch for your readiness to receive the sacrament. The sponsor should therefore be able to meet regularly or communicate regularly with the candidate, and help him or her prepare for the sacrament through prayer, study, service, and discussion. The sponsor should be in attendance at the rehearsal and the Confirmation. Attendance by proxy is allowed in certain situations. Please let me know if a proxy will be used.

### **The Sponsor:**

- must be a practicing Roman Catholic who attends Mass regularly (Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation) and is living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church
- must be at least 16 years of age
- if married, must be in a marriage that is blessed by the Catholic Church. If married in a civil ceremony, or in another denomination, the marriage must be convalidated by the Catholic Church in order to be a sponsor for Confirmation
- supports the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- must be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation
- should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- may be either male or female for any candidate
- may assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service projects
- must be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- may *not* be the parents of the candidate
- assists in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- presents the candidate to the bishop for Confirmation

Preference is given to the candidate's Godparents, which most fully expresses the integral connection between Baptism and Confirmation. However, another person close to the candidate may be chosen. If you are using a proxy sponsor, he or she must also meet the above criteria.

## CONFIRMATION NAME AND REPORT

In the bible, when God had a new mission for someone, He often gave him or her a new name. God calls on each of us to fulfill a special mission. It may be converting non-believers, helping the poor, being a peacemaker, or one of many other callings. Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission you began at Baptism, or the beginning of a new mission. Therefore, there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

1. Because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at your Baptism; it is recommended that you give first preference to using your Baptismal name for Confirmation, if the name is a saint's name
2. If you see Confirmation as the beginning of a new mission for you and fresh beginning in your faith journey; then you may choose a new name for Confirmation. The name should be of a saint that you admire.

You should look at the heroic lives of the saints of the Catholic Church, and choose one whose life serves as a model and patron for you during your own life. Choose a saint that you can relate to and whose life inspires you to strive for holiness. Do not just choose a name you like. You need to develop a spiritual relationship with your saint so you can ask him or her to pray for you. Remember, the saint you choose will be your Confirmation saint name.

There are many websites to help you (not Wikipedia!). Here are a couple:

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

<http://catholicsaints.info>

**Once you've chosen a saint name, you must complete a biography of that saint.  
Follow these guidelines.**

The report should answer the following:

1. When and where was your saint born? What was going on in the world during that time? (i.e. persecution, reformation, Middle Ages, etc.)
2. If the information is available, what was your saint like when he or she was your age?
3. Did your saint undergo a major conversion experience?
4. What virtues does your saint possess?
5. What works or services is your saint known for? (i.e. missionary, teacher, doctor, etc.)
6. What symbol(s), if any, are associated with your saint?
7. What is your saint's Feast Day?
8. How did your saint die?
9. What is your saint the patron of? Is there a well-known quote by your saint?
10. Discuss a specific devotion that is attributed to your saint.
11. Why did you choose this saint as your Confirmation saint? Or did your saint choose you?
12. What about your saint do you hope to imitate?

**Reports should be at least two pages, typed, double-spaced using Calibri, Cambria, or Times New Roman 12-point font. There should be a cover page with the student's name and the saint's name. Sources should be cited. Reports are due to Mrs. Swygart by April 27, 2025.**

## SERVICE PROJECTS

Performing service to others is critical in preparing for Confirmation. Since service and justice are so important to who we are as Catholics, we ask that the candidates make their service projects a priority. Serving others is not something we do just to get it over with. It is something we do because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons. We encourage the candidates to get involved in a service that is regular and ongoing.

Some things to think about when considering your service:

- What are people's needs or problems, and what can I do to help?
- What unique gifts or talents has God given me that can be used to serve others?
- How can I be the hands and feet of Jesus?

There is a list of potential service opportunities included in this packet. However, there are many other opportunities out there! Feel free to come up with your own. **Service hours are due July 20, 2025.**

## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Retreats provide a great opportunity to spend time in prayer, learn more about our faith, and connect with our peers. Our mandatory Confirmation retreat is on **Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm**. We'll have Mass at 4:30 pm and end the day around a bonfire with some special activities. Parents, if you'd like to be on the retreat team, please let me know! There is an additional optional Diocesan retreat held in March. Please let me know if you'd like to attend. We may also spend a day at Notre Dame if there is interest and it is allowed by the diocese.

## CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL

All candidates and sponsors must attend the Confirmation rehearsal scheduled for Saturday, **August 2025 at 10:00 am** in the church.

## LITURGY AND RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will take place on Sunday, **August 2025 during the 10:30 am Mass.**

## INFORMATION FOR THE CONFIRMATION MASS

### **Rehearsal and Liturgy:**

- Students and sponsors must be in the Parish Hall (basement) by 10:00 am.
- Candidates will sit alphabetically. Sponsors will be seated in assigned seats in the church (across the aisle from the candidates).
- Candidates must wear the provided nametag on their left shoulder in clear view for the Bishop.
- Candidates will wear red robes (provided) over their dress clothes.

### **Appropriate Dress for Confirmation:**

- No jeans, shorts, leggings, sweats or other athletic attire. No flip-flops or athletic shoes.
- BOYS: button down shirt (any color) with a tie, dress pants, and dress shoes. Khakis are fine. A jacket is optional.
- GIRLS: a dress or skirt of modest length and dress shoes. No strapless dresses, formal gowns, spaghetti straps, bare backs, bare midriff, halter-tops, or low necklines. A sweater or jacket may be worn to cover the shoulders.

### **Girls' Makeup**

The Bishop requests that no liquid foundation, tinted moisturizer, powder, or make-up of any kind be worn on the forehead on the day of Confirmation (Canon law requires that the Sacred Chrism be applied directly to the skin). When foundation and/or powder is worn, the makeup mixes with the Sacred Chrism and begins to leave an orange cross on the forehead. Also, the makeup mixes with the remaining oil that is used for subsequent candidates.

### **Pictures/Videotaping**

The Bishop asks that there be no videotaping or pictures taken during the liturgy. A designated person will take pictures of your child processing in and being anointed. We will have a group picture outside immediately following the Mass. The Bishop will also be available for pictures in the Parish Hall after the group picture. Be sure to pick up your certificates and return your robe to the hanger in the Parish Hall at this time, too.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

### Parents should expect to:

- worship with your families every weekend at Mass, and pray with your child regularly.
- be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of your child.
- engage in discussions about the material being studied, including sharing your understanding and perspective.
- encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- pray for your child's spiritual growth every day.
- support and encourage completion of assignments, activities, and expectations.

## BISHOP'S SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- ❖ **Discuss the Sacrament of Confirmation and its meaning with your child.**
- ❖ **Be familiar with the content of your child's lessons.**  
Websites to assist you with lesson content:
  - <http://www.osvcurriculum.com/fwsb/videos>
  - Encounter: Middle School bible study – Link emailed to families
- ❖ **Read about the Sacrament of the Confirmation in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC):**
  - CCC – Part 2/Section 2/Article 2/#1285-1321
- ❖ **Purchase a book on the lives of the saints (our heroes of virtue)**
- ❖ **Recite the Prayer to the Holy Spirit with your child and pray often.**

### **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,  
that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may always be holy. Amen.

- Saint Augustine

- ❖ **Read the account of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles and discuss**



## St. Michael the Archangel Confirmation Service Verification Form

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

To allow you to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to reach out in Christian charity, and selflessly give, we require each candidate to **complete at least FIVE service experiences**. Each experience should last 2 to 3 hours in length for a minimum of **15 hours**. At least one of the forms of service is to be done outside the parish. After each service project has been completed, please fill out the description of the project, give a short reflection, and then request the supervisor's signature. In addition to the service verification form, the student must also include 3-4 pictures (total) doing service OR write two, half-page reflections on two of the projects. The reflections may include:

- Who was helped as a result of my service? What effect did my service have on them?
- How did performing the service make me feel?
- Through the service, how did I see myself being the hands and feet of Jesus?

*Service projects are to be done outside the school day. They may not count for two organizations at the same time. Candidates may not be paid for the time spent. Additional space is on the next page.*

*Turn in completed verification forms and pictures OR reflections **to Mrs. Swygart by July 20, 2025.***

**Service 1 and short reflection:**

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service 2 and short reflection:**

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service 3 and short reflection:**

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service 4 and short reflection:**

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Date: Length of time: Supervisor's Signature:

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**Service 5 and short reflection:**

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Date: Length of time: Supervisor's Signature:

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**Service 6 and short reflection:**

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Date: Length of time: Supervisor's Signature:

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**Service 7 and short reflection:**

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Date: Length of time: Supervisor's Signature:

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**Service 8 and short reflection:**

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Date: Length of time: Supervisor's Signature:

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## SERVICE OPTIONS FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

### St. Michael the Archangel 2024-2025

Candidates are encouraged to choose at least one project not involving family or parish activities. Two to three hours of service fulfill one service project requirement for a minimum of 15 hours total.

#### **BABYSITTING FOR WOMEN'S CARE CENTER**

918 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St, Auburn, IN  
260-333-7117

#### **FALL & SPRING CLEAN-UP ST. MICHAEL'S**

Students are needed to help weed, rake leaves, plant flowers, sweep sidewalks, etc. Watch the bulletin for upcoming information. You may also work on this independently.

Contact person: Arica Swygart, 260-837-7115 or [dre@stmichaelwaterloo.com](mailto:dre@stmichaelwaterloo.com)

#### **CLEANING OF HEADSTONES IN ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY**

Students are needed to clean the oldest headstones. The church will purchase the approved cleaner. Please call or email Arica Swygart to coordinate.

#### **HELP SOMEONE ON ST. MICHAEL'S HOMEBOUND LIST**

Do yard work, shovel snow, cook a meal, clean, do a puzzle, visit, play a game, etc. with a homebound parishioner.

Please contact Arica Swygart to arrange a date, time, and location for service.

#### **WARM A HEART FOOD BANK**

100 W. Railroad St, Waterloo, IN

Areas of need:

- St. Michael's prepares and serves a meal every 3rd Thursday. Help is needed to serve, work in the kitchen, and bag groceries for families. (Meals are served every Tuesday and Thursday by different churches. You are welcome to help at any of those nights.)
- Help Joann Walker on Saturday mornings clean tables and chairs, sweep, and mop.

Students must call to schedule dates and times of service.

Contact person: Joann Walker, 260-494-2741

#### **BETZ NURSING HOME**

116 Betz Rd, Auburn, IN

260-925-3814

Students are needed to help play music, play games with the residents, help the activity aide, or work in the courtyard. Students must call to schedule dates, times, and activity for their service.

#### **NORTHERN LAKES NURSING AND REHABILITATION**

516 Williams St, Angola, IN

Help is needed with bingo, playing games with the residents, reading to them, singing, doing crafts, weeding flower beds, and more!

Students must call to schedule dates, times, and activity for their service.

Contact: Activity Director, 260-665-9467

**PRESENCE SACRED HEART HOME**

*515 N. Main St, Avilla, IN*

Students are needed to visit with the residents, help with maintaining bird feeders, and other outside tasks. They may also help with bingo, social hour, play games with residents, and popping popcorn for movie time.

Students must call to schedule dates and times of service.

Contact: Activity Director, 260-897-2841

**DEKALB HUMANE SOCIETY**

*5221 US 6, Butler, IN*

Students must call to schedule dates and times of service. An adult must stay with them.

**WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*300 S. Wayne St, Waterloo, IN*

Please call the library director to coordinate, 260-837-4491

**TYPE OF SERVICE: INDEPENDENT**

Candidates may also create their own service projects. An adult must verify the service. An explanation of the service performed should be included on the verification form. Some other ideas are:

- Coach or assist with younger children's sport teams and activities
- Volunteer at the local hospital; create craft kits for children in the hospital (obtain approval from the hospital first before making kits)
- Organize a toy drive, coat drive, or canned food drive at church, your school, or in the community
- Put together care packages for those at homeless shelters, nursing homes, or those in isolation
- Babysit for a family with younger children
- Help organize a blood drive at the church (Michelle VanWye may be able to help coordinate)
- Create a lasting addition to the church campus (outdoor living rosary, area for prayer, etc.)
  - We could work on this as a group project.
- Participate in Right to Life issues and marches or other justice causes
  - October is Right to Life month
  - The Right to Life walk in Fort Wayne is in January. You could organize a group from our parish to walk together.
- Any surrounding library, nursing home, etc. is allowed. This list of options is just a starting point! Please be creative and think how God wants you to use your unique gifts and talents to reach out to others.

**Independent service choices must be approved by Mrs. Swygart.**