

Confirmation Class 2016-2017 Information & Registration Packet



VENI
SANCTE
SPIRITUS

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Dear Parish Families,

Welcome to the St. Mark Confirmation Program! We are excited to journey with your family and teen toward the Sacrament of Confirmation. In this registration packet you will find all the information you need about the Confirmation and Youth Ministry Program at St. Mark. This is truly a special time of spiritual formation for your teen; one that we hope will strengthen your entire family.

In the Catholic Church, we know that the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to the baptized in order to more perfectly bind the Candidates to God through His Church. Through this Sacrament, your child will be enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to be a true witnesses of Christ. Confirmation is not a graduation from Religious Education or the faith. Therefore, the preparation for receiving this Sacrament cannot be simply a class your child must attend to receive head knowledge. Instead, this is a period of time for them to deepen their faith and ask God for the Grace to live it out in a more real way. The youth who fully enter into this process of ongoing conversion have the opportunity to encounter Christ and become his disciples. Because of this, our entire Confirmation Preparation Program is structured in a way to encourage the candidates to not just go through the motions but to be open to the life changing power of the Holy Spirit as we see in the apostles at Pentecost. "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4)

Confirmation Preparation at St. Mark has several components for both parents and youth to enhance and enrich their experience of the faith throughout the year. All Candidates will be required to attend weekly sessions become involved in a parish ministry, participate in a service project, and attend an overnight retreat. We also recognize that you, as parents, are the first and most important teachers of your children in matters of faith and morals – therefore we have opportunities for parent involvement in our program as well. All parents are asked to commit to leading their child into a deeper faith relationship through utilizing our curriculum's Parent Guide, attending monthly Parent Sessions, and volunteering as a leader for least one of our weekly classes.

To learn more about the program and your role in preparing your child for Confirmation, we ask each of you to attend a Parent Information Session on Sunday, August 21st from 1:00-2:00pm in the Christi Center Parish Hall. The meeting will not only inform you about the program, but will also offer ideas and tools to confidently engage and encourage your child during their preparation. You will also receive a Chosen Parent's Guide which summarizes the program lesson by lesson, allowing you to follow along and play an active role in your child's faith journey. We will also review all components of our program, and Patrick will be available to answer any questions that you may have! Please know that we are praying for you and your child as they enter into this journey of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In Christ,

Fr. Francisco Quezada
Pastor, St. Mark

Patrick Meleney
Director of Youth Catechesis-Ministry

2016-2017 Confirmation Class & Event Schedule

Classes meet Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30pm in the Hall.

August

17th Parent Information Session 7:00-8:00pm

30th Registration & Payment DUE

September

14th Session 1 & Parent Session

21st Session 2

28th Session 3

October

5th Session 4 & Parent Session

12th NO CLASS - FALL BREAK

19th Session 5

26th Session 6

TBD Service Project

November

2nd Session 7 & Parent Session

9th Session 8

16th Session 9

18th-20th Optional High School Fall Retreat

23rd NO SESSION - THANKSGIVING

30th Session 10

December

7th Session 11 & Parent Session

14th NO SESSION - CHRISTMAS BREAK

21st NO SESSION - CHRISTMAS BREAK

28th NO SESSION - CHRISTMAS BREAK

January

4th Session 12 & Parent Session

11th Session 13

18th Session 14

25th Session 15

February

1st Session 16 & Parent Session

8th Session 17

15th NO SESSION-Optional Mountain Madness Retreat Meeting

17th – 19th Optional Mountain Madness Middle School Retreat

22nd Session 18

March

1st NO SESSION – ASH WEDNESDAY

8th Session 19 & Parent Session

15th NO SESSION – PARISH MISSION

22nd NO SESSION – SPRING BREAK

29th Session 20

April

5th Session 21 & Parent Session

12th Session 22

13th Holy Thursday Liturgy 7:00pm

14th Good Friday Veneration of the Cross 7:00pm

15th Easter Vigil 8:00pm

19th Session 23

26th Session 24

May

3rd CHOSEN RETREAT MEETING

5th – 7th CHOSEN Retreat

TBD Confirmation Ceremony Rehearsal

TBD Confirmation Ceremony

2016-2017 Confirmation Requirements

Candidate Requirements

1. **Catechesis**

- Candidates for Confirmation are required to complete one year of catechesis prior to entering into Confirmation Preparation. This can be done by:
 - For those in 7th or 8th Grade: Regular participation ECHO Middle School Youth Group during the 2015-2016 School Year.
 - For those in High School: Regular participation in QAHAL High School Youth Group during the 2015-2016 School Year.
- If a candidate does not meet this requirement they will need to register for ECHO or QAHAL and participate for one year before entering into Confirmation Prep in the Fall of 2017.

2. **Sessions-** *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to breaking of bread and the prayers.” – Acts 2:42*

- **Schedule:** Meet Wednesday 7:00- 8:30 pm in the Hall. Snacks will be provided.
- **Format:** Classes are designed to not only teach the information needed for the Sacrament but also to cultivate the faith of each candidate in a personal way. The session will open in prayer followed by a video teaching. Topics will range from the nature of God and his Church to the Sacraments, Virtue, and Current Issues. This video will be broken into segments to allow for small groups of 8-10 candidates to discuss the topic more in depth. Following small groups the class will participate in an activity and/or prayer that relates to that topic that night.
- **Books/Homework** – Confirmation Candidates will need to bring a Bible and their student workbook to every class. The Student Workbook will be checked at every session to ensure the completion of homework assignments.
- **Small Groups** – Small groups are at the heart of our Confirmation preparation. Small groups will remain the same each week, are assigned by the youth director, and are based on age and gender. Small groups are a time for each candidate to connect and build relationships with the other candidates in the class and their adult small group leader. In these groups, candidates and their group leaders will discuss the topic of the night by reading scripture, referring to the Youth Catechism, ask questions, share stories and apply the faith to their lives.
- **Attendance:** All youth are required to attend every class session. If you must miss a class session, all candidates are required to make up the class by scheduling a one-on-one appointment with Patrick to review the missed material.

3. **Faith in Action/Service** – *“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” – James 2:17*

We will take part in one service project together as a group rather than requiring individual service hours. All candidates are required to attend this service project.

- **Christ in the City:** Second Saturday Lunch
We will join the missionaries from Christ in the City along with 75 volunteers to serve a warm meal to almost 300 homeless in downtown Denver. Our time will include a training prior to service. Volunteers are encouraged to not only serve food but to sit down with those being served to talk and pray. More information will be forthcoming in the Fall.

4. **Retreat** – *“And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he (Jesus) prayed.” – Mark 1:35*
- Why Retreat? Jesus would often go off by himself to pray and be with God. Many people throughout Scripture would encounter God out in the wilderness. He uses times when we take a break from our everyday lives and distractions to communicate with us and reveal himself. Candidates are asked to disconnect from their regular lives in order to commune with God. This retreat will help the candidates to enter into their preparation more deeply, encounter Christ in a new way and bond with each other through activities, prayer, small groups and talks.
 - Cost: Cost for the Confirmation retreat is \$135 per teen (Due in April). This fee is in addition to the \$85 Confirmation Fee and provides 6 meals, overnight lodging at retreat center, transportation to retreat, and chaperones for the retreat.
 - Dates:
 - Mandatory Reetreat
 - All Candidates- attend the CHOSEN Retreat: May 5th-7th
 - Optional Retreats
 - 8th Grade Candidates –
Mountain Madness Retreat: February 17th- 19th at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO
 - High School Candidates –
High School Fall Retreat: November 18th - 20th

Registration & Information Packets will be handed out in class as the dates get near.
 - Attendance: Attendance at the Confirmation Retreat in May is absolutely mandatory. We expect that because you are being given the dates in August for these retreats that you plan your schedules around these events. It is absolutely vital that Candidates participate in this retreats hosted by St. Mark as a whole class- no exceptions.
5. **Parish Involvement** – *“In the Church we discover Christ, who is the Love of our lives.” – St. Josemaria Escriva*
- Community Life: The Apostles show us that the Christian life is one of community in the Body of Christ. Our faith cannot grow without the friendship of fellow Christians. This is why we require each candidate for Confirmation to get involved in one of the many ministries of the parish. Involvement should be on a regular basis, not simply attending once or twice.
 - Suggested Ministries:
 - Liturgy-- Lector, Usher, Altar Server, Sacristan, Choir etc...
 - Service-- High School Mentors, Coffee & Donuts, Welcome Desk, Office Assistance, etc...
6. **Patron Saints** – *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” – Hebrews 12:1*
- Choosing a Saint: All candidates will be asked to spend some time thinking and praying about a saint to choose as their patron for their life. Confirmation saints should be a person they want to be like that teaches them something about how to live as a Christian. These saints then become someone prays for them from heaven for the rest of their lives. When someone is canonized, 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). Youth should desire to be like their saint!

- Information Paper: All candidates will be asked to submit a one page typed and double spaced paper to give a brief biography of the saint they have chosen which will be due March 1st. More details will be given during class sessions.

7. **Mass & Triduum Liturgies** – *“Beginning with the Easter Triduum as its source of light, the new age of the Resurrection fills the whole liturgical year with its brilliance. Gradually, on either side of this source, the year is transfigured by the liturgy” (Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

- Mass Attendance: The Church requires that all practicing Catholics attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Therefore, attendance at weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation is expected and required by all candidates for Confirmation and their families.
“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. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 2180-2182)
- Why the Triduum? The Triduum Liturgies are the holiest days and liturgies of the year. These liturgies “tell the story that stands at the core of the Christian faith”- the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Candidates will be asked to help with the Easter Vigil Liturgy and are required to fully participate in Holy Week celebrations.
 - Holy Thursday: Mass of the Last Supper
 - Thursday, April 13th @ 7:00 pm.
 - Good Friday: Veneration of the Cross
 - Friday, April 14th @ 7:00 pm.
 - Easter Vigil: Celebration of Christ’s Resurrection
 - Saturday, April 15th @ 8:00 pm.

Parent Requirements

1. **Utilize Parent Guide:** *“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children . . .” – Deuteronomy 6:5-7*
- **Why Parents?** Candidates for Confirmation do not prepare for this Sacrament alone. Along with the other candidates and their sponsor, each candidate has a family behind them, encouraging and supporting them. Parents are the primary teachers of the faith for their children and we want to help you in this role. During this special season of life we ask all parents to recommit to the basics of their faith: personal prayer, weekly Mass attendance, regular Confession, etc. and show their teens the joy of the faith. We ask all parent’s to be actively engaged in what your child is learning through following along with your Parent Guide and using the material to facilitate discussions at home with your teen.

2. **Monthly Parent Classes:** *“That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and your fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” – 1 John 1:3*
 - **Format:** Each session will help you dive deeper into your Catholic Faith in order to better walk alongside your child as they go through Confirmation preparation. Being a parent today and trying to teach the faith to your children is hard; therefore we need a community of other parents striving for the same goal to help us and support us. At these parent session you will have an opportunity to get to know other parents in the class and encourage one another in your faith through small group discussions. We hope, in this way, your candidate’s preparation for Confirmation will be an opportunity for deeper conversion for your whole family.
 - **Schedule:** Meets once a month during the Candidate session in the Parish Hall. Please see attached calendar of events for exact dates.
3. **Volunteer at Classes:** *“Remember that the Christian life is one of action; not of speech and daydreams.” St. Vincent Pallotti*
 - **Requirement:** In order for us to provide a Safe Environment for all youth attending the Confirmation Classes, we will need parents to volunteer to chaperone at least one class session throughout the year. This will also encourage the candidates by seeing their parents giving of their time for this important preparation. Parents are also welcome to join our CORE team of adults and volunteer each week, if desired.
 - **Tasks:** Volunteers will be asked to help with the running the session by assisting with setting up and putting away food, handing out materials, leading small groups, and providing an adult presence in the class.
4. **Provide Food:** *“My soul shall be sated as with choice food, with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you.” – Psalm 63:6*
 - **Sign Up Genius:** Parents are invited to consider providing snacks for the youth each week through our sign up genius website.

Sponsor Information

1. **What is a Sponsor?** *“Iron sharpens Iron, and one man sharpens another.” – Proverbs 27:17*
 - **Role:** A sponsor is not just an honorary title; it is a calling. Each candidate should identify someone they consider a living witness of faith in Jesus Christ and his Church. A sponsor has three primary roles: (1) to assist the candidate in preparing for Confirmation, (2) to present the candidate for Confirmation, and (3) to help the confirmed person to live out his or her Christian faith fully.
 - **Qualifications:**
 - 1) Be a Catholic who is at least sixteen years old.
 - 2) Have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - 3) Be a person who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.
 - 4) Not be a parent of the candidate (siblings are discouraged from being sponsors).

- **Requirements:** We request that sponsors take seriously their role in assisting with the preparation of each candidate. Each sponsor will receive a workbook to help them in mentoring the teen who has chosen them to serve as a role model of the Christian life. We also recommend making every effort to attend the Confirmation ceremony held in May.

Confirmation Registration Form 2016-2017

Registration Deadline: All forms must be submitted to the parish office no later than Monday, August 29th, 2016. We cannot guarantee a spot for your child if you submit after this date.

Cost: \$85 per Child. Payment due with registration. Late Registrations will be charged a \$10.00 fee. (Includes Youth Workbook, Parent Guide, Sponsor Guide, & Youth Catechism)

Youth Information:

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Age: _____ Grade in Fall '16 _____ School Attending _____

Date of Birth _____ (month/Day/year) Sex: M or F

Home Phone: _____

Teen E-Mail Address: _____

Baptism: Please attach a copy of your Baptismal Certificate to this registration. We cannot register your child until we receive this information.

Date of Baptism: _____ Parish of Baptism: _____

Parish of Baptism Address: _____

Parent Information:

Father's Name _____ Cell # _____

Mother's Name _____ Cell# _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____ (For sacramental recording purposes).

Preferred contact E-Mail _____

Stepfather _____ Stepmother _____

Primary residence is with: (check one) ___ Father ___ Mother ___ Both

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Office Use Only: Pd: \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Date _____