

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

8TH GRADE MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS | 7:15-8:45 PM

FALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER | 1 PARENT MEETING

SEPTEMBER | 15, 22, 29

OCTOBER | 6, 13, 27

NOVEMBER | 10, 17

DECEMBER | 1, 15

We provide opportunities for 8th grade students to encounter Jesus Christ and His Church while engaging in activities that challenge them to grow as disciples. We've created an environment where trusted adult leaders and peer ministers walk alongside our youth helping them to navigate the challenges of the 8th grade while encouraging them to be all that God created them to be.

MORE INFORMATION AT [STMARKHR.ORG/CATECHESIS/YOUTH/8TH](https://stmarkhr.org/catechesis/youth/8th)

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

8TH GRADE MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS | 7:15-8:45 PM

SPRING CALENDAR

JANUARY | 12, 19, 26

FEBRUARY | 9, 16, 23

MARCH | 9, 23, 30

APRIL | 6, 20, 27

MAY | 4

We provide opportunities for 8th grade students to encounter Jesus Christ and His Church while engaging in activities that challenge them to grow as disciples. We've created an environment where trusted adult leaders and peer ministers walk alongside our youth helping them to navigate the challenges of the 8th grade while encouraging them to be all that God created them to be.

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Confirmation Information

Faith Formation: *“Outside the danger of death, to be licitly confirmed it is required, if the person has the use of reason, that one be suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew one’s baptismal promises” (Code of Canon Law, Can. 889).*

- Candidates for Confirmation are required to complete one year of faith formation prior to entering Confirmation Preparation (Year Two). This can be done by:
 - For those in 7th or 8th Grade: Regular participation (no more than three absences) in Middle School Ministry during the 2021-2022 School Year.
 - For those in High School: Regular participation (no more than three absences) in High School Ministry during the 2021-2022 School Year.
- If a candidate does not meet this requirement, they will need to register for Middle School Ministry or High School Ministry and participate for one year before entering into Confirmation Preparation (Year Two).

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

- Schedule
 - 7th or 8th Grade students who have not completed an initial year of faith formation will meet for Middle School Ministry on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:15 PM in the Parish Hall.
 - 8th Grade students who have completed an initial year of faith formation will meet for Confirmation Preparation on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:45 PM in the Parish Hall.
 - High School students who have not completed an initial year of faith formation will meet for High School Ministry on Mondays from 7:15-8:45 PM in the St. John Paul II Youth Room.
 - High School students who have completed an initial year of faith formation will meet for Confirmation Preparation on Mondays from 6:00-7:00 PM in the St. John Paul II Youth Room.
- Format
 - Our Confirmation Preparation Program is designed not only to teach the information needed for the Sacrament, but also to cultivate the faith of each candidate in a personal way. Each session will open with a time of Lectio Divina followed by a teaching. Topics will range from the nature of God and His Church to

the Sacraments, Virtue, and Current Issues. We'll also have time for small groups of 8-10 candidates and a trusted adult and peer minister to discuss the topic more in depth. After small group we'll participate in an activity and/or prayer that relates to the topic that night.

- Small Groups
 - Small groups are the heart of our Confirmation Preparation Program. Small groups will remain the same each week, are assigned by the Director of Youth Catechesis/Ministry and Assistant Director of Youth and Parish Catechesis and are based on age and gender. Small groups are a time for each candidate to connect and build relationships with other candidates and their adult small group leaders and peer ministers. 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 session. If you must miss a session, all candidates are required to make up the session.

Service: *“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17).*

- Christ in the City
 - The Catholic faith cannot be an idle faith. We cannot live it out only on Sundays but must go out into the world to serve others. With this in mind, service is an important part of our Confirmation Preparation Program. All students in Confirmation Preparation are encouraged to attend Christ in the City Second Saturday Lunch in the Park before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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.

- Dates
 - Confirmation Retreat (8th Grade)
 - December 3th-5th, 2020 at Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center, Larkspur, CO
- Attendance
 - Retreat attendance is mandatory. We expect that because you are being given the dates early for these retreat that you plan your schedule around these events. It is vital that Candidates participate in these retreats hosted by St. Mark Catholic Church.
- Registration
 - Registration and Information Packets are available online or outside the St. John Paul II Youth Room.

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. Therefore, we encourage each Confirmation Candidate 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
 - Lector, Usher, Altar Server, etc.

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 who prays for them from heaven for the rest of their lives. 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 who 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” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 828). Youth should desire to be like their saint!

- Saint Paper
 - All candidates will be asked to submit a one page typed and double-spaced paper to give a brief biography of their Patron Saint and why they have chosen them which will be due during our Confirmation Preparation Session on January 12th.

Confirmation Letter: *“The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time; their parents and shepherds of souls, especially pastors, are to see to it that the faithful are properly instructed to receive it and approach the sacrament at the proper time” (Code of Canon Law, Can. 890).*

- Why do I want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?
 - Each Confirmation Candidate is asked to write a letter to Fr. Bierbaum about why they want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. When writing this letter please address the following questions: What is Confirmation? (If you're struggling to answer this question look back through the book 100 Things Every Catholic Should Know, pg. 136-137 or the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285-1321). Why do you want to receive the Sacrament? How would you describe your journey toward Confirmation? What have you enjoyed about it? What have you found challenging? How have you grown during the past months of preparation? Has your relationship with God changed? In what ways? What Patron Saint did you choose? Why? Who is your Confirmation sponsor? Why did you choose him or her? How will you live out your faith once you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? What talents and gifts has God given you to build up His kingdom? (Note: This letter must be at least one page typed, 12 pt. font, and double spaced)
 - Confirmation Letter
 - All candidates will be asked to submit a one page typed and double-spaced letter address to Fr. Bierbaum using the above mentioned prompt due during our Confirmation Preparation Session on February 23rd.

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).*

- 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 are encouraged to fully participate in Holy Week celebrations.

8th Grade Confirmation Accountability Sheet

Please confirm that the following have been completed by checking the appropriate lines and turn in at the Confirmation Ceremony Rehearsal.

___ Attend Confirmation Candidate/Parent Meetings (**Parent Meeting: 9/1/2021**)

___ Turned in Baptismal Certificate (**Due: 9/15/2021**)

___ Turn in Sponsor Form (**Due: 10/27/2021**)

___ Attend Sacrament of Reconciliation (at least once per year)

___ Attend Confirmation Retreat (**December 3rd-5th, 2021**)

___ Turn in Patron Saint Paper (**Due: 1/12/2021**)

When writing about the Saint you have chosen, please write from a personal perspective. How is it that you feel drawn to this particular Saint? What attributes or virtues does this Saint have that I would like to emulate in my life? Where did this Saint live? Are they a patron Saint of anything that is meaningful to me? Elaborate and go deeper than what these questions suggest. (Note: This Paper must be at least one page typed, 12 pt. font, and double spaced)

___ Turn in Confirmation Letter (**Due: 2/23/2021**)

Each Confirmation Candidate is asked to write a letter to Fr. Bierbaum about why they want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. When writing this letter please address the following questions: What is Confirmation? Why do you want to receive the Sacrament? How would you describe your journey toward Confirmation? What have you enjoyed about it? What have you found challenging? How have you grown during the past months of preparation? Has your relationship with God changed? In what ways? What saint name did you choose? Why? Who is your Confirmation sponsor? Why did you choose him or her? How will you live out your faith once you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? What talents and gifts has God given you to build up his kingdom? (Note: This letter must be at least one page typed, 12 pt. font, and double spaced)

___ Attend Confirmation Mass (**Tentative Dates: 5/7/2022, 5/24/2022, or 5/29/2022 [All dates are subject to change. We'll notify all Candidates once a date has been finalized]**)

I affirm that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Information

Parent Confirmation Preparation Sessions: *“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. You will have an opportunity to get to know other parents 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
 - Wednesday, September 15th, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall.
 - Wednesday, October 13th, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall.
 - Wednesday, November 17th, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall.
 - Wednesday, December 1st, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall
 - Wednesday, January 19th, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall
 - Wednesday, February 16th, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall
 - Wednesday, March 9th, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall
 - Wednesday, April 20th, 7:15-8:45 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Hall

Volunteer: *“Remember that the Christian life is one of action; not of speech and daydreams” (St. Vincent Pallotti).*

- Volunteer Opportunities
 - In order for us to provide a Safe Environment for all youth attending the Confirmation Classes, we will need parents to volunteer to chaperone. This will

also encourage the candidates by seeing their parents giving of their time for this important preparation. Parents are also welcomed 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.
- Safe Environment Training
 - The Diocese of Colorado Springs requires all adults volunteering with youth to attend a mandatory Safe Environment class, complete a background check, and sign a volunteer code of conduct. St. Mark will provide Safe Environment Training to all new volunteers at the beginning of the year.

Provide Food: *“My soul shall be sated as with choice food; with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you” (Psalm 63:6).*

- Snack and Drink Donations
 - We ask that parents help provide snacks and drinks throughout the year for our Candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We rely heavily on these donations and are greatly appreciative for all your help.

Sponsor Information

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:
 - To assist the candidate in preparing for Confirmation.
 - To present the candidate for Confirmation.
 - To help the confirmed person to live out his or her Christian faith fully.
- Qualifications:
 - Be a Catholic who is at least sixteen years old.
 - Have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - Be a person who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.
 - Not be a parent of the candidate (siblings are discouraged from being sponsors).
- Requirements

- Although St. Mark has no official requirements of sponsors, we request that sponsors take seriously their role in assisting with the preparation of each candidate. We also recommend making every effort to attend the Confirmation ceremony held in May.

