

ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

CONFIRMATION PACKET

2021 – 2022



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St. Matthias Catholic Parish
9306 West Beloit Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53227

St. Matthias Mission Statement

St. Matthias Catholic Parish is committed to continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ. We invite and welcome all. Come... live, grow, and be challenged by the message through prayer, formation, and service.

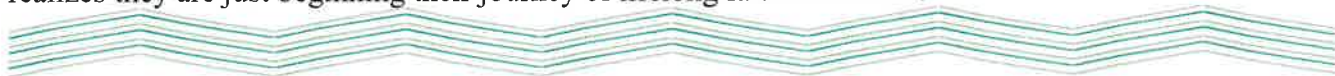
Program Description

The St. Matthias High School Christian Formation Program is a program where students in 9th, 10th, & 11th grades receive catechesis relative to their age. Students in high school may then start immediate preparation for Confirmation in 11th grade or junior year of high school.



The main goal of this program is to engage in *discipleship* or help students become intentional followers of Jesus Christ. A *disciple* quite simply is a committed follower of Jesus. Someone who follows Jesus believes in the things he taught and tries their best to follow in his footsteps. *Discipleship* then is the process by which an individual develops the necessary skills or disciplines needed to become a follower of Jesus.

Finally, these disciples are sent into the world with the understanding that discipleship is a lifelong journey that does not stop after you get confirmed. Rather, after Confirmation a disciple realizes they are just beginning their journey of lifelong faith formation.



Requirements for the Confirmation Program:

What follows are the specific requirements for students in immediate preparation for Confirmation. General policies for Christian Formation can be found in the High School Christian Formation Parent/Student Handbook.

Sponsor

1. Each candidate will select a Confirmation sponsor. Sponsors must be at least 16 years old, a confirmed and actively practicing Catholic, and not the candidate's parents.
2. Once a sponsor is chosen the student will complete sponsor form by no later than Sunday December 5th, 2021. (Please see attached form "Confirmation Sponsor Agreement")
3. If you are having issues or trouble locating a sponsor you may call Director, Brian Jens, 414-982-2406, but only as a last resort.

Confirmation Name

1. Candidates may choose to select an additional name to serve as their Confirmation name. These names are used as an introduction to the Archbishop/Bishop.
2. Typically, Confirmation names are picked after a saint. However other names can be selected for various reasons.
3. Students will begin the process of choosing a name at the session on Sunday November 14th, 2021. At this session, students will receive a sheet that includes the information needed to pick a saint. Once chosen, the student must fill out the sheet and submit it to the Director of Lifelong Formation by Sunday March 13th, 2022.
4. Students who miss this session will be responsible for obtaining the sheet and filling out necessary information.

Student/Sponsor Activities

1. Candidates will complete three activities with their sponsor. These activities will require the candidate and their sponsor to meet and discuss different topics. All activities should be done in person unless the person lives too far away.

Candidate Questionnaire for the Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. At the session on February 20th, 2022, students will be given the candidate questionnaire for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.
2. The questionnaire is the candidate's official way of asking the bishop to be confirmed.
3. The questionnaire must be turned in by Sunday March 13th, 2022. Anybody who turns in their questionnaire late may not be eligible to be confirmed. Candidates must take full responsibility of receiving the assignment, completing it, and turning it in. Make separate arrangements if you cannot make it to either the day the assignment comes out or needs to be turned in.

Staff Interview

1. Candidates will participate in an exit interview with a member of the parish staff any time after the retreat concludes.
2. The interview is an opportunity for students to pause and reflect on their formation experience and on where their path towards deepening their faith is going. Candidates will be responsible for contacting their assigned staff member to set up the interview.
3. Assignments will be given to the candidates at their session on Sunday February 20th. The interview must be completed *before* the end of the day on 4/29/2022.

Baptismal Certificate

1. Before any person receives a sacrament, a baptismal certificate must be on file for that person. If your child was not baptized at St. Matthias, you must request a new baptismal certificate to be sent from that parish to St. Matthias.
2. To request a certificate, call the parish office of the parish in which your child was baptized. Ask the person who answers to send a baptismal certificate to St. Matthias:
Attn: Brian Jens, 9306 W Beloit Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53227.
3. If you were baptized at St. Matthias, you do not need to do anything as we already have your baptismal info.



Misc.

1. Weekend Mass is the cornerstone to the development of the candidate's faith and will aid them well along their journey. Candidates are asked to attend Mass every weekend.
2. **Candidates will make a commitment and receive a blessing as they begin the Confirmation process. This blessing will be held on Sunday, November 14th, 2021, at the 10 am Mass.**
3. Formal dress is required for the day of Confirmation. This would mean shirts and ties for gentlemen and appropriate formal dress wear for ladies. Please take special consideration that candidates will be asked to kneel before the bishop and to have appropriate length in dresses and to be aware of low-cut tops.

****Candidates are asked to enter the Confirmation process with an open mind and heart.
The decision to be confirmed belongs to the youth. ****

Frequently Asked Questions About Confirmation

1. May parents be sponsors?

Parents may not act as sponsors (c. 874). While parents are not to serve as sponsors, their role in the faith development of their children is not to be underplayed or minimized.

2. May someone who cannot be present be a sponsor and someone else fill in as proxy?

Yes. However, it is recommended that someone nearby be chosen as the sponsor so that she or he can become more intimately involved in the candidate's preparation.

3. What qualifies an individual as a sponsor?

To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

- Be designated by the one to be confirmed
- Be 16 years old
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who has received the sacrament of Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared
- Not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed (c. 874).



4. Is a confirmation retreat required?

The retreat is integral to a candidate's preparation and is not to be omitted without serious reason.

5. If a candidate is unable to be confirmed at his/her parish on the date that is scheduled, may she or he be confirmed at another parish?

Yes, this should be worked out between the pastors or parish directors of both parishes.

6. To what extent do Catholic high school students need to be involved in their confirmation program?

Catholic high school students should be encouraged to share the gift of their Catholic education with others, and they need to be included as part of the confirmation group. However, they are not expected to repeat everything they have learned in their daily religion classes. Retreats and service projects offered by Catholic high schools can be integrated into the confirmation program.

Student/Sponsor Activities

Going to Mass – Experience the Universal Church

You and your sponsor must attend 2 Masses together. One at St. Matthias and the other at the parish of your sponsor. If your sponsor also belongs to St. Matthias choose another parish in your neighborhood. If your sponsor lives out of state or far enough away where this becomes difficult, talk to your sponsor about a specific weekend where both of you will be at Mass. Then talk about the experiences afterwards. After attending the Masses, you will answer some reflection questions online. This needs to be completed before the last session **Sunday April 10th, 2022**.

Service Experience

You and your sponsor must engage in a service activity together for a minimum of 2 hours, which both the candidate and sponsor choose together, but the candidate takes the initiative to set up the project. If your sponsor is out of state or far enough away where this becomes difficult, talk with your sponsor about a specific activity you counted towards your service experiences. After you completed your service experience you will complete an online reflection. This needs to be completed in before the last session **Sunday April 10th, 2022**.

Interview People of Faith

The best way to understand what it means to be Catholic is to talk with people who live their Catholic faith. Throughout the year you will need to interview 2 people (1 being your sponsor and the other a random person) of why they are Catholic and why their faith is important to them. After interviewing them you will answer some reflection questions online. If your sponsor lives far away, please find a time to meet over the phone or virtually to talk. This needs to be completed in before the last session **Sunday April 10th, 2022**.

Confirmation Checklist

*****Each requirement must be fulfilled to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
Please note the due dates. *****

This list is provided so you are able to keep your own personal record. Check (X) each requirement as you complete it or note the date it was fulfilled.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retreat | (Must be completed before Confirmation) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor information submitted. | (Due Sunday December 5 th , 2021) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal information submitted. | (Completed by Friday January 19 th , 2020) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation Name Sheet | (Due By Sunday March 13 th , 2022) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation Questionnaire | (Due by Sunday March 13 th , 2022) |

Student/Sponsor Activities

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Going to Mass | (Completed by Sunday April 10 th , 2022) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Experience | (Completed by Sunday April 10 th , 2022) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interview People of Faith | (Completed by Sunday April 10 th , 2022) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interview with a member of Pastoral Staff | (Completed by Friday May 29 th , 2022) |

All forms (and this handbook) are also available online. You may submit forms and paperwork at any class session, by dropping them off at the parish office, or via email to bjens@stmatthias-milw.org

****Please note: You may turn anything in early and are not required to wait for the deadline!
Make note of the due dates to ensure you don't miss any!! ****

Confirmation Sponsor Agreement

You have been asked to be a sponsor for Confirmation at St. Matthias Parish. We ask you to reflect on your responsibilities as a sponsor and fill out this commitment form. Please return it to the student you are sponsoring so they can hand it in when finished.

Sponsor Information:

I, _____, have been asked to
(First) Middle Last

serve as a sponsor for the upcoming Confirmation of

(Name of Candidate)

I am a registered and participating member of _____
Catholic Parish. In the city/state of _____

I affirm that:

_____ I have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism (yes/no),
Confirmation (yes/no), and Eucharist (yes/no).

_____ I regularly participate in Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in
Christ Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist.

_____ I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the parish life
of the Church by my interest, support and loving response to those I meet in
daily life.

_____ I participate in my parish community through giving my time, talent,
and/or treasure.

_____ I will give support to the person I am sponsoring and to his/her parent by
my prayers and by the example of my Catholic faith as practiced in my daily life.

(Signature of Sponsor)

(Date)

(Signature) – Parish Staff Representative (FROM YOUR PARISH)

(Date)

Info is due Sunday December 5th, 2021 at beginning of session.