

ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

CONFIRMATION PACKET

2023 – 2024



Brian Jens
Director of Youth & Adult Ministries
414-982-2406
bjens@stmatthias-milw.org

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

St. Matthias Mission Statement

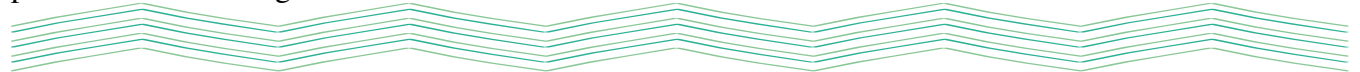
St. Matthias Catholic Parish is committed to continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ. We invite and welcome all. Come... live, grow, and be challenged by the message through prayer, formation, and service.

High School Christian Formation Program Description

The St. Matthias High School Christian Formation Program is designed to show high school young people what being a Catholic looks like in today's world. Young people in each grade level will be introduced and mentored to practice and develop a lifestyle of habitual actions that promote discipleship. Some of these are, but are not limited to: prayer, conscience formation, active participation in liturgical celebrations, growth in relationship with Jesus, reading and interpreting Scripture, leadership opportunities, and service to the world. This is accomplished through relational ministry of young people together in both large and small group activities.



Young people who are starting their junior year of high school can also begin immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, in which the above habits described above will be pursued and encouraged in more detail.



Requirements for the Confirmation Program:

What follows are the specific requirements for young people 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 candidate will complete a sponsor form and submit it no later than Sunday November 5th, 2023. (Please see attached form "Confirmation Sponsor Agreement")
3. If you are having issues or trouble locating a sponsor you may call Brian Jens, Director of Youth & Adult Ministries at 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. Candidates will begin the process of choosing a name at the session on Sunday November 5th, 2023. At this session, they will learn about the saints and will be told about the process of picking a Confirmation name. Once chosen, the candidate must fill out the Confirmation Name Worksheet at the back of this packet and submit it to the Director of Youth & Adult Ministries by Sunday March 10th, 2024.
4. Candidates who miss the session in March will be responsible for handing in the information on time.

Candidate/Sponsor Service Project

1. The main thing that candidates will work on throughout this year is a service project that will be created and led by the candidate with the help of their sponsor.
2. The candidates will spend parts of each of their sessions on Sunday evenings working on creating this service project. Each month when the candidates meet there will be designed activities to assist the candidates in creating their service projects.
3. These will be the things the candidates will work on each month:
 - a. Connecting with a world need.
 - b. Identifying an organization that meets that specific need.
 - c. How does Jesus relate to the specific need.
 - d. Identifying a saint/holy person that helped to meet that need.
 - e. Identifying themes of Catholic Social Teaching that relate to that need.

- f. Executing the service project.
 - g. Creating a presentation to highlight how the service project went.
4. Each month the candidates will have a reflection to complete with their sponsors in regard to the topics presented above. Each reflection will be given on a Sunday evening when the candidates meet for their regularly scheduled sessions. The reflection will be due the following session in the next month.
 5. The end result is to show the candidates that part of the Confirmation process is how to live out your faith in service to the world.

Retreat

1. Candidates will participate in a day retreat in preparation for Confirmation. The retreat will be held on Sunday February 4th, 2023, either at St. Matthias or at a location still to be determined. The retreat will last from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
2. If the candidate cannot attend our retreat, they need to alert the Director of Youth & Adult Ministries and arrange to attend a retreat with a different parish as soon as possible! Please be diligent in looking at the dates ahead of time.
3. A retreat packet will be mailed out at the end of October with the permission slips. If you do not receive the packet, please call Brian Jens at the Parish Office.

Candidate Questionnaire for the Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. At the session on February 18th, 2024, candidates will be told how to fill out the questionnaire for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. It is a fillable PDF on the website that can be completed, saved, and printed.
2. The questionnaire is the candidate's official way of asking the bishop to confirm them.
3. The questionnaire must be turned in by Sunday March 10th, 2024. The questionnaire must be completed prior to Confirmation. 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 Brian Jens prior to getting confirmed in May 2024.
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 Brian Jens to set up the interview.
3. Interview should be scheduled between March – May 2024.

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 newly issued 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 information.



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, October 1st, 2023, at 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 modesty into consideration when selecting attire .

****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.

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Retreat | (Must be completed before Confirmation) |
| _____ Sponsor information Submitted | (Due by Sunday, November 5 th , 2023) |
| _____ Confirmation Name Official Sheet | (Due by Sunday March 10 th , 2024) |
| _____ Confirmation Questionnaire | (Due by Sunday March 10 th , 2024) |
| Student/Sponsor Reflections | |
| _____ October Reflection | (Completed by Sunday, November 5 th , 2023) |
| _____ November Reflection | (Completed by Sunday, December 10 th , 2023) |
| _____ December Reflection | (Completed by Sunday, January 7 th , 2024) |
| _____ January Reflection | (Completed by Sunday, February 18 th , 2024) |
| _____ February Reflection | (Completed by Sunday, March 10 th , 2024) |
| _____ March Reflection | (Completed by Sunday, April 7 th , 2024) |
| _____ Service Project | (Completed by Sunday April 7 th , 2024) |
| _____ Interview with Brian Jens | (Completed by Friday May 4 th , 2024) |
| _____ Baptismal information Submitted | (Completed by Friday May 4 th , 2024) |

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

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
serve as a sponsor for the upcoming Confirmation of

(First)

Middle

Last

(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 November 5th, 2023 at beginning of session.

Confirmation Name Worksheet

Choosing A Confirmation Name – When you are confirmed your sponsor will “present” you to the bishop by a name, other than your first name. This is your “Confirmation Name.” Choosing a Confirmation name is an important part of the sacramental process as it helps you to discover how the Catholic Church is really a “communion of saints.” Furthermore, it will help you to see the many different ways to live out your faith, and hopefully provide you with another role model. **Your Confirmation Name is Due Sunday, March 10th, 2024.**

Things to Keep in Mind:

- Confirmation Name should *preferably* be the name of a saint. If you would like to take the name in honor someone important in your life (parent, sponsor, godparent, etc.) you can, but first check to see if it is the name of a saint. If not, check with Brian Jens.
- You may take your baptismal name (middle name) as your saint name. However, you still must do research on who that saint is, and why it is you choose that name.
- The bishop will ask you, “Why did you choose that name?” Be prepared to answer. Write down and be ready to say 3-5 things about your name. The bishop looks at your names, learns their lives, and will know whether you are telling the truth.

Definition of Patron Saints – Meanings and Origins – Patron Saints are those holy and virtuous men and women who are considered to be a defender of a specific group of people or a nation.

There is a patron for virtually every cause, profession or special interest.

<http://www.catholic-saints.info/patron-saints/>

Questions to Consider When Choosing a Saint Name: Fill in lines and circle 3 choices.

1. What are your greatest passions? What things in life do you find most interesting? What do you think you will be when you grow up? What are your God given talents/gifts?
<http://catholicsaints.info/patronage-topics/>
 - a. Passion: _____ Saint: _____
 - b. Passion: _____ Saint: _____
 - c. Interest: _____ Saint: _____
 - d. Interest: _____ Saint: _____
 - e. Potential Occupation: _____ Saint: _____
 - f. Potential Occupation: _____ Saint: _____
 - g. Gift/Talent: _____ Saint: _____
 - h. Gift/Talent: _____ Saint: _____
2. What is your Baptismal Name (Middle Name)? <http://catholicsaints.info/alphabetical-list/> – Saint: _____
3. Which saints have a feast day that share your birthday?
 - a. Birthday: _____ Saint: _____
4. Who are some important people in your life? Who are some influential people in your life?
 - a. Person: _____ Saint: _____
 - b. Person: _____ Saint: _____

Who Were These Saints?

Using the 3 saints you choose from the first page, research the saints and answer the following questions:

1. What happened in their life? What struggles/challenges did the saint face?
2. How did the saint live out their faith? What did they do?
3. What do you admire about the saint?

Saint 1: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Saint 2: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Saint 3: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Confirmation Name Official Sheet

Name of Candidate: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Reason for choosing this name:
