



Parent / Student
Confirmation Information
Handbook
2024 – 2025





Dear Parents & Confirmation candidates,

Welcome to Immaculate Heart of Mary's Confirmation Program! We are excited to journey with your family and your teen towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. In this packet, you will find the registration and sponsor forms, as well as preliminary information on the Sacrament of Confirmation for 2024. This is truly a special time of spiritual formation for your tee, one I hope will strengthen your entire family.

As you continue ministering to your family, your parish and the community, I ask you to be especially faithful in the following areas:

- Attend Sunday Liturgy + Holy Days of Obligation
- Support a parish ministry with your gifts and talents
- Be true to the Biblical call to tithe

In addition to worshipping at Immaculate Heart of Mary, your family has the opportunity to give your time, talent and treasure to the many ministries our faith community has to offer. Opportunities to participate are not restricted to Youth Ministry or Confirmation, but include all parish outreach, to include but are not limited to Liturgical Ministries, Music Ministry, OCIA, Religious Education. It is your example to serve that will have the greatest impact on the faith formation of your teen.

His grace is enough,
Mrs. Stacie Byers
Middle School Youth Minister, EDGE
Confirmation Coordinator

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 10th

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED REGISTRATION PACKETS TO:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
ATTN: Stacie Byers
1935 Plymouth Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

A COMPLETED REGISTRATION PACKET INCLUDES:

1. REGISTRATION FORM
2. COPY of BAPTISM CERTIFICATE

Please attach address of the Church your child was baptized at if it is not written on the Baptism Certificate

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

confirmation brings an increase & deepening of baptismal grace

- It Unites us more firmly to Christ & increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- It renders our bond with the Church more fully
- It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread the Faith by works & actions as true witnesses of Christ & to profess the name of Christ boldly.

how do i know i am ready for confirmation?

None of us are ever fully ready, worthy, or deserving of a sacrament. But,

- You need to be open to how God will strengthen you & continue to be present in your life
- You can make an effort to be prepared to celebrate Confirmation in a way that shows sincerity

what happens during confirmation?

The Bishop anoints your head with Holy Chrism Oil –

Bishop says: “Your Confirmation Name, be sealed with the Holy Spirit!”

Confirmand says: “Amen”

Bishop says: “Peace be with you”

Confirmant says: “And with your Spirit”

Shake hands with the Bishop

And God, who has the power to create the entire universe, raise the dead, & give sight to the blind, will pour His Holy Spirit into you – **in the amount you are willing to receive** – to strengthen you with these gifts:

- Knowledge – helps us to know God’s will
- Understanding – helps us appreciate the truths of our faith
- Wisdom – helps us to see the world, others & ourselves with God’s eyes
- Fortitude – helps us to choose what is right & avoiding evil
- Counsel – helps us be directed by God in matters necessary for our salvation
- Piety – helps us strive for holiness & closeness with God
- Fear of God – gives us a sense of how AWESOME & powerful God is



CANDIDATE AND PARISH COVENANT

~ A covenant, in its most general sense, is a solemn contract or similar undertaking

The Candidate and Parents

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

I understand that deciding to enter the Confirmation preparation program is an important decision requiring study, prayer & purposeful participation.

I will do my best to take this decision seriously. I will participate & support my companions on this journey by asking questions and sharing my thoughts & opinions. I will strive to be engaged in my words & actions for my benefit & for the benefit of my peers.

I have been told about & understand that a retreat is a required element of the process. If a serious problem arises regarding my attendance, I will contact the Youth Minister / Confirmation Coordinator (with sufficient advance notice) & to come to a resolution together.

I understand that if I have to miss a session I should contact the Youth Minister / Confirmation Coordinator as soon as I know about the scheduling issue and alternative options will be laid out.

If I miss a session, I will need to contact the Youth Minister / Confirmation Coordinator and discuss options to make up for the missed experience. This should be done within one week of the missed session.

I will do my best to pray every day to encourage my growth in and understanding of the Holy Spirit. Further, I will participate in Mass each week. I understand that doing so will help me celebrate more fully in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

I understand that the Confirmation preparation program is entered voluntarily. It is understood that those who attend do so because they want to.

The parish will support you with the materials & information necessary for the preparation program

The program coordinators, catechists, teachers, parish staff and the parish community will pray for you & your fellow companions so that you may continue to grow in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The program coordinators, catechists, and program team are here to help you grow in your awareness of how the Holy Spirit is active in your life.



Parent Registration Checklist

- Confirmation Registration Form – Due: DECEMBER 10th
- Copy of Baptismal Certificate – Due: DECEMBER 10th
***If not already on file, please let us know if it should be on file at IHM*
- Sponsor Form – Due: – Due: MARCH 4th
(Certificate of Sponsorship / Contact Information Sheet)
***Found in the Sponsor Information Packet*

Please email / drop off / mail ALL forms to:

Stacie Byers at: youth@ihmparishgr.org

OR

STACIE BYERS
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Parish
1935 Plymouth Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506



Confirmation Action Plan & Eligibility Requirements

Goal #1 – Grow in Knowledge of Faith

- Actively participate in Confirmation Preparation
- Ask questions and seek out answers
 - **From your mentors, parents, sponsor, priests, youth minister, books or internet

Goal #2 – Grow in Relationship with God

- Pray. Every day! Listen for God through Scripture, prayers, music and conversations
- Attend Mass with your family every Sunday

Goal #3 – Choose a Sponsor & a Saint

- Discuss with your parents and God (Pray about) who to ask
- Ask him/her to be your sponsor
- Turn in My Sponsor Form
- My hour with Jesus
- Faith in Action Packet
- Research Saints & choose one you can relate to & take their name as your Confirmation name

Goal #4 – Meet & Discuss with you Sponsor

- Discuss the Scriptures & meet regularly to discuss our faith & grow in Christ
- Pray with my Sponsor

Eligibility for the Sacrament of Confirmation

The individual seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation must be suitably instructed & properly disposed. They must be willing to be involved in the preparation program with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ & His Church. Additionally, they must:

- Be Baptized
- Participate in Sunday Mass
- Receive the Eucharist weekly
- Regularly participate in Reconciliation

We are present day disciples of Jesus and the Sacrament of Confirmation gives us the power to live out our faith, share it with others, and continue growing in faith!

Preparation Requirements

- Confirmation Preparation
- Attend NET Retreat (Fall of 2025) **Highly encouraged for faith formation students*
- Attend Junior High Retreat and/or Shine Youth Rally (March)
- Active in living out the Faith



Student Confirmation Checklist

September – May

- Confirmation Preparation – **Sundays 9:00 – 10:15 am**
***Required for Faith Formation students*
***IHM Students receive Confirmation preparation in Religion class*

- EDGE Youth Group Program **Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30 pm**
***Not Required, but highly encouraged for both IHM students*
& Faith Formation students

Confirmation Registration & Baptism Certificate – **DUE December 10th**

Attend **AT LEAST** one retreat in addition to NET

- NET Retreat – **Fall 2025**
- Junior High Confirmation Retreat – **March 1st**
- Anchor Retreat at Catholic Central **March 15th**
- SHINE Youth Rally at 3 Mile Project – **March 23rd**

Preparation Material –

- Sponsor Certification Form **DUE March 4th**
- Eucharist Adoration Sheet (My Hour with Jesus) **DUE June 4th**
- Faith in Action Sheet / Service **DUE June 4th**
- Sponsor Recommendation Letter **DUE June 4th**
- Final Interview **(assigned date & time)**

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Location – Cathedral of St. Andrews
360 Division Ave S,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Date – **TBD** by Diocese of Grand Rapids

***Usually assigned AND announced in AUGUST*

***Announcement of Confirmation Date will be given through
email, Facebook, MyParish App, Bulletin and IHM Website*

My Hour with Jesus! Eucharistic Adoration

Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration is an awesome way to get close to God, and to let Jesus heal us! A priest once said “*the sin in our lives is like a cancer to our soul...and sitting before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the radiation for the soul.*” The Eucharist is the center of what separates Catholics from all other Christians, & it is the “source & summit” of our faith.

You are to join your candidate for 1 hour (minimum) of Eucharistic Adoration.

Immaculate Heart of Mary has Adoration in the chapel. The *Chapel of the Holy Eucharist*, located on the west side of the parish office building, is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the year! (*The code to enter the chapel is 5412*).

More information can be found here: <https://ihmparish.com/faith-formation/adoration/>.

Please have your candidate fill out the following prayer exercise & turn it in **BY June 4th**. You may also hand this in with the Sponsor letter.

Name: _____

I attended Adoration with my Sponsor on _____

Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 1-12 (read 2x)

Candidate: Answer the following questions.

Sponsor: Please take time to review the questions with your candidate.

1. What word or phrase jumped out at you? Why? _____

2. How does that word or phrase apply to you in your life?

3. How can you apply this to your life right now & into the future?

Intentionally Left Blank

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation includes participation in one or more service projects. As Catholics and as human beings we are called to live out the call of Confirmation to spread & proclaim the Catholic faith to all corners of the world. As John Paul II says, we are called to be “salt and light for the world.” This faith is shared with & expressed to others not only in our daily lives of prayer & virtue, but also in the way we love those around us through our actions, our service, our commitment to bringing the light of the Gospel to people through all we do. As St. Francis says, “*preach the Gospel at all times, & if you have to, use words.*” It’s an important part of our call as Catholic Christians, & it helps our students realize they are truly needed & make a difference.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1889, 1926, 1932

- ☐ *This is the path of charity, that is, of the love of God & of neighbor. Charity is the greatest social commandment. It respects others & their rights. It requires the practice of Justice, & it alone makes us capable of it. Charity inspires a life of self-giving: “Whosoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it.” (Luke 17:33)*
- ☐ *The dignity of the human person requires the pursuit of the common good. Everyone should be concerned to create & support institutions that improve the conditions of human life.*
- ☐ *The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others & actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. “As you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me.” (Mt 25:40)*

Why do we have a service requirement?

- The purpose of the service project is NOT to gain hours or points as a requirement for Confirmation. Service to others is an integral part of our call to live out our faith.
- The service project means to examine & live out our giftedness.
- We are asked to live our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ by using our gifts & talents to serve others.
- In the Gospel, we are called to feed the hungry, to comfort those in need, & to live a life of service to others (*Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy*).

Your service project should lead you to a greater desire to serve further, draw out virtues in your life, & ultimately bring you closer to God.

Requirements:

Each Confirmation candidate is required to complete a minimum of **1 act of service in each of the following groups**. There will NOT be a set number of hours. This requirement is designed for you to complete each act of service and reflect on the impact it had on your lives.

Parish

Local City & Community

Family

- ★ All projects must be in accord with Church teaching & unpaid.
- ★ Service projects should not be tasks that are ordinarily expected at home.
- ★ A Service Log must be kept. These are to be signed by the supervisor of the project & by parents. Once your Service Log is complete, please turn it in (with your reflective paper) to your religion teacher or catechist.
- ★ All service projects must be approved by your teacher, catechist, or Youth Minister. Please do not complete a project without having it approved.

Suggestions for Selecting Service Projects

1. *Pray about it!* Examine your own talents & gifts. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Do not just seek the easy way out or the fastest way to finish.
2. *Challenge yourself & be creative!* Besides ongoing programs at school or locally, find new ideas to explore or share with others.
3. *Do not go at it alone!* Discuss this with your parents, sponsor, teacher, & friends. They are all good resources and support. You may want to put together a group project with your friends such as raking leaves for an elderly neighbor or praying for one of the Diocesan seminarians for a year.
4. *Use the list!* The list on the second page includes ideas & some contact information.
5. *Do not stop service at 15 hours!* It's OK to keep going. Part of the reason for the service hour requirement is that we are called to serve for the rest of our lives. You can continue your service project throughout the year. In addition, prayer & fasting is also a great spiritual work of mercy for others – a great service!

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOUR IDEAS:

- ★ Offer services to a neighbor or a friend, such as:
 - gardening, mowing, shoveling, cleaning, or babysitting
- ★ Visit the sick or elderly in hospitals or nursing homes
- ★ Dedicate an hour to Forty Days for Life
- ★ Volunteer with Catholic Charities or Catholic Relief Services
- ★ Volunteer with HELP Pregnancy Crisis Aid
- ★ Prepare meals for shut-ins

The following **DOES NOT** Qualify for Confirmation service hours:

- Anything you are paid for
- Responsibilities already expected of you - i.e., household chores, altar serving, etc.



Attn: Supervisors, please feel free to note any virtues exemplified, or commendations for this Confirmation candidate:

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

**Attesting that your child has completed these service projects:

Thank you for your works of mercy, & God bless you and those you serve!

Saint Research Project

Choosing a patron Saint is an important part of the Confirmation preparation process. In the Roman Catholic Church, the sacrament of Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation. Once you have received the sacrament of Confirmation, you are considered an active adult in the Church. One aspect of receiving Confirmation is that you are asked to choose a saint for your Confirmation name. This new name signifies your change in status - you are now fully initiated into the Catholic faith. Further, the saint whose name you choose becomes a patron saint in your new endeavor to grow in the life of faith as an adult. To choose a saint's name for your Confirmation is not necessarily easy.

Saints are as unique & diverse as the rest of humanity. Although there are far more saints in heaven than there are canonized (official) saints, each canonized saint has a specific & individual path to sainthood which is intended to be an example to the rest of the Church. Read a general overview of the lives of the saints, or find a website which gives brief biographies of each saint. Does any saint's life story particularly appeal to or inspire you? This could be your Confirmation saint.

There are many saints who died or were martyred while they were children or teenagers. If you are being confirmed as a teenager, a youthful saint might be a good choice for your confirmation saint. For example, St. Agnes or St. Cecilia were both martyred as young women.

Do you have any serious hobbies or interests? If so, there is a patron saint for almost any hobby, interest, or sport. The patron saint of your favorite enthusiasm could be a good choice for your confirmation saint. For example, if you love learning, St. Thomas Aquinas could be a good saint. Or, if you prefer sports, St. Sebastian could be your patron.

Do you want to perfect a specific virtue in your life? There are saints who exemplify every virtue. For example, St. Maria Goretti is the patron saint of chastity.

Do you feel particularly called to married life, or to religious life? If so, there are saints who provide excellent examples of both vocations. If you feel drawn to married life, perhaps St. Joseph would be a good saint to choose. If you feel called to religious life, perhaps the founder of a religious order you are fond of would be a good choice (for example, St. Dominic or St. Benedict).

No matter who you choose, remember to pray to your Confirmation Saint often as you navigate your new life as an adult in the Church!

Name: _____

Stage #1 – Possible Saints to select

Stage #2 – Research

Why are you choosing this Saint?

What do you know about this Saint?

How will you nurture your relationship with this Saint?

What qualities of your life do you share with the life of this Saint?

Stage #3 Final Decision

The Saint I chose: _____

The final interview will be conducted by the Director of Religious Education or the Youth Minister. It is designed to gather a better understanding of you, check for your comprehension in the faith, why you desire to be confirmed, and how you plan to stay involved after you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

1. Interview your Sponsor with the following questions and record their responses:
 - a. Can you tell me about your Confirmation?
 - b. Who is your Confirmation Saint? What prompted you to choose this Saint?
 - c. Can you describe how the Holy Spirit is currently working in your life?
 - d. What would you like to see as I prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

2. We have been taught that God set humans apart from all of creation, making them in His image and likeness. How does being made in His image and likeness impact you?

3. In the garden of Eden, God instructed the man that he may not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, or he would die.
 - a. Read CCC #396 - 298. What did it mean for God to forbid the man to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?
 - b. Read CCC 399-401. What were the consequences of disobeying this order?
 - c. Read CCC 402-404. How does “original sin” affect us?

4. Interview your mother or father and record their answers to the following questions:
 - a. Why did you want me to be baptized in the Catholic Church?
 - b. What led to your decision to choose my Godparents?
 - c. What is something you remember from that day?

5. Read CCC #1212. What are three sacraments of initiation?
6. Read CCC #1422. What are the two sacraments of healing?
7. Read CCC #1534. What are the two sacraments of service?



8. Read (CCC #1324). What does it say about the Eucharist?
9. Read CCC# 2041-2043. What are the 5 Precepts of the Church?
10. Visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website at www.usccb.org. Do a search for "Holy days of Obligation". List all the Holy Days of Obligation and the dates.
11. What are the two sacraments you can receive every day?
12. What are the Mass and Confession times at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church?
13. Read CCC #44 & 45.
 - a. Take time to pray and reflect on this reading.
 - b. Write down what you think this is telling you.
14. In what way will you continue your faith formation after Confirmation?
15. What gifts and talents do you have that could benefit Immaculate Heart of Mary parish?



DUE: DECEMBER 10th

Sacrament of Confirmation Registration

Candidates Full Name received at Baptism:

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / ___ Grade: _____

Parent Names:

Father: _____

Mother: _____

Email: _____

Parish Registered if NOT Immaculate Heart of Mary: _____

Record of Baptism: *(If NOT Baptized at IHM, a copy of Baptism Certificate must be provided)*

Date of Baptism: _____

Parish of Baptism: _____

Address: _____
