



2017-2018
CONFIRMATION PACKET- ST. MARY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL
ST. MARY CATHOLIC PARISH

Contact Information

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Rejoice!

Your child is about to start the beautiful path of preparation to receive one of the seven Sacraments of divine life: confirmation.

Together with Baptism and First Communion, Confirmation forms a single saving event: **Christian initiation**. After receiving these three sacraments we finish our “Christian formation” and we become active members of the Church, living stones in the cathedral of peace and love, in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation will to your children be the strength and fortitude of the Holy Spirit. He comes to dwell more fully in their hearts and to strengthen them for the struggle with evil. The Holy Spirit will give your children courage and hopefulness, your faith and your perseverance. The world of tomorrow will be built by them.

With the strength of confirmation, your children are called to choose Christ as the Lord of their lives and they become his missionaries. As pope Francis puts it, our confirmation “unites us more firmly to Christ, it renders our bond with the Church more perfect, and it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith”

As you start with your child this path of preparation for confirmation, we invite you to prepare your family for the gift you will receive. A member of your family will receive the Holy Spirit, and this will help all of you to love, to understand, and forgive each other.

Saint Paul says that “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:20). We hope this time of preparation will bring these fruits to your family!

In Christ,

Fr. James de Cendra, DCJM
Parochial Vicar
St. Mary Parish

ST MARY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Activity	Who
Once a week October-May St Mary School Religion Class	Confirmation Formation Classes	Candidates
October 20, 2017	Confirmation Retreat Forms and letters due. Forms and letters will be collected in class	Parents/Candidates
November 12, 2017 1pm-6pm (5pm Mass)	Sponsor Form due. Forms collected at retreat. Day Retreat and Rite of Welcome @ St Mary Parish	Sponsor Form Due. Candidates 1pm-6pm, Sponsors 4pm-6pm
December 1-3, 2017	Confirmation Retreat @ Ponderosa Retreat Center	Middle School Candidates, St Mary School, Public School, Home School
March 4, 2018 1pm-6pm (5pm Mass)	Day Retreat and Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion @ St Mary Parish	Candidates 1pm-6pm, Sponsors 4pm-6pm
TBD Either the day before the Confirmation Liturgy OR the morning on the same day as the Confirmation Liturgy	Confirmation Rehearsal	Candidates and Sponsors
TBD. Will be one of these dates: May 5, 2018 @ 7:00pm May 6, 2018 @ 5:00pm April 29, 2018 @ 5:00pm June 1, 2018 @ 7:00pm	Confirmation Liturgy	Candidates and Sponsors
<p>In case of an emergency you are not able to attend one of these events, please contact the Administrative Assistant ASAP: cdeeb@stmarylitleton.org</p> <p>**Please notes that extra-curricular activities are not acceptable excuses for absence.</p>		

****There is no fee to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The payments we charge cover the expenses for the retreats. St Mary School families will be billed \$160 in December 2017 for the Confirmation Retreat. Please contact Laura Potter for questions about expenses.**

ADDITIONAL FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES AND CANDIDATES

Date	Activity	Who
Every Sunday beginning October 8th @ 11:00am-12:10pm, Ave Maria Hall (Basement of Church)	Coffee and Catechesis for Confirmation Parents and Sponsors	Parents and Sponsors
TWO OPTIONS Every Wednesday @ 3:15pm- 4:45pm OR 6:00pm-7:25pm September 13, 2017 – May 9, 2018	Nazareth Middle School Youth Ministry, St Mary Parish, Youth Room (Grow in virtue through rule of life, activities/games, Saints, Gospel. Led by High School witnesses.)	Youth in grades 5-8
February 16-18, 2018	Archdiocese of Denver Mountain Madness Middle School Conference @ YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO	Youth in grades 6-8
June 11-15, 2018	Be a camp counselor for Nazareth Elementary Summer Camp at St Mary Parish; Contact Susan Suddjian ssuddjian@stmarylitleton.org	Camp Counselors ages 11 and up
June 18-24, 2018	Nazareth Middle School Summer Camp @ Highlands Presbyterian Camp, Allenspark, CO	Youth in grades 5-8 for the 2018-2019 School Year.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROCESS

† **Mass Attendance Every Sunday**

Mass is Heaven on Earth where we worship God together and receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. In order to become more like Jesus and to keep the Sabbath day holy (3rd Commandment), we need to attend Mass every Sunday. We are placing it upon the families to practice this in good faith.

† **Saint Project (completed in class)**

The purpose of the saint project is to help the candidate choose a saint and a confirmation name that is meaningful to the candidate. The project will include creating an icon of the chosen saint and writing up an interview in question and answer format. Specific details and samples will be given to the candidates in class.

† **Service Experiences**

All Christians are called to imitate Christ by loving one another through service to their neighbor. The service hours will serve as an apprenticeship to prepare the candidates to become full members of the Church. Through service the candidates will use their gifts and talents to meet the needs of others. Candidates are also asked to complete a service experience form and turn it in at class. See page 8 for more detailed information.

† **Confirmation Retreat**

The purpose of the retreat is to depart from one's life for a period of time so as to be intentional about listening to and engaging in God. The best retreats are time intensive and require an environment suitable for its purpose. The retreat will be an overnight weekend at Ponderosa Retreat Center in Larkspur, CO. Please see page 9 for more detailed information.

† **Day Retreats and Rites for the Sacrament of Confirmation**

There are two Rites (Rite of Welcoming and Rite of Conversion) that will be held this year. Candidates are required to attend and we encourage all sponsors to attend. If a sponsor is unable to attend a close friend or family member may fill in.

† **Written Examination (completed in class)**

A short exam will be administered prior to the sacrament. It will test knowledge and memorization of basic Catholic teachings and principles. The purpose of the requirement is insure that our Candidates have basic knowledge of their faith before being presented to the Archbishop. The exam, along with the answers will be handed out at school. A passing grade of 80% is required. If needed, the exam may be retaken prior to Confirmation.

† **Parent Requirements**

Guide your child through their faith formation, follow-up on weekly homework, turn in paperwork by the deadlines, and help them prepare for Confirmation by committing to the preparation process.

† **Baptismal Certificates**

Certificates are on file with Kathy Boscia. If for some reason, she does not have yours you will be contacted to provide a copy.

† **There is no fee to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The payments we charge cover the expenses for the retreats. St Mary School families will be billed \$160 in December 2017 for the Confirmation Retreat. Please contact Laura Potter for questions about expenses**

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Requirements:

- ✚ Candidates will complete 1 service to St. Mary Parish and 1 service to an outside organization assisting people in need. The number of service hours will not be counted, we are looking for the candidates to have meaningful and fulfilling experiences.
- ✚ We encourage candidates to complete the outside organization as a small group.
- ✚ Candidates may not use their participation in scouting programs or school as their experience.
- ✚ Candidates may not be paid for their service
- ✚ Candidates will submit their two reflections for a 3rd Trimester grade.

Service Hour Ideas:

Contact the parish office for a St Mary Ministry Handbook and/or check the St Mary website for a listing of ministries that need your help.

St Mary Parish www.stmarylitleton.org:

- Christina Deeb, St Mary Receptionist, cdeeb@stmarylitleton.org
- Babysitting for Families of Bethany meetings
 - Linda Sherman lsheerman@stmarylitleton.org
- St Mary Parish Liturgical Environment Ministry
 - Susan Suddjian ssuddjian@stmarylitleton.org
- St Mary Nursery- various times and days, weekend Mass times
 - Mary Drummond mdrummond@stmarylitleton.org
- St Mary Food bank- serves food on Monday mornings
 - Debi Gorka parishpantry@stmarylitleton.org

Outside Organizations Serving People in Need:

- Christ in the City- serving food to homeless in parks—usually second Saturday of the month
 - <http://christinthecitymissionaries.com/volunteer-opportunities>
- Holy Ghost Catholic church- making sandwiches serving homeless
 - http://www.holyghostchurch.info/social_ministry/
- Supporting and praying for the pro-life movement—Attending March for Life Denver (Jan.), praying at Planned Parenthood, volunteering at the Gabriel House, attending events that try to stop the legalization of euthanasia and abortion, visiting the elderly in nursing homes or your elderly neighbors
- Catholic Charities <http://ccdenvver.org/>

*Additional opportunities will be emailed out as they become available.

**If not on this list and you would like to work with a particular organization, please receive approval FIRST.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Retreats are invitations to us to come away and encounter Jesus. Children who are preparing to receive Jesus in the Sacraments also need this time to be “away” so that their hearts can be ready for the Sacraments of Confirmation

Goals of the Retreat:

1. To come away from our daily activities and spend time with Jesus.
2. To receive insights about God’s love for us and how He wants us to live.
3. To deepen friendships and make new friends in the Confirmation program.

Retreat Paperwork:

1. Paperwork for the weekend is **due by Oct. 20th**.
2. If your child requires medication to be given daily a letter from the doctor will need to be provide indicating the medication, dosage, and frequency. All medications **MUST** be in their original prescription bottle.
3. Candidates will be given an opportunity to select 3 cabin mates for the retreat. This information will be given to the kids in class and also sent to you via email.
4. Packing lists will also be sent closer to retreat date.
5. St Mary School families will be billed \$160 through Smart Tuition for the cost of the retreat in December 2017.

Volunteers:

1. Parent volunteers are needed for the weekend and we welcome both Mom’s and Dad’s. If interested in participating, please send an email to cdeeb@stmarylitleton.org . Parent volunteers will attend the retreat at no cost to them.

rites of Welcoming and Rite of Conversion

The Rite of Welcoming:

The Rite of Welcoming welcomes baptized but previously uncatechized adults who are seeking to complete their Christian initiation through the sacrament of confirmation and be received into full Communion of the Catholic Church.

The prayers and ritual gestures acknowledge that such candidates are already part of the community because they have been marked by baptism. Now the Church surrounds them with special care and support as they prepare to be sealed with the gift of the Spirit in confirmation and take their place at the banquet table of Christ's sacrifice.

The Rite of Continuing Conversion:

The Call to Continuing Conversion marks the beginning of the period of more intense spiritual preparation for the baptized candidates for the completion of their Christian initiation, usually at the Sunday Eucharist of the parish community.

The Rite asks that the candidates have:

- Listened faithfully to the apostles' instruction proclaimed by the Church.
- Come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism, in which they were joined to Christ and his Church.
- Reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church, and joined their brothers and sisters in prayer.
- Advanced in life and love and service of others.¹

The rite also presumes that they are entering into a period of immediate preparation, which includes a penitential rite and celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.

Dress Code:

Boys: Nice pants and polo shirt, sweater, or button down. No jeans and no t-shirts.

Girls: Dresses, skirts, pants and nice top. Please keep skirts and dresses no shorter than 2 inches above the knees and shoulder should be covered.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Role of the Sponsor

- ✚ Share their faith with the candidate. Discuss the significance of the “seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.”
- ✚ Check-in with the candidate to see what they are learning.
- ✚ Pray for the candidate and pray **with** the candidate.
- ✚ Confirmation sponsors accompany the candidate when they receive the sacrament, present them to the Bishop, and help the candidate fulfill their baptismal promises with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Selection of a Sponsor:

- ✚ Must be at least 16 years of age and have a personal relationship with God.
- ✚ Must be a confirmed Catholic who participates weekly in the Sunday celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- ✚ If married, the sponsor must be married according to the norms of the Catholic Church.
- ✚ Must be willing to spend time with the Confirmation candidate in order to share his/her faith with the candidate and attend certain classes and the required Rites.

It is desirable that a godparent from their Baptism be the Confirmation sponsor, family member, or friend that has been a guiding presence in their faith formation. A parent can act as a sponsor. If the desired sponsor is younger than 16, please contact Laura Potter.

****If a sponsor is unable to be present at the ceremony due to distance, emergencies, or other reasons they may still act as a sponsor by mentoring the candidates and doing whatever they can to make the experience of Confirmation preparation meaningful.**

****If you are unable to find a Sponsor who meets the requirements, please contact Carolyn Orf and we will work together to find your child a great sponsor.**

Sponsorship Paperwork (Due November 12th at the Rite of Welcoming Retreat):

Sponsorship Form- **Signed and sealed** by the sponsors registered parish. Please fill out the form **COMPLETELY**. Sponsors, please make a copy of the form for you to keep and then bring the original to the Rite of Welcome Retreat November 12th.

1. Please do not turn in incomplete forms, I will just have to return it to you.
2. DO NOT turn forms into Mrs. Boscia, the Parish Office, etc. This is the best way for the forms to be lost and we don't want that.

Rehearsal:

- Please keep in mind our traditional dress code. We do expect that some will be coming from practices and that is o.k.

Dress Code for Confirmation Mass in April, May, or June:

- Candidates and Sponsors are asked to dress in their Sunday best. This is a good dress code for families and friends as well.
- Boys: Pants (no jeans), Button up shirt, Tie, and dress shoes (no tennis shoes)
- Girls: Dress or skirts (no shorter than two inches above the knee), dress pants (no jeans or leggings), dress shoes (no flip flops, but open toe OK), shoulders must be covered if wearing spaghetti or tank style dress or blouse (Recommend scarf or cardigan/sweater).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a fee for Confirmation?
No, there is no fee to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The payments we charge cover the expenses for the retreats and books. St Mary School families will be billed \$160 in December 2017 for the Confirmation Retreat. Please contact Laura Potter for questions about expenses and scholarships.
2. Is participation in the retreat required?
Yes. Retreats offer a different aspect of formation. While catechesis teaches us knowledge about GOD, the retreat gives us the ability to “retreat from one’s life” so we may encounter God. Retreats are time intensive and take us away from our daily lives. The retreat is an Archdiocesan requirement. It due to an extreme emergency a candidate cannot attend our retreat please contact the Confirmation Coordinator, Laura Potter immediately.
3. What if my child cannot attend the retreat on the given dates due to another obligation?
The best case scenario is that you reschedule the obligation as we give the date well in advance to help you plan accordingly. Again, please speak with the Confirmation Coordinator, Laura Potter immediately should this be the case.
4. Who are the chaperones attending the Confirmation Retreat and how are they selected?
The chaperones are selected by Laura Potter, Middle School Youth Minister. The retreat team is responsive for both ministering to the teens and providing for their care in supervision and support. We give first priority to our Nazareth Core Team and fill the remaining spots with Confirmation parents who wish to be a part of the retreat. The retreat team may include: a worship leader, high school peer leaders, and parents from our Nazareth Core Team.
5. What if my child is nervous about attending an overnight retreat?
If this is the case, we encourage a parent to volunteer for the retreat to add to your child’s comfort.
6. What if my child misses one of the mandatory events due to illness?
If your child is going to miss an event due to illness, please send an email to cdeeb@stmarylitleton.org
7. What if there is inclement weather during a scheduled event?
If there is inclement weather, an email regarding the event will sent out as soon as possible.
8. Can a parent be a sponsor?
Yes, a parent can be a sponsor.
9. What if my child would like a sponsor that is not 16?
In some cases this will be acceptable. Please direct your request to Laura Potter and Fr Javier Nieva for approval lpotter@stmarylitleton.org