

2018-2019  
(UPDATED MAY 10, 2018)  
CONFIRMATION PACKET  
ST. MARY CATHOLIC PARISH



**Contact Information**

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Middle School Youth Minister  
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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 Cedra, DCJM  
Parochial Vicar  
St. Mary Parish

### CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES

**STUDENTS= SUNDAYS @ 10:45AM-12:15PM, ST MARY YOUTH ROOM (NEAR SCHOOL GYM)**

**PARENTS= SUNDAYS @ 11:00AM-12:10PM, AVE MARIA HALL (BASEMENT OF THE CHURCH)**

DATE	CLASS/EVENT	NOTES / DUE DATES
SEPTEMBER 30, 2018	First Class and Mandatory Parent Meeting	Parents and Students all meet in Ave Maria Hall. Explain the year. Fill out Retreat forms
October 7, 2018	Regular class	
October 14, 2018	NO CLASS Marriage and Family Retreat at St Mary, Register for it!	
October 21, 2018	Regular class	Confirmation Retreat Forms due. Forms will be collected in class
October 28, 2018	Regular Class	
TBD November 4 or 11, 2018 1pm-6pm (5pm Mass)	Sponsor Form due at retreat. Day Retreat and Rite of Welcome @ St Mary Parish	Candidates 1pm-6pm, Sponsors 4pm-6pm (Sponsor Forms Due at retreat)
TBD October OR November	High School Retreat Grades 8, 9-12	All 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and High School Candidates
November 18, 2018	NO CLASS- Thanksgiving break	NO CLASS- Thanksgiving break
November 25, 2018	Regular Class	
November 30 @ 5:00pm- December 2, 2018 @ 2:00pm	Confirmation Retreat @ Ponderosa Retreat Center;  NO Class for High School Candidates	Middle School Candidates, St Mary School, Public School, Home School NO Class for High School Candidates
December 9, 2018	Regular Class	
December 16, 2018	Regular Class	Saint Icons are Due
December 23, 2018 - January 6, 2019	NO CLASS- Christmas Break Prayer Process Challenge	NO CLASS- Christmas Break Prayer Process Challenge

DATE	CLASS/EVENT	NOTES / DUE DATES
January 13, 2019	Regular class	
January 20, 2019	Regular class	
January 27, 2019	Regular class- Father/Son and Mother/Daughter Sessions	Relationships Class, identity, vocation. Fathers w/sons and Mothers w/daughters.
February 3, 2019	Regular class	
February 10, 2019	Regular class	
February 17, 2019	NO CLASS- Archdiocese of Denver Middle School Mountain Madness Conference (Optional)	NO CLASS- Archdiocese of Denver Middle School Mountain Madness Conference (Optional)
February 24, 2019	Regular class	
TBD March 4 OR March 10 @ 1:00pm-6:00pm	Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion Retreat and 5pm Mass; Sponsors come @ 4:00pm-6:00pm	No classes. Candidates attend the day retreat and rite: 1-6pm; Sponsors come @ 4:00pm-6:00pm
March 17, 2019	Regular Class- Exam & Saint Project	Exam and Present Saint Project
March 24, 2019	NO CLASS- Spring Break	NO CLASS- Spring Break
March 31, 2019	Regular Class	
April 7, 2019	Regular Class	
April 14, 2019	Regular Class	
April 21, 2019	NO CLASS- EASTER SUNDAY	
April 28 <sup>th</sup> OR May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Class Retreat with Family members	
TBD April or May or June	Rehearsal and Confirmation Liturgy (See "Important Dates")	

**\*\*Please contact Christina Deeb for all Confirmation Communication**  
[cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org)

### **IMPORTANT DATES AS OF MAY 10, 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who</b>
Once a month @ 11:00am-12:10pm (Sept. 30, 2018- May 5, 2019)	Retreat or Workshop, Ave Maria Hall	Parents
October 21, 2018	Confirmation Retreat Forms due. Collected in class	Candidates
TBD November 4 or 11, 2018 1pm-6pm (5pm Mass)	Sponsor Form due at retreat. Day Retreat and Rite of Welcome @ St Mary Parish	Candidates 1pm-6pm, Sponsors 4pm-6pm (Sponsor Forms Due at retreat)
TBD October OR November	High School Retreat	All High School Candidates
November 30 @ 5:00pm-December 2, 2018 @ 2:00pm	Confirmation Retreat @ Ponderosa Retreat Center	Middle School Candidates
December 16, 2018	Regular Class	Saint Icons are Due
January 27, 2019	Regular class- Father/Son and Mother/Daughter Sessions	Identity, vocation. Fathers w/sons and Mothers w/daughters.
TBD March 4 OR March 10 @ 1:00pm-6:00pm	Day Retreat and Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion @ St Mary Parish	Candidates 1pm-6pm, Sponsors 4pm-6pm
March 17, 2019	Regular Class- Exam & Saint Project	Exam and Present Saint Project
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. May 4, 2019 @ 7:00pm May 5, 2019 @ 5:00pm April 28, 2019 @ 5:00pm June 1, 2019 @ 7:00pm	Confirmation Liturgy	Candidates and Sponsors
In case of an emergency you are not able to attend one of these events, please contact the Administrative Assistant ASAP: <a href="mailto:cdeeb@stmarylitleton.org">cdeeb@stmarylitleton.org</a> **Please notes that extra-curricular activities are not acceptable excuses for absence.		

ADDITIONAL FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES AND CANDIDATES

Date	Activity	Who
TWO OPTIONS Every Wednesday @ 3:15pm- 4:45pm OR 6:00pm-7:25pm September 12, 2018 – May 8, 2019	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 15-17, 2019	Archdiocese of Denver Mountain Madness Middle School Conference @ YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO	Youth in grades 6-8
June 10-14, 2019	Be a camp counselor for Nazareth Elementary Summer Camp at St Mary Parish; Contact Susan Suddjian <a href="mailto:ssuddjian@stmarylitleton.org">ssuddjian@stmarylitleton.org</a>	Camp Counselors ages 11 and up
June 18-23, 2019	Nazareth Middle School Summer Camp @ Golden Bell Camp Divide, CO	Youth in grades 5-8 for the 2019-2020 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment), we need to attend Mass every Sunday. We are placing it upon the families to practice this in good faith. The 9:30am Mass is a great option. Doughnuts will be served in class after Mass.

### † **Saint Project**

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 short presentation to their small group about their experience and turn in the service experience form.

### † **Confirmation Retreat**

The purpose of the offsite retreat is to remove the candidate from the concerns of their normal daily routines so that they can be intentional about listening and responding to God's word. The retreat will be an overnight weekend at Ponderosa Retreat Center in Larkspur, CO. See page 9 for details.

### † **Rites for the Sacrament of Confirmation**

There are two Rites (Rite of Welcome and Rite of Calling to Continuing Conversion) that will be held during this year of preparation. Candidates are required to attend and we encourage all sponsors to attend the Mass. If a sponsor is unable to be present, a close friend or family member may fill in.

### † **Written Examination**

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 exam is to ensure 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 in class. A passing grade of 80% is required. If needed, the exam may be retaken prior to the Confirmation Mass.

### † **Parent Requirements**

Attend Coffee and Catechesis Parent sessions on the Sundays of Confirmation Class @ 11:00am-12:10pm. Guide your child through their faith formation, follow-up on weekly homework, and help them prepare for Confirmation by committing to the preparation process.

## SERVICE EXPERIENCES

- † Candidates must complete 1 service experience with a St Mary Parish Ministry and 1 service experience with an outside organization assisting persons who are in need. There is no required number of hours; we are looking for the candidates to have meaningful and fulfilling experiences.
- † We encourage candidates to complete their service with outside organization as a small group with other candidates.
- † Candidates may not use their participation in scouting programs or school as hours. However, they may use parish or other organizations that they currently volunteer for
- † Candidates may not be paid for their service.

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: Christina Deeb [cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org)

St Mary Parish: babysitting for Families of Bethany meetings  
Linda Sherman [lshearn@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:lshearn@stmarylittleton.org)

St Mary Parish Liturgical Environment Ministry: decorating the Church for liturgy  
Susan Suddjian [ssuddjian@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:ssuddjian@stmarylittleton.org)

St Mary Parish: Nursery- various times and days, consistently at weekend Masses  
Mary Drummond [mdrummond@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:mdrummond@stmarylittleton.org)

St Mary Parish Food bank: provides food to less fortunate persons on Monday mornings  
Debi Gorka [parishpantry@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:parishpantry@stmarylittleton.org)

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 the homeless  
[http://www.holyghostchurch.info/social\\_ministry/](http://www.holyghostchurch.info/social_ministry/)

Catholic Charities: Contact Catholic Charities and ask what their needs are for the poor  
<http://www.ccdenvver.org/> ; Marisol Women's Shelter-- Linda Sherman  
[lshearn@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:lshearn@stmarylittleton.org)

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

\*Additional opportunities will be emailed out if they become available.\*\*If not on this list and you would like to work with a particular organization please contact Dcn Tim Kilbarger first to confirm that the service will be recognized as fulfilling the requirement of serving those in need.



## 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 Sacrament 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 is due October 21, 2018 in class.**
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 is in the retreat packet and also sent to you via email.
4. Packing list is in the retreat packet.
5. The cost of the retreat is \$160. You will be emailed a link to pay online in November. Scholarships are available. Please do not hesitate to ask.

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@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org) Parent volunteers will attend the retreat at no cost to them.

## rites of Welcome and Rite of Calling to Continuing 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 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 Dc. Tim Kilbarger and we will work together to find your child a great sponsor.**

### **Sponsorship Paperwork**

#### **Due November Rite of Welcome Retreat**

1. Sponsorship Form- Signed and sealed by the sponsors registered parish.
  - a. All forms should be sent to the candidate who should make a copy of the form. All forms are to be turned into the Confirmation Basket in the Sunday classroom. Please do not turn in incomplete forms, I will just have to return it to you.
2. DO NOT turn forms into the Parish Office, at Church, hand to Dc Tim's children, etc. This is the best way for the forms to be lost and we don't want that.

### **Dress Code for Confirmation Mass in April 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?  
There is no fee to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. **The \$75 registration payment** covers the cost of the books, class supplies, and two day retreats. The **\$160 retreat payment** covers the cost of the weekend retreat: food, lodging, bus transportation, supplies, chaperones, nurse, etc. Please contact the Administration Assistant, Christina Deeb for questions about expenses and payments [cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org)
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. Attending a Confirmation Retreat is an Archdiocesan requirement. If due to an extreme emergency a candidate cannot attend our retreat please contact the Administration Assistant, Christina Deeb, immediately. [cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org)
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 Administration Assistant, Christina Deeb, immediately should this be the case. [cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org)
4. Who are the chaperones attending the Confirmation Retreat and how are they selected?  
The chaperones are selected by Laura Potter, the 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 priority to our Nazareth Youth Ministry and Confirmation 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, nurse, and parents from our Nazareth and Confirmation 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?  
If your child is going to miss an event, please send an email to [cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org) We will discuss each situation on a case by case basis.
7. Can a parent be a sponsor?  
Yes, a parent can be a sponsor.
8. What if my child would like a sponsor that is not 16?  
In some cases, this will be acceptable. Please direct your request to Christina Deeb [cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org](mailto:cdeeb@stmarylittleton.org)
9. 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.