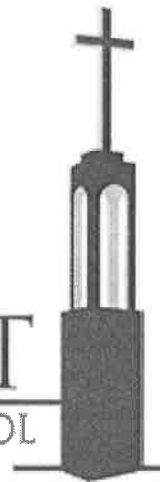


The Sacrament of Confirmation

ST. BENEDICT
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



Information for
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students

St. Benedict Catholic Church and School
165 Bethany Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733

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CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



St. Benedict Catholic Church and School
165 Bethany Road
Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
Phone: 732.264.4712
Fax: 732.264.9080
www.stbenedictnj.org

September 2018

Dear Confirmation Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we watch our children grow physically, emotionally, and intellectually he/she also grows spiritually. You have seen that your child has been initiated in our faith through Baptism and the Eucharist. Now it is time for your child to make a lifetime commitment to our faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation and complete the Sacraments of Initiation.

In preparing your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation, consider the following points:

- Do I make time for prayer?
- Do I participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do we attend Mass as a family?
- Do I try to grow in the knowledge of faith and share it with my family?
- Am I involved with parish activities as much as I could be?

Attached are materials which explain the Confirmation process. Please read through these materials carefully and discuss them with your child.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. for St. Benedict School and 4:00 p.m. for Religious Education. Rev. Gabriel Zeis, will be officiating.

It is important that the information requested in this packet be returned to us as soon as possible. The deadlines are outlined in the packet.

Be assured that you and your child are in the prayers of the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have any questions regarding the information please feel free to contact the Faith Formation Office, 732-264-4712 ext.24.

Melissa Dayton, Director of Faith of Formation

Matthew Santucci, Coordinator of Faith Formation, santucci@stbenedictnj.org

Carol Cesaio, Administrative Assistant, Cesario@stbenedictnj.org

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Calendar of Events / Important Information for Confirmandi and Parents 2018/19

Confirmation forms/paper work:

These requirements are due on November 4, 2018 for RE and November 5, 2018 for SBS.

1. Confirmation Candidate Form 2018/2019 — to be filled out on the website.
2. Confirmation Saint Report
3. Sponsor certificate

Confirmation Retreat: All students are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat on Sunday, March 10, 2019 from 12:30-7:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church.

Community Service: All students are required to complete a total of 20 hours of service by February 24/25, 2019 along with the completed essay.

Mass: Continue to celebrate your commitment by attending Mass weekly and on Holy Days.

Confirmation Practice:

Religious Education students: Sunday, March 24, 2019 during regular class time and Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:00-6:00 p.m.

St. Benedict School students: Rehearsal will be conducted while in school.

Sponsor is not required to attend practice.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. for St. Benedict School students and 4:00 p.m. for Religious Education students with Rev. Gabriel Zeis, officiating. All Confirmandi are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the ceremony with your sponsor.

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The Role of the Sponsor

Candidates for the sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation need a sponsor. Each candidate is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the baptismal sponsor (godparent) also be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that men must be sponsors for boys and women must be sponsors for girls. A parent cannot be chosen as the sponsor.

The sponsor is a Catholic who knows the ways of faith and will be able to help the person who is receiving the sacrament to begin living the faith in the Catholic Church more fully.

There are certain qualifications that Church has for sponsors. Consider choosing a sponsor after considerable reflection and responses to the following questions. The answer to the questions must be yes for your sponsor to be eligible according to the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

- My sponsor is 16 years old or older. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor is a baptized Catholic (or has made a profession of faith in the case of a conversion to the catholic Faith.) (Yes or No)
- My sponsor has been confirmed in the Catholic Church. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor is a practicing Catholic and attends Mass weekly. (Yes or No)
- If my sponsor is married, he/she was married in the Catholic Church. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor can obtain a certificate from his/her parish that they are a Catholic in good standing. (Every sponsor needs one.) (Yes or No)

If you answered "NO" to any one of the questions above, then that person cannot be a sponsor according to the Code of Canon Law (Church rules).

This guideline is given to you to help you in choosing a sponsor. Do not return it with answers. It is to help you choose a person who will be eligible.

Any questions can be directed to the Faith Formation office at 732/264-4712 X24

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Confirmation Community Service Essay

- 5 paragraph essay
- Typed, double spaced, black font, 12 size font
- Due date: Sunday, February 24, 2019 for the Parish and Monday, February 25, 2019 for the School.

Introduction: One paragraph

- Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation of the Catholic Church. As the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples who were gathered on Pentecost, so the Holy Spirit comes to every baptized person for whom the Church requests the gift of the Holy Spirit. It secures and strengthens us to be a living witness to Christ. One of the ways we can be a living witness to Christ is through our service toward others. We are called throughout our entire life to serve one another. How have you shown that you are serving the community and living out the call to be a living witness to Christ?

Body: Three paragraphs

- Body Paragraph one: Describe the various service projects that you have participated in during this preparation period.
- Body Paragraph two and three: Use at least 2 questions in body paragraphs two or three on how your service affected you and your community.
 - Describe an experience which affected you meaningfully during one of your projects. (a conversation with someone / an experience with another volunteer/ etc.)
 - Where was God at work in this experience; in you, in other people, and in the church?
 - How did one of the projects serve someone in your community? How did this make you feel like you are a living witness to Christ.
 - How has your community service helped others?
 - How has your community service affected your plans for the future?
 - What made you decide to volunteer where you did?

Conclusion: One paragraph

Each Confirmation Candidate will have an interview with Father Garry Koch, Pastor or Father John Michael, Parochial Vicar. The main purpose of the interview is to provide the candidate with a one on one conversation with a priest to discuss their journey and experiences toward reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The priest will review with them their journey of faith, their knowledge of basic Church teaching and why they are being Confirmed. Interviews will take place during School hours or Religious Education classes.

Candidates can prepare for the interview by reflecting on the following points:

- Be able to describe your prayer life
- Dialogue about your Family
- Basic Knowledge of the following:
 - Sacraments
 - The Mass
 - Sin
 - The Bible
- Why are you receiving Confirmation?
 - How can you describe your journey toward Confirmation? Tell me about the positive experiences of your journey and any challenging moments.
 - What is Confirmation? Why do you want to receive this Sacrament?
 - What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
 - Can you name the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
 - What Saint name did you choose? Why?
 - Who is your Confirmation sponsor? Why did you choose him or her?
- Do you have any questions before receiving Confirmation?

Grade 7/8 St. Benedict Community Service Record
Year: 2018 - 2019

Name: _____

Grade: _____ (Circle one that applies) Religious Education / St. Benedict School

Phone: _____ Email: _____

| DATE OF SERVICE | NUMBER OF HOURS | DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE | Signature of Supervisor/email or phone |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--|
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| TOTAL HOURS: | <i>Parental Signature: By signing this, you certify that all information included in this record is correct.</i> |
|--------------|--|

This form MUST be returned no later than Sunday, February 24, 2019



Parent Check off List:

- Read all information in the booklet
- Complete the Confirmation Candidate Form – to be filled out on the website.
<https://parish.stbenedictholmdel.org/confirmationprep>
- Complete Saint Report
- Attach sponsor certificate
- Christian service form completed with signatures
- Christian service essay
- Mark your calendar with all important dates
- Hand in all forms on time

You're finished, AMEN.