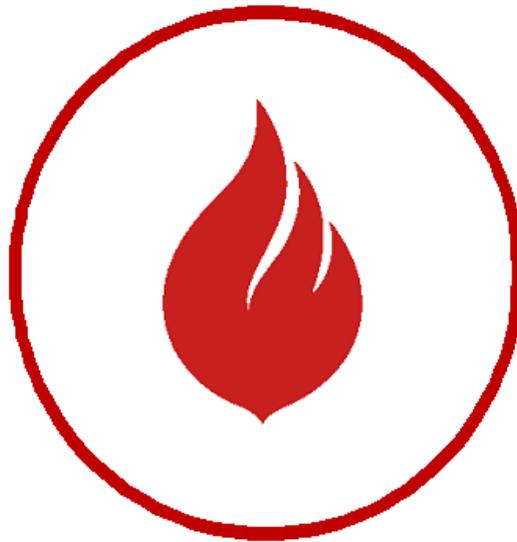




THE COMMUNITY OF THE  
**Good Shepherd**  
A CATHOLIC PARISH

**8th Grade  
Confirmation Handbook  
2019-2020**



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# Welcome to Good Shepherd's Confirmation Preparation!

## Our Youth Ministry's Vision

To form intentional Catholic disciples who gather in faith, share in hope, and grow in love.

## Our Mission

To draw, empower, and foster disciples through prayer, teaching, and experiences of Christ's love.



## Why do we have this ministry?

“So they might have life and have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10).

We want to see young people thrive!

## What does this mean we do in Confirmation?

We encourage and guide young people to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church through games, discussion, prayer, service, and teaching.

# Confirmation Candidate Expectations

- Currently in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Received Baptism, First Eucharist, and First Reconciliation. *(If you haven't, check out our RCIC3 Ministry.)*
- Baptismal Certificate on file with Good Shepherd
- Enrolled in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Weekly/Summer Faith Formation
- Willing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Attend Sunday Mass, receive Sacraments regularly
- Actively participate in formation events, including:
  - (Optional) Personal Spiritual Plan
  - Student Sessions
  - One Confirmation Retreat (two retreat options)
  - Service Events (done independently)
  - "SixFortyEight" Junior High Youth Nights **(description on page 12)**
  - Family sessions **(School Year Faith Formation only, description on page 12)**
  - Confirmation Rehearsal
  - Confirmation Mass

# Important Dates for This Year

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, October 12, 2019                          | Confirmation Retreat<br>Option #1                                                                                                                                       |
| Sunday, November 10, 2019                           | Baptismal Verification Due                                                                                                                                              |
| Saturday, February 8, 2020                          | Confirmation Retreat<br>Option #2                                                                                                                                       |
| Sunday, February 9, 2020                            | Confirmation Name &<br>Sponsor Information Sheet Due                                                                                                                    |
| Sunday, March 29 <b>or</b><br>Sunday, April 5, 2020 | Candidate & Sponsor Meetings,<br>Options 1 & 2                                                                                                                          |
| Friday, April 17, 2020                              | Confirmation Rehearsal 6:30-7:30 p.m.<br>in the church                                                                                                                  |
| Sunday, April 19, 2020                              | Confirmation Mass, 2:00 p.m.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates arrive by 1:00 p.m. for group photo</li> <li>• Sponsors arrive 1:30 p.m.</li> </ul> |
| Friday, May 1, 2020                                 | Service Verification Form Due                                                                                                                                           |

# Baptismal Verification

Good Shepherd needs a copy of each Candidate's Baptismal Certificate with Sacramental Notation (a listing of all the Sacraments your child has received). You may have turned this in at registration.

**If your child was Baptized or received First Communion at Good Shepherd, we already have a copy on file and you do not need to request a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.**

**We need a new copy only if your child has not received Baptism or First Communion at Good Shepherd.**

This certificate comes from the church where your Candidate was baptized. You can write or call the parish of baptism and ask them to send this verification directly to the following address by **Sunday, November 10, 2019**.

**Attn:** Walter Plummer  
Coordinator of Youth Formation  
The Community of the Good Shepherd  
8815 E. Kemper Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45249



# Service Program

*"Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mt. 20:28)*

To help our Candidates learn Christ's mission of loving service, we ask them to choose four service events (done independently), one in each of the following areas:

1. **Family** - service outside of normal household responsibilities for the candidate
2. **School/City** - fundraisers, volunteering at sporting events, cleaning grounds, city clean up days, etc.
3. **Greater Cincinnati** - Serving at Matthew 25: Ministries, the Freestore Food Bank, Wesley Chapel Mission Center, etc.
4. **Good Shepherd** - Fish Fry-Days, parish socials, become an Altar server, etc.

**\*Each service event should be unpaid and last at least an hour.**

Service hours are due **Friday, May 1, 2020.**



# Confirmation Retreat Details

*"Rising very early before dawn, [Jesus] left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed." (Mk. 1:35)*

All 8th grade Candidates seeking to be confirmed should attend one of the following two retreat options. Registration forms will be available online or in the parish office.

- **Saturday, October 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**
  - Retreat Option #1
  - Sign up by Sunday, September 29, 2019
- **Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**
  - Retreat Option #2
  - Sign up by Sunday, January 19, 2020

**What will we do?** Retreats will be held at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, led by their Youth Ministry team. There will be games, personal witnesses of faith, good food, and great discussions, as well as opportunities for prayer.

**Who can attend?** 8th grade teens preparing to receive Confirmation at Good Shepherd in April 2020.

**What should teens bring?** An open mind, willingness to engage, and comfortable Mass-appropriate clothes (No sweatpants, please. Jeans, khakis, etc. are great.) We will provide food!

**\*\*We ask that all teens leave cell phones/electronic devices at home to allow them to be present during the retreat.\*\***

# Confirmation Name Information

*"So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away."  
(2 Cor. 2:17)*

We ask each Candidate to choose a Confirmation Name that represents their identity in Christ.

## **There are two options for choosing a Confirmation Name:**

1. Choose a Christian name that has significance to the Candidate (i.e. a saint).
2. Use the name given to the Candidate at Baptism.

# Sponsor Information

*"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor. 11:1)*

We ask each candidate to choose a sponsor who models, helps them learn, and encourages them in the life of faith.

## **Canon Law tells us that sponsors must be:**

- At least 16 years old. (We recommend an adult well known to the family.)
- A practicing, confirmed Catholic.
- Selected by the candidate and parents.
- Not the mother or father of the candidate.

## **We also recommend the following guidelines when choosing a Sponsor:**

- Ask a Candidate's godparent.
- Pick someone who is a spiritual role model.
- Pick someone with a significant relationship to the candidate/parents, so they continue to be a part of everyday life after Confirmation.

We ask Candidates to choose a Sponsor and fill out the 'Confirmation Name & Sponsor Information' form by **Sunday, February 9, 2020.**

**\*Note:** *If a Sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation Mass, a Proxy can be chosen. Proxies must meet the same criteria as Sponsors.*

# Candidate & Sponsor Meeting

*"For I long to see you, that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened, that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by one another's faith, yours and mine."  
(Romans 1:11-12)*

This is an opportunity for candidates and their sponsors to discuss Confirmation, being a sponsor, and continue a conversation of faith.

## The meeting dates are:

- Sunday, March 29, 2020, 10:15-11:45 a.m.

**OR**

- Sunday, April 5, 2020, 10:15-11:45 a.m.

Candidates can choose from either session. Both candidate and sponsor are asked to attend. If a sponsor is unavailable, a parent can stand in.



# Confirmation Rehearsal & Ceremony

*"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts 2:4)*

## Confirmation Rehearsal

Friday, April 17, 2020, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

- Candidate and Sponsor **both** need to attend. If needed, a parent can stand in for the Sponsor.

## Confirmation Mass

Sunday, April 19, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

**(\*Candidates, please arrive by 1:00 p.m. for group photo & sponsors please arrive by 1:30 p.m.)**

- Candidate and Sponsor **both** need to attend. If a sponsor is not available, an adult who meets the criteria for a sponsor can stand in as a proxy.
- Brief reception to follow in the front foyer.

### **Appropriate Mass Attire**

- Nothing revealing or skin-tight (chest, shoulders, and knees covered).
- **Girls:** Skirts/dresses or dress slacks recommended.
- **Guys:** A suit or button up shirt/tie/slacks recommended.



# “SixFortyEight” Junior High Youth Nights

*“I am the bread of life” (Jn. 6:48)*

SixFortyEight youth nights are an opportunity for ALL Junior High students to stay connected to one another and our parish. We will take time to pray, eat pizza, and play games. These take the place of Theology Bytes for the Summer Faith Formation students.

SixFortyEight Nights take place (mostly) on the first Fridays, 6:48-8:15 p.m. Content starts at 6:48 p.m. sharp!

**Location:** Youth Room (Rm. 15)

**Dates:**

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| October 4, 2019  | <b>January 31, 2020*</b> |
| November 1, 2019 | May 1, 2020              |
| January 3, 2020  |                          |

**\*Exception to first Friday schedule for 648 Nights**

## Family Sessions

*“Observe, my son, your father’s command,  
and do not reject your mother’s teaching” (Proverbs 6:20)*

**(School Year Faith Formation Only)**

Parent sessions are designed to help parents and their child engage in fun activities and conversations about our faith. These will be held (typically) on the fourth Sunday of September, October, January, and February from 10:15-11:45 a.m.

**Dates:**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| September 8 & 29, 2019 | January 26, 2020  |
| October 27, 2019       | February 23, 2020 |

# Personal Spiritual Plans

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened unto you." (Mt. 7:7)*

## **What is a Personal Spiritual Plan (PSP)?**

A PSP is a way for students to talk with parents and mentors about their faith and where God is calling them to grow.

## **How does a PSP work?**

Each student will receive a questionnaire about strengths and areas for growth in each of these four areas of formation:

- 1) Personal Character Formation (Habits that contribute to living well)
- 2) Intellectual Formation (Knowledge and understanding of our faith)
- 3) Spiritual Formation (Personal and communal prayer life)
- 4) Pastoral Formation (How we share Christ with others)

Students will work with a parent to fill out the sheet at home and schedule a 30-45 minute meeting with one of our PSP Advisors. Each student who participates, along with a parent, will meet with an Advisor to go through the plan, set some goals, and schedule a follow-up meeting to review lessons learned.

## **Who will participate in a PSP meeting?**

This is our second year doing PSPs. We will invite students and their parents; there is no consequence for declining to participate. If you and your student want to participate in this, please contact Walter.

## **When will these PSP meetings happen?**

PSP Meetings will be based on the availability of each family. There are several advisors to help accommodate families.

## **Why do we do these PSPs?**

Two main reasons: 1) to foster parent/student discussions of faith and to encourage formation outside of our sessions 2) Faith Formation can be an excellent supplement to our faith, but cannot replace the role of families and personal inquiry and growth.

# Contact Information

## Questions or Concerns, Contact...

Walter Plummer  
Coordinator of Youth Formation

**Phone:** (513) 489-8815 x737

**Email:** [walter.plummer@good-shepherd.org](mailto:walter.plummer@good-shepherd.org)



## Good Shepherd's 8th Grade Confirmation Preparation Webpage

[www.good-shepherd.org/8th-grade-confirmation-preparation](http://www.good-shepherd.org/8th-grade-confirmation-preparation)

