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Questions?

Nichole Chang, the Confirmation Coordinator, can be reached through the following ways:

nicholechang@saintvdp.org or (763) 762-7370



Important Info.

To The Parents:

When you brought your child to the Church for Baptism, you accepted the sacred responsibility and privilege of “training them in the practice of the faith.” (Rite of Baptism, 30). You were reminded that you are the first and best teachers of your child and you were entrusted with keeping the light of faith burning brightly in their life. Parents instruct their children, both by what they say and what they do. It is now time for that next step. Confirmation is a celebration of the ongoing power of the already-present Holy Spirit in our lives, the Spirit first received in Baptism. Through this sacrament, the gifts of the Holy Spirit first received at Baptism are deepened and intensified.

Following are some suggestions on ways to assist your young person in their preparation:

1. Pray for and with your child(ren) every day.
2. Initiate conversation about the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Use the Chosen parent Guide** as well as share your memories of receiving the sacrament, and encourage them to share their ideas of how receiving this sacrament will change their faith life.
3. Help with the selection of a sponsor and saint’s name for Confirmation.
4. Make sure all documents are completed and returned in a timely manner.

Guidelines for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

1. Regular participation in Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass.
2. An appropriate understanding of the Catholic Christian life. The candidate should understand and reflect the life of Christ in their lifestyle.
3. A firm determination to live the Christian life to the best of their ability. The candidate must be a good steward, giving in Christian proportion of their time, talent, and treasure.
4. The candidate must understand the importance of personal and communal worship in the life of the Church.
5. Faithful participation in the Confirmation preparation program, scheduled classes, retreats, service projects, etc.
6. Commitment to further religious education by the candidate and parents or guardian. Reception of this sacrament is a beginning – not an end. It is one step in our life-long journey to holiness. The candidate must be willing to be actively involved in parish life after Confirmation.



St. Vincent de Paul Faith Community will assist in the faith formation of the Confirmation candidates by:

1. Scheduling class sessions during which the candidates will delve deeper into understanding their faith, the scriptures, and the Sacrament of Confirmation. The majority sessions will be held on the campus of St. Vincent de Paul.
2. Inviting speakers from the local faith community, greater Twin Cities' area, and from around the country to share their insights with the candidates.
3. The small groups will be led by volunteers from SVDP under the direction of the Confirmation Coordinator. It is important that the candidates attend all sessions so as not to miss the information shared at these sessions.
4. Priests will attend and/or participate in some of the sessions with the candidates.
5. Field trips to another parish may occur in order to take advantage of national speakers and allow our students to see and experience the greater Church community.

Expectations of Confirmation Candidates:

Regular participation in the Sunday liturgy:

1. Sunday Mass is not optional for Catholics. Celebration of the Eucharist is our highest form of worship and candidates are expected to be active participants. This is the faith they will affirm.

Session Attendance and Requirements:

1. Candidates are expected to complete all Confirmation preparation Components. For the 9th and the 10th grade years the following is expected:

- Sunday Sessions (minimum of 11)
- Youth Group night (minimum of 1)
- Sponsor Covenant
- 10 Discipleship hours

Then in 10th Grade the Confirmation candidate will also complete:

- Confirmation retreat at NET
- Saint Report
- Letter of Intent
- Proof of Baptism

2. Emergency absence considerations:

Extreme circumstances, including death of family member, severe sickness and/or inclement weather will be considered emergency absences and candidates may be excused from the minimum requirements. These extenuating situations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. If you feel as though any of your absences fall into this category, please call the Confirmation Coordinator to discuss options and make up possibilities.



Inclement Weather:

1. If the weather is severe and we decide to cancel any sessions, the cancellation of classes will be posted on www.saintvdp.org on the front page of our website as well as Facebook. In addition, the cancellation will be broadcast over: WCCO, KSTP, and KARE 11. Finally, an email will be sent out as well.
2. We will defer to your judgment as to whether or not it is safe for you to travel. If a session is missed due to weather conditions, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that the child(ren) have completed any assignments that may be due and have their child turn those forms into the small group leaders at the next session.

Participations in Sessions

1. Candidate should be respectful and attentive to speakers, their Catechist, fellow small group members and others in attendance.
2. Candidate should Invest in each session in order to get as much out of it as possible, and complete any assignments including meeting with their sponsor, saint's report, service requirements, interviews with small group leaders, and retreats.
3. Candidate should actively Participate in small group discussions and take part in the scheduled retreats.

Sponsor:

1. Each candidate is required to have a sponsor and to complete two activities with their chosen sponsor in 9th and four activities in 10th. Please refer to the "Sponsor Information" section in this handbook for more information.

Statement of Intent:

1. A letter of intent must be submitted in 10th grade. These will be read, recorded, and then passed on to Fr. Dennis Zehren. For more information on this assignment, please refer to the "Confirmation Statement of Intent" section of this handbook.

Patron Saint Name Selection and Report:

1. At Confirmation, candidates traditionally choose a canonized saint to be their patron. At the Rite of Confirmation, they will be referred to by this name signifying the profound change that the sacrament brings about. The selection of this name will also symbolize the candidates participation in the Communion of Saints. Each candidate must write a 1-2 page report on this saint in 10th Grade. Full details of this assignment can be found in the "Patron Saint Selection and Report" section of this handbook.



Confirmation Commitments

10th Grade

- Register online.
- Attend weekly mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Attend Rite of Welcome on the weekend of Oct. 14/15, all Masses.
- Attend a NET retreat, complete registration by **October 30, 2017**
- Turn in Sponsor form by **December 3, 2017**
- Complete your Saint Report by **January 21, 2017**
- Baptism Form by **Feb. 1, 2018**
- Connect with your sponsor 4 times in person or by phone. Use the *Chosen Sponsor Guide* to lead conversation.
 1. "The Way"- On the road to Discovering Christ. Date_____ Initial_____
 2. "The Truth"- Encountering the Light of Christ. Date_____ Initial_____
 3. "The Life"- Choosing Ultimate Happiness. Date_____ Initial_____
 4. "Mystagogy"- Life After Confirmation. Date_____ Initial_____
- Complete your Letter of Intent by **February 25, 2018**
- Complete an interview with your Catechist by **March 4, 2018**
- Attend a minimum of 1 Youth Group night.
- Attend a **minimum** of 11 out of 12 confirmation nights. (Youth group is NOT considered a Confirmation Night).
- Complete at least 10 Discipleship hours and fill out the log by **March 4, 2018**
- Attend Rite of Sending April 15, 2018 at the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses. Final directions for Confirmation to follow after Mass in Regan Hall.
- Attend Confirmation, April 21, 2018, at 10:00 am at the Basilica of St. Mary, in Minneapolis**



Baptism Record

One of the prerequisites for Confirmation is Christian Baptism. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide St. Vincent de Paul with a copy of their child's Baptismal certificate if they were not baptized at St. Vincent de Paul. **This Baptismal certificate must be issued from the parish the child was Baptized at no more than 6 months prior to their Confirmation day.** It is absolutely necessary that you provide us with proof of your son's or daughter's Baptism.

DUE: February 1, 2018

*Please COMPLETELY fill out this form as the Archdiocese requires all of this information. Once complete, return this form to class or the Parish office.

Confirmation Candidate's Name:

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Father's Name: First _____ Last _____

Mother's Name: First _____ Maiden _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Name: First _____ Last _____

Chosen CONFIRMATION Name: _____

For children Baptized at St. Vincent De Paul:

Date of Baptism: _____

Month

Day

Year

For children Baptized at another parish:

Church of Baptism: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Confirmation Retreat

Retreats are wonderful opportunities to step away from life's busyness and spend time reflecting more deeply on one's relationship with God. They are meant to draw youth into a closer relationship with God and into a closer relationship with other persons from our parish community.

Each 10th grade Confirmation Candidate is required to attend a weekend retreat at the NET Center.

10th Grade Confirmation Weekend retreat.

Please find your Catechist's name below to see which weekend your class will be attending. Both weekend Retreats will be at the NET (National Evangelization Teams) center in West St. Paul. We will provide busing to and from the retreat from St. Vincent de Paul. The retreat begins Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Exact times for drop off and pick up will be given closer to the retreat dates. You must attend the entire retreat and you may not leave for sporting events or family functions.

There is a separate registration process for this Required Confirmation retreat.

NET Ministries will be handling all of the registration directly through their website. To register please use the link below for the specific date your child will be attending with their class. These links are already open for Registration. **Please complete your Registration by Oct. 30, 2017.** NET Ministries will open up all unfilled spots to other parishes after this date.

December 8-10, 2017 at the Net Center, West St. Paul

Registration Link: <https://mission.netusa.org/DecemberSVDP>

Classes attending: Jeanette Rem/Kris Hanson
Lisa Arnold/Terese Sager-Scheeler
Mark Wegner
Deb Lande/Dean Larsen

January 26-28, 2018 at the NET Center, West St. Paul

Registration Link: <https://mission.netusa.org/JanuarySVDP>

Classes attending: Jim Litwin
Dennis & Kristine Hatmaker
Ann Bergmann
Judy Ross/Jackie McNamara



Sponsor

Choosing A Sponsor:

If you have ever attended a Confirmation ceremony, you have seen an adult who stands behind the candidate with a hand on their shoulder as they are anointed, but the role of a sponsor goes far beyond a simple gesture of support. Did you know that the word sponsor comes from the same root word as “responsible”? A Confirmation sponsor is someone whom you look up to as a role model in faith and will be there to support you spiritually before, during and after you receive the sacrament. In essence, your sponsor is meant to act as a spiritual guide and friend in your faith. That being said, choosing your sponsor is an important task. Don’t just choose someone because they are fun or because they haven’t done it yet. Choose your sponsor because you know that they will help you grow in your faith this year and because they will continue to support you after Confirmation.

Here are some good questions to ask as you consider choosing your sponsor:

1. Who in my life has made an impact on my faith?
2. Is this person responsible?
3. Is this person mature?
4. Does he/she practice his/her Catholic faith actively by attending Mass at least weekly?
5. Does he/she practice his/her Catholic faith actively in the way that he/she lives and acts?
6. Do I trust him/her?

The Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis has specific requirements that are to be met by all sponsors:

1. The sponsor must be an active, participating Catholic who has been Confirmed; someone who will be an inspiration and support for the candidate. There is to be ONLY one sponsor, male or female.
2. Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
3. He or she may not be the candidate’s mother or father. It is desirable, but not mandatory, that the baptismal sponsor (godparent) also be the sponsor at Confirmation to show the close connection of the two sacraments. In many cases this is not possible and another suitable person may be selected.
4. The sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving and is comfortable sharing his or her faith with young people.
5. The sponsor should be someone who is a witness to Christ and to the importance of a Catholic Christian lifestyle by their words and actions. A person who will be a support and example to the candidate as he/she moves through periods of crisis, questioning, and discernment.



Sponsor Information

***Due no later than December 3, 2017.**

A Sponsor must be a practicing, confirmed Catholic, who is at least 16 years of age. He/she may not be the candidate's mother or father. A godparent is a good choice. The candidate is encouraged to choose someone close by. The sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving, and is comfortable sharing his or her faith with young people. The sponsor represents the support and prayers of the entire Church. He/she will be the candidate's spiritual friend.

In this program, the following is asked of the sponsor:

1. Accompany the candidate to the Rite of Welcome, Rite of Sending, and Sponsor Retreat
2. Attend the Liturgy of Confirmation.
3. Meet with the candidate regularly throughout this year of preparation and discuss the topics addressed in the preparation sessions.
4. Share their faith story with his or her candidate.
5. Spend time getting to know the candidate, possibly taking him or her out to lunch or dinner, or having him or her over to your home.
6. Pray for and with the candidate.
7. Present the candidate during the Confirmation Rite.
8. Continue to be there for the candidate and lend spiritual support after the Confirmation ceremony is over.

Candidate Information:

Candidate Full Name: _____

(first) (middle) (last)

Sponsor information:

Sponsor Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parish Membership: _____
(Name of Parish) (City) (State)

~over~



Sponsor Covenant-10th

***Due no later than December 3, 2017.**

Sponsor:

I will be in contact and complete the 4 discussions from the Chosen Sponsor Guide with my Candidate. I will also contact my candidate at least monthly during the preparation process in person, by phone, or by email:

- To get to know the Candidate better
- To share my faith story including my questions, thoughts and feelings.
- To discuss the Candidate's participation in the Confirmation program.

Sponsor's Name (print) _____

Sponsor's Signature _____

Date _____

Candidate:

I will be in contact with my sponsor to complete the 4 discussions in the Chosen Sponsor Guide. I will also speak with my Sponsor at least monthly during the preparation process in person, by phone or by email:

- To get to know my sponsor better
- To share my faith story including my questions, thoughts and feelings.
- To discuss my preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Candidate's Name (print) _____

Candidate's Signature _____

Date _____



Statement of Intent

***Due no later than February 25, 2018.**

Background:

“Statement of Intent” is just a fancy way of saying: tell us in writing why you want to be confirmed. Please take time to compose this statement carefully. Not only does it give us a chance to understand what you have gained in your formation, but also allows you to process what you have learned and how you have grown as well as what you desire to receive from this sacrament. Please be honest and thoughtful. This will be given to Father Dennis Zehren to read and may be sent to the Archbishop prior to Confirmation.

The statement must be:

1. Typed
2. Double Spaced
3. In 12 point font Times New Roman
4. No less than one (1) page
5. Address the letter to: Fr. Dennis Zehren

Please touch on all of the following points in your statement:

1. Why do you think you are ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation?
2. Explain one aspect of the faith that became clearer to you through this process, and tell why you believe it is an important aspect of our faith.
3. Explain how you plan to continue being an active member of the Church after Confirmation.



Saint Report

***Due no Later than January 21, 2018**

Background:

So many times when we think of saints the first thing we think of is a halo, but the truth is that saints can't be reduced to people who walked around the earth with heads that glowed. No! Saints were ordinary people, like you and I, that lived extraordinary lives. The Church says that a saint is someone who possessed "heroic virtue" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #828). Saints are heroes of the faith.

Each candidate will be asked to take on the name of one of the saints at Confirmation. At Baptism, children are welcomed individually into a new life in Christ. Because of the close relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, it is perfectly acceptable for candidates to choose to affirm the saint's name given to them at Baptism. For example, a candidate named Nick might want to choose St. Nicholas. We also look at Confirmation as a time for the candidate to accept as their own the faith that was given to them by their parents and godparents. For this reason it is also acceptable for the candidate to choose a saint whose name is unrelated to their given name but whose life will be a model and inspiration for them during their life as a Catholic. The saint the candidate chooses should express something of the candidate's inner-self, an ideal or goal they are setting for themselves as a Catholic, and should be a reflection of their resolve to live as a disciple of Christ. The name that the candidate chooses will be the name by which they are addressed by the Archbishop or Bishop at the Confirmation ceremony.

The following are requirements for this report:

1. Must be typed, written in your own words, and be 500 words minimum
2. No more than 1-2 paragraphs (250 words maximum per paragraph) about the details of the saint's life and include the following:
 - What are the dates of birth and death?
 - Where was the saint from/where did they do their work?
 - What are some major/important events in the life of this saint?
 - What makes this person so holy?
3. **The majority of the report should focus on answering the following questions:**
 - How can you relate to this saint?
 - What qualities did this saint possess that you admire?
 - What special aspects of the saint's life would you like to use as an example in your own faith life?

Saint information can be found on the internet, and books on the saints. Below are a few trusted websites to check out as well:

www.lifeteen.com

www.catholic.org

www.newadvent.com



Discipleship Hours

(Living out your Faith in Action)

Youth have a tremendous capacity and energy to perform great works of charity (Love). Most do this with vitality and joy! What a blessing! Our youth are not the future of the Church they are a vital part of the Church TODAY. The Catholic Church needs the optimism, the perspective and the energy that our teens have in abundance. To this end, we invite all of our candidates to dig into their volunteer efforts with the same focus and enthusiasm as many of their other interests or hobbies. If not for your own sake (satisfaction of helping others, learning more about your faith/God, discovering an area of passion, etc.) then for the sake of a Church that needs your ideas, and energy. You are part of the Body of Christ, the Church, NOW!

To Meet the Confirmation requirements, each Confirmation candidate must complete 10 hours of service each year of the program. You may use this list as a reference for service ideas, but you are welcome to find another opportunity that you are interested in pursuing. Please record your hours for this year on the Discipleship Log and hand in by **March 4, 2018.**

Opportunities at St. Vincent De Paul

Mini-Vinnie teacher :	Kim Ordner (763) 762-7369, kimordner@saintvdp.org
Assist with Liturgy:	Tony Freeman (763) 762-7416, tonyfreeman@saintvdp.org
Outreach and Social Justice :	Okey Anyanwu (763) 762-7417, okey@saintvdp.org
Volunteer at parish events/ Coffee & Company:	Molly Schorr (763) 762-7374, mollyschorr@saintvdp.org
Family Faith Night:	Erika Novak (763) 762-7368, erikanovak@saintvdp.org
Cemetery Clean-up:	Tess Eiden (763) 762-7412, tesselden@saintvdp.org
General:	Office (763) 425-2210, churchinfo@saintvdp.org

Other Opportunities

- Winterblast in December. Contact our Youth Minister at SVDP to volunteer: 763-762-7405
- Feed My Starving Children: Fmsc.org- volunteer on site in Coon Rapids or Volunteer at the Northwest Metro Mobilepack Feb. 21-25, 2018
- Second Harvest Heartland, CROSS, CEAP, IOCP (food shelves)
- Arc Value Village Thrift Store
- Caring and Sharing Hands
- Hospitals & Nursing Homes
- Helping neighbors shovel, rake, babysit....
- Prolife Clinics
- Create your own! If you have questions ask your Catechist for approval.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you get to pick your Small Group? With small group discussion being a crucial component to the Confirmation program, it is important that students feel comfortable with one another and are able to support each other inside and outside of church activities. By allowing teens to pick their own small group, this allows teens to pick who they would be most comfortable sharing with.

Why only 12 sessions? We understand life gets crazy, especially for high schoolers. At SVDP our primary goal for confirmation is to provide opportunities for a transformative encounter with Christ. We know the lives of High Schoolers are incredibly busy, so with our new confirmation program we are aiming to make every moment count, bringing in well known speakers who know how to engage teens, using the Chosen curriculum to teach to core values of our Catholic faith, and facilitating close small groups who aim to build each other up.

Why only one absence? With fewer classes throughout the year, its important that students miss a minimal amount in order to be best prepared for the Rite of Confirmation and to grow in faith with their small group.

Why NET retreats? NET has established a wonderful reputation over the years of providing great Confirmation retreats that draw students into deeper relationship with God though dynamic speakers, small group discussion, Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, as well as creating a space to step away from the busyness of life and take time to focus on Faith. We find retreats can be a transformative experience for many teens. However, it does take time to really step away and enter in, so a weekend is necessary in order to have an impactful experience.

If I go on another church retreat (i.e. catholic school or other) do I still have to go on a NET retreat? Yes. While many retreat can be rejuvenating and allow us to grow in our faith, our goal is to have our Confirmation students prepare and gain a better understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as bond with other students from St. Vincent de Paul.

Why do Confirmation students have to go to one youth group night? Confirmation is not a graduation from our faith, it is a starting point for each individual of their life in the Church. Youth Group can be a great way to continue to learn more about our faith, grow in relationship with God, and have a positive support network of young Catholics after Confirmation.

Why change the program? SVDP is always aiming to bring our teens closer to Christ. We believe this program will do a better job of fulfilling the needs of our High Schoolers. Research has shown that speakers, music, and a strong community are crucial to having Faith be a lifelong value, and we believe by implementing these things into our program, we will have more teens have an authentic encounter with Christ.



Why are we confirmed in 10th grade? The sacrament of Confirmation is not to be taken lightly, we believe by waiting for our teens to reach a more mature level and better decision making age, they are better able to take their faith into their own hands and start to create habits that they can carry with them throughout the rest of High School and into their adult years. Around 10th grade is when most teens start to become more independent and are making important decisions that will affect the rest of their lives (which college to attend, a career path, relationships, getting drivers license, etc.). We believe faith is also one of these important decisions that should be left to each individual teen to take into their own hands.

Why is there a service requirement? Service is a great way to use our own God given gifts and talents to better others and to live out the mission of the Church. This is also why we refer to the service hours as Discipleship hours: Living out your Faith in action. We recognize that each person has different interests and skills, we hope by allowing students to pick their own service projects, they are better able to explore ways of serving that are of interest to them and better able to fit it into their busy schedules. If students do service work through school or other organizations, these hours can be counted towards their Confirmation requirements.

What is the Confirmation preparation interview? It is a lot less scary than it sounds. Think of it more as a conversation than a test. Your small group leader and the staff at SVDP want to hear about your experience of Confirmation preparation, your relationship with God, and how you plan to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ following Confirmation.

Other questions? Please contact Nichole Chang at nicholechang@saintvdp.org for any question you have concerning the Confirmation program.