



"Peace be with you. As the Father sent me so I am sending you.... Receive the **Holy Spirit**.
John 20:21-23

Confirmation Packet

2017 – 2018

Sacramental Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation



Dear Confirmation Parents,

Your son or daughter is about to embark on the wonderful journey toward receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. This is an exceptional time in a young person's life. As they prepare for this sacrament they will be given an opportunity to grow as a young mature Catholic. They will also be sent on a mission, with God's grace, to share their faith and love for our Lord Jesus Christ with others.

Here at St. Margaret Mary's we would like you to embrace this time in your young person's life. It is inspiring to be an integral part of this experience, but in all ways, parents are the first teachers of their children. By actively participating in the journey of Confirmation you enable your child to have a greater awareness of the joys and challenges of their faith.

What is the purpose of the program? Its purpose is to help your child understand their faith. But that is only part of the process. The other part involves the people who love and support their teens at home. When those who raise teens support them by living and sharing their faith at home, only amazing and wonderful things can happen. It is so crucial for a teen to experience faith at home. Our program may have very little to offer without the love and faith support from those who help raise these wonderful teens.

My prayers are with you as you invest in your faith and in your son or daughter's faith.

Joe Chiuppi



Confirmation Coordinator / Youth Minister

The Sacrament of Confirmation

What difference *can* it make?

Confirmation can make a real difference in the lives of young people. It can give you a chance to think about your baptism and about what it means to be a Christian. When you were baptized as an infant, you didn't know what was happening. Now, when you are older, you have a chance to reaffirm your membership in the Church and to say your own "I do" to your baptismal promises.

Confirmation can also have the effect of a special spiritual awakening, as it has for so many before you. Or it can have the effect of being a special reminder of your commitment to Christ and to the Church, as it was for me. A lot depends on you, and on your openness of heart and zeal to serve God and others.

So the important question is, what difference will you allow the sacrament of Confirmation to make in your life? And how seriously do you take these promises? When you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will renew the promises that your parents made for you at your Baptism: to believe in God, to be a member of the Church, to avoid sin and lead a moral life. As you are probably aware, there's a lot packed into those simple phrases. There's also a lot of commitment that is demanded of you if you take them seriously. Yet, God in his love doesn't want us to journey alone. The Holy Spirit will guide us and strengthen us for this journey. He will give us the strength to make a noticeable difference in the world. If you make the choice to love God, God will give you the strength and courage to follow Him and to love others. You make the choice, God makes the difference!

Confirmation from the Catechism?

- ❖ Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine... (and) incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds. (CCC #1316)
- ❖ Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life. (CCC #1317)
- ❖ In the Church this sacrament is administered when the age of reason has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to the bishop, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the ecclesial bond. (CCC #1318)

“Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:14-17).



Student and Parent Covenant

As a candidate for the confirmation program:

- ❖ I understand that deciding to enter the confirmation preparation program is an important decision requiring study, prayer and purposeful participation.
- ❖ I will respect my teachers and will abide by the guidelines given to me by the teachers and staff of St. Margaret Mary.
- ❖ I will do my best to take this decision seriously and will participate and support my companions on this journey by asking questions and sharing my thoughts and opinions. I will strive to be engaged in my words and actions for my benefit and for the benefit of my peers.
- ❖ I have been told about and understand that a retreat is a required element of the process. Should a serious situation arise regarding my attendance, I will contact the Confirmation Coordinator (with sufficient advance notice) and we will come to a resolution together.
- ❖ I understand that if I miss a session, I will need to attend class on another night. If this is a problem I will need to contact the Confirmation coordinator. The coordinator will arrange with me the materials necessary to make up the session. Students will only be able to miss two classes. Classes should be made up by attending classes on another night.
- ❖ I understand and agree to the service ministry portion of the program that includes 20 hours of service.
- ❖ I will do my best to participate in Mass each week, pray daily to encourage my growth in and understanding of the Holy Spirit, and to live as a disciple of Christ in all that I do and say.
- ❖ I understand that the confirmation preparation program is entered into *voluntarily*. It is understood that those who attend do so because they want to.

I have read the above information and agree to the requirements for confirmation:

Parent Signature: _____

Candidate Signature: _____



About the Retreat: Frequently Asked Questions

What are the dates?

Second year confirmation students: retreat dates **(December 2017)**

Third year confirmation students: retreat dates **(March 2018)**

Do I have to go on a retreat?

Yes, the church considers it to be a vital part of the overall confirmation process. Plus, it is a very wonderful experience that will have a positive effect on the students who attend. In addition, it is a requirement of the diocese, so all students are encouraged to attend.

Three days?

Friday night (4:45 p.m. departure), all day Saturday, and return Sunday afternoon (**retreat ends @ 6:00pm after the Mass**). No late arrivals, early departures, or leaving during portions of it. This is a process that builds upon each moment from arrival to departure, and this format is best for the success we desire.

What is the retreat center like?

Sacred Heart lodge is designed specifically for teen retreats. There are dorm style sleeping rooms with modern bathroom facilities. There is an open activity area, an outside field, a cafeteria, a conference room and a chapel. The safety of the students is a top priority.

What do we do?

The retreat is a highly structured process of active learning experiences, large and small group discussions, ice breakers, Mass, and individual time to think about our connection to God. We will focus on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and what that means for our lives. It will be an exciting and fun experience.

Are there chaperones?

Several adult chaperones will attend the retreat. They will direct and ensure the safety of your children. Chaperones are both classroom teachers and other volunteers who work within our youth program. All employees and volunteers who work with youth anywhere in the parish and on retreat go through a criminal background check and have received training to ensure the safety of your children. Our youth minister Joe has over 8 years of chaperoning experience with confirmation retreats. If interested in being a chaperone call 909-591-7400 ext 232.

What are the costs?

Per student, it costs \$150 to attend the retreat. This cost covers the price of the retreat center, bus transportation, stipend for nuns and camp staff, food, supplies, and miscellaneous items. It is never the intention for cost to be a complication for attending a retreat. Please contact Joe to discuss payment plans and other options as needed as this can be a life changing event for most young people and their faith.

What happens if I absolutely can't attend?

If these dates absolutely cannot be worked out, please talk with Joe the Confirmation Coordinator about attending another retreat weekend with different parish. Please do this as early as possible in the year, **as every student must attend a retreat.**

Program Policies

Attendance

Teachers will keep an accurate record of both attendance and homework projects. Participants will be responsible for attending all sessions. **Church policy allows for only two absences per year.** Being more than **15 minutes late** will be recorded as an absence. We are excited to teach and prepare your teen for confirmation, but consistent attendance is very important. If your teen consistently misses the teaching sessions they will be asked to start the confirmation program again when they are more available. Sessions can possibly be made up by attending another session on a different night or by attending a youth night. Made up sessions must be approved by Joe.

Arrival and Departure

All participants are asked to arrive 5 minutes before their session to ensure a normal start time. No participant may leave church property during class session for any purpose without a parent's written note. This is a matter of legal liability.

Discipline

It is the intention of the St. Margaret Mary's catechists to provide an environment that is conducive to learning for all teens who attend. In the event that any teen insists on behaving in a manner that creates an atmosphere where it is impossible to present a lesson, guardians will be called to pick up their teen immediately. If a participant will not allow a respectful environment for those who do wish to grow in their knowledge of Jesus' love for them and how to live this reality, they will be asked to wait in the Faith Formation Office until a responsible party arrives.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency procedures have been developed and will be followed by all staff and volunteers. In case of an emergency evacuation (fire, smoke, etc.), the participants will be taken into the church and will sit with their catechist. We will have a team call all parents to inform them of the situation and to ask them to pick up their teen. If the church is not accessible participants will meet in the parking lot adjacent to the church.