



St. John the Evangelist Parish Confirmation Preparation

CONFIRMATION 2018

We invite you to confirm your Baptism
and become actively involved
in your faith life!

If Confirmation is your ADULT DECISION to
say YES to your Baptism and to the
Catholic Faith, then there should also be
some ADULT RESPONSIBILITY on your part
to make this a priority!

Religious Education & Formation 784-0553

Todd Gale (Todd@saintjohnjackson.org), Director of Faith Formation
Clare Kolenda (Clare@saintjohnjackson.org), Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Angela Koerke (Angel@saintjohnjackson.org), Coordinator of Sacramental Preparation
Leslee Hartford (Leslee@saintjohnjackson.org), Administrative Assistant for St. John Office

St. JOHN the EVANGELIST IMPORTANT DATES



Starting Now

THE PERIOD OF INQUIRY

— YOU INQUIRE, YOU ASK, YOU
SEEK, YOU GET THE PROCESS
STARTED

Starting now... **Plan a Letter to Bishop Boyea** to ask him for the Sacrament.

Starting now... **Service.** See the attached pages.

Starting now... **Parish Activities.** Mass, special events, Youth Group

September 2017 **Enter Religious Education through Catholic Schools or our parish Religious Education Classes**

October 29, 2017 **St. John Confirmation Retreat Part # 1**
Candidates, Parents, and Sponsors. Mini-Retreat Meeting.
Retreat from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Community Room

Now to January, 2018 **Online videos to lead discussion with your candidate**
Website: FORMED.org (parish code: 0766a8)
Video series: "Follow Me"

November to March **Complete 40 QUESTIONS booklets, Letter to the Bishop and STAY INVOLVED with Weekly Mass, Holy Hours, Reconciliation Services, Youth Group, & other parish events!**

March 3, 2018
MANDATORY
for students

Regional Confirmation Mini-Retreat Day

When: 11:00am to 8:00pm

Where: Our Lady of Fatima, Michigan Center

What: An encounter retreat experience

Please note: ***40 QUESTIONS and LETTER TO THE BISHOP DUE***

Summer of 2018 **Confirmation Interviews**
Attend Mass, service projects, and youth group!
STAY INVOLVED

Fall of 2018 **Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation**
Date and details will be announced with the Bishop's
schedule! **A Confirmation practice will be determined by this
date (usually the Sunday before the Sacrament).**

**OTHER DATES & EVENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
PLEASE WATCH FOR UPDATES IN THE BULLETIN & EMAILS**

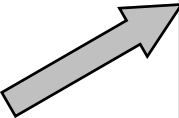
ALL PAPERWORK, PREP AND INTERVIEWS MUST BE COMPLETED BY SEPT 1, 2018
*If not, you will have to speak to the Pastor. He presents the candidates at
Confirmation and has to tell the Bishop whether or not candidates are prepared.*

IMPORTANT INFO

Candidates for Confirmation:

- MUST be **baptized Catholics** or baptized Christians of other denominations who have made a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church. Those who are not yet baptized will be invited to join the RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults].
- MUST be of **8th grade age or older**.
- MUST have at least **two years of recent religious formation & instruction** (in a Catholic school, parish Religious Education / Faith Formation, or Home Study Program).
- Should realize that the decision to celebrate this Sacrament is your individual free-will choice.

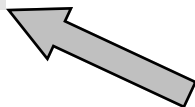
BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE



If you were **NOT** baptized at St. John the Evangelist or St. Joseph Parish, we will need a RECENT copy of your Baptismal Certificate from the parish where you were Baptized. **Please provide your parish of Baptism information so that we can request that information.** If you have any questions on sacramental records or do not know what parish you were Baptized in, please contact Angel Koerkel at the parish office.

CONFIRMATION NAME

It is traditional that you choose a Saint or a Venerable (someone "on the road to sainthood" who may not yet have been canonized) to be your patron, your role model, your companion on the journey. Carefully, prayerfully choose this Saint and make sure to pray for his or her intercession as you prepare for Confirmation. You may choose a name that is of a Saint who is not your gender (females may choose male Saints and vice versa).



You MAY keep your baptismal name (your REAL, legal name) if you choose. Your Confirmation Name may also be a Christian virtue (for example: Faith, Joy, Charity).

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St. JOHN the EVANGELIST IMPORTANT INFO



SERVICE

YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN LOVE THROUGH SERVING OTHERS!

We want you to keep a very brief log of service: ways you have HELPED OTHER PEOPLE. It should include AT LEAST one entry a month and should have some things listed that help your family, your Parish, your community, and the wider world! Ask your sponsor to serve with you! It will give you both a chance to talk about what it means to live out a Christian life! **A minimum of 15 hrs. over the course of the year in a variety of areas is expected.**

Suggestions—but not limited to—for Service:

Teacher Aid for Sunday Religious Education • Help stock shelves and organize at the St. Vincent DePaul Store • Teacher Aid for the summer Vacation Bible School • Helping an elderly neighbor with shopping • Lawn work • Baby-sitting • Cooking and serving at any of the great food festivals • Helping with the area Special Religious Education • Making a meal for an ill or elderly friend • Visiting nursing homes • Jackson Interfaith Shelter • Local food pantries • Sending supplies to troops overseas • Tutoring a younger student • Altar Serving • Help at Birthline, Center for Women, St. Vincent DePaul, American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, AWARE Shelter, Disability Connections, Special Olympics, Humane Society, Animal Shelter, the Red Cross or other agencies

Interview

Each candidate will be required to meet one-on-one with a member of the Pastoral Staff or other designated interviewers. This is not a test or a win/lose determination... it is a chance to chat, ask questions, and make a personal connection! Interviews will not be long, a half hour or so and will be scheduled in the summer of 2018, after candidates have finished their **40 Questions & Letter to the Bishop**. If you have completed those items and would like to schedule your interview sooner than next summer, please contact Clare Kolenda to set up an appointment.

Interviewers may include our priests, pastoral staff, Youth Ministry team and the Confirmation team. Typically you will be allowed to choose the person you are most comfortable with!

It will be YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to finish YOUR 40 Questions & Letter to the Bishop by the March 3rd Retreat...

St. JOHN the EVANGELIST IMPORTANT INFO

CONFIRMATION
2018

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Faith Experiences

Throughout your preparation time you are expected to participate in as many Faith Experiences as possible... you may choose from a variety of events. **WEEKLY MASS attendance is EXPECTED!** And we **expect** you to attend *at least ONE* of the following: Middle School Rally in March, Advent and/or Lent Holy Hour, or Alive in You summer mission trip. We will keep you posted on the details!

The **Regional mini-retreat (March 3)** is **MANDATORY!**



WEEKLY MASS

**EDGE**[®]
Catholic Middle School Ministry

When: Sunday mornings, 10-11:30am
Where: St. John elementary gym
Who: Middle school age youth
Why: putting our faith in context & living it!
How much: free (suggested donation)

Contact Clare for more info



Holy
Hours

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday (St. John):	4:15pm
Sunday (St. John):	8:00am
Sunday (St. Joseph):	9:30am
Sunday (St. John):	10am, Noon, 5pm

Advent & Lent
Penance Services

St. JOHN the EVANGELIST IMPORTANT INFO



Your Letter Requesting Confirmation

You are free to respond to God's call to live your life with Him: to worship, serve, learn and join in community. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, Bishop Boyea asks **that YOU START THE PROCESS by writing a letter to the him requesting the Sacrament.**

Your letter should be written to Bishop Earl Boyea, but sent to the parish offices (address to: Angel Koerkel, St. John Parish, 711 N. Francis St., 49201). We send the letters to the Bishop all at once as a packet.

Please follow this format or similar:

**Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing**

Greeting

"Dear Bishop Boyea," or more formally "Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing"

Body of the letter (these are SUGGESTIONS... feel free to be creative!)

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell him things like where you are from, which church you attend, what school, or something about your family or your background.

Paragraph 2: Request the Sacrament. Write something like: "I would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation..." or "I am ready to confirm my Baptism..." Give a couple of reasons WHY you are asking to confirm your Baptism.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you plan to prepare for the Sacrament: service, religious education, Mass attendance, involvement with the parish, etc.

Paragraph 4: Tell him how you plan to make your confirmation in the Faith real and alive. How will you continue to be a strong Catholic Christian?

Conclusion

Make sure to sign your letter after the appropriate closing. Say something like "I am looking forward to the day of Confirmation" or "Thank you for your love and service to our Diocese" or some other appropriate line.

Close with "Best regards" or "With great respect" or "In Christ" or "Asking Your Excellency's blessing, I am, Yours respectfully..."

Signature

St. JOHN the EVANGELIST IMPORTANT INFO



Parent Involvement

The Parish Pastoral staff is here to help **you**, the parents, fulfill the promise **you** made at the Baptism of **your** child - to raise them in the Catholic faith - by our help, support, and guidance to **YOU**, their primary teacher in the faith! Our role is to help adults, both parents and sponsors, with your Faith Formation, so that you can pass the Catholic Faith along to your children! What we, and the Catholic Church, expect for your involvement:

WEEKLY MASS ATTENDANCE

If Mass is not a priority for you, it won't be for your children

SACRAMENTAL CONFESSION

Required of all Catholics at least once a year

We recommend going with your child the week before Confirmation Mass

LIVING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF CATHOLICISM

Full description can be found in the Catechism (#2041-3)

See summary below

The Precepts of the Church, the **MINIMUM** expectations of all Catholics according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church #2041-3, are to:

- 1) attend Mass on Sundays & holy days of obligation
- 2) observe days of fasting and abstinence as established by the Church
- 3) sacramentally confess your sins at least once a year
- 4) receive the Eucharist at least during the Easter season
- 5) help provide for the needs of the Church

But who wants just the minimum out of life? Because we know that you want MORE, we are here to be partners with you in your family's faith formation.

Some great websites to help you strengthen the Faith at home:

- Our parish website: www.saintjohnjackson.org
- Jackson area Catholic radio (93.3FM): www.goodshepherdatholicradio.net
- USCCB.org (US Bishops website)
- FORMED.org (parish code: 0766a8)
- www.dynamiccatholic.com (great **free** resources, including **books**—you just pay shipping)
- www.catholic.org; www.catholic.com; www.ewtn.org; many more!

See the next page for more great ideas on how to grow and deepen in your own faith so that you can share it with your children!

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Just a few of the amazing ways at St. John, on the web, and on your phone to deepen your own relationship with Jesus:



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Sponsor Preparation

Sponsors do NOT play a *symbolic* role for the candidate. **Sponsors MUST be active, participating Catholic Christians with a desire to share their lived faith.** The sponsors and the candidates should be in regular contact during the preparation period, including time spent together at Mass, serving others, working on the 40 Questions, and experiencing Parish opportunities together. Parents may not be sponsors according to Canon Law (874).

What we, and the Church, expect from you, as sponsor:

Pray for your candidate throughout this year and long past the day of Confirmation

Attend Mass every Sunday & holy day - make sure that your candidate is also attending Sunday Mass!

Frequent the sacrament of **Reconciliation** this year and go with your candidate the week before celebrating their Confirmation

Look over the opportunities in this packet and **encourage** your candidate to get more involved in parish life!

Your role as Sponsor **does not end** the day Bishop Boyea anoints the candidate; you are companions on this journey for the rest of your lives! Several Sponsors have shared with us how moved and inspired they have been walking through this preparation and the actual day of Confirmation... please EXPECT God to do something with YOU during this time!

We do have a short Sponsor FORM for you to fill out and have signed by your pastor. Please make sure that is returned to our office by January 1, 2018.

From the Code of Canon Law - CONFIRMATION SPONSORS:

872 A sponsor... helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

873 There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor...

874 To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- have **completed the sixteenth year of age**, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age...;
- be a **Catholic who has been confirmed** and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and **who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on**;
- not be the father or mother

PLEASE GIVE THIS SHEET

TO YOUR SPONSOR!

St. JOHN the EVANGELIST

Confirmation Preparation 2017-18

IMPORTANT DATES for SPONSORS

Starting now... Sunday MASS. Letter to Bishop Boyea. Service. Parish Activities.

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Please return to the St. John office by Jan. 1, 2018



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH
711 N. Francis St
Jackson, MI - 49201
517-784-0553



Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor Information Letter

Sponsor:

Full Name: _____ (Maiden: _____)

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parish where Baptized: _____

Approx. Baptism Date: _____

To the Sponsor's Pastor:

As a member of this parish and practicing member of the Catholic faith, I consider the above named person qualified to act as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Pastor's signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Name/Address of parish: _____

Date: _____

Todd D. Gale
Director of Faith Formation
todd@saintjohnjackson.org

Angel Koerkel
Coordinator of Sacramental Preparation
angel@saintjohnjackson.org

Clare Kolenda
Coordinator of Youth Formation
clare@saintjohnjackson.org

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St. John the Evangelist
Confirmation Preparation 2017-18

Please return to: Angel Koerkel
St. John Parish
711 N. Francis Jackson, MI 49201



PLEASE DROP OFF AT THE FIRST MEETING!

*WE SEND A LOT OF COMMUNICATION THROUGH E-MAIL — PLEASE WRITE
E-MAIL ADDRESSES VERY CLEARLY!!*

CANDIDATE NAME (Baptismal Name) _____
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last name)

CONFIRMATION NAME (Saint) _____

Home Address _____
(Street) (City) (Zip)

Home Phone (____) _____ **Cell Phone (____)** _____

Candidate's E-Mail Address _____ **School Attending** _____

Birth Date _____ **Baptismal Date** (Approx. month and year) _____

Church of Baptism _____
(Church Name) (City) (State)

Father's Name _____
(First Name) (Last name)

Mother's Name _____
(First Name) (Last name)

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Parent's E-Mail Address(es) _____

Sponsor's Name _____ **Phone (____)** _____

Sponsor's Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Sponsor's E-Mail _____

Have you celebrated your First Communion?
☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you celebrated your First Reconciliation?
☐ Yes

☐ No

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