



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

711 N. Francis St
Jackson, MI - 49201
517-784-0553



Dear In-coming Confirmation Students and Families,

September 2017

This letter is being mailed to our St. John and St. Joseph family 8th graders. ***Please let us know if we have your grade incorrect, if you are no longer a parishioner, if you are not interested in celebrating Confirmation at this time, or if our records need some adjusting.***

We are beginning preparation for one of the most important events in your Christian life: the Sacrament of Confirmation! **Your Confirmation will be celebrated in the fall of 2018**, when most of you will be freshmen in High School. (Don't get confused with this year's 2016-17 group, mostly 9th graders, who will be Confirmed this October 15th!)

Confirmation is the time when we **confirm our Baptism** and become "tuned in" to the Holy Spirit. The supernatural Gifts of the Spirit are *sealed within us*.

You need an ACTIVE adult Catholic to be your sponsor (more on that later). In addition to **religion class** for your faith formation (whether through Lumen Christi Catholic School or parish Religious Education) students will be required to attend a few parish **gatherings, a retreat**, begin regular involvement with **Christian Service**, **complete a booklet of 40 Questions**, be **interviewed** and regularly **attend Mass**. **You will need to write a letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation to begin your process!** (Details are enclosed.) Please read the attached materials and note the dates!

**Our first large group meeting for candidates, parents and sponsors is:
Sunday, October 29, 2:00-4:00pm in the St. John Parish Community Room.**

Confirmation is your adult move to say YES to Christ and YES to the Church, it needs to come from you. We will not force you into Confirmation. We invite you. You may respond or you may ignore. It is a step into your adult faith life, and so we will EXPECT a certain amount of adult responsibility.

Parents, please note that **YOUR** participation is not only encouraged, but necessary! Your children rely on you to display for them what it means to be a disciple of Christ. They need you to bring them to Mass every Sunday and encourage them to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation by example. This is a beautiful time for us as Catholic parents to connect with our children in a whole new way!

We are looking forward to working with you this next year!

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

Angel Koerke
Coordinator of Sacramental Prep
angel@saintjohnjackson.org

Clare Kolenda
Coordinator of Youth Formation
clare@saintjohnjackson.org

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What "YES" Means

If Confirmation is your "Yes" to your Baptism, then your choice to live a Catholic life starts now - with the support of parents and your sponsor - it is **EXPECTED** that you will attend Sunday Mass.

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of the Christian life and Reconciliation fills us with the Grace of God. It is **EXPECTED** that you participate in both sacraments regularly.

Be active in the life of the parish through various activities such as: youth group, diocesan & regional events, and especially at our **Adoration Holy Hours** in Advent & Lent

Parent Involvement

Parents make a commitment at Baptism to raise their children Catholic. Parents are the primary religion teachers (catechists). The Parish Pastoral Staff is here to help, support, and guide the parents. We are team players, but our role is secondary!

Sponsors

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.



Religious Education

Every candidate is expected to grow in their faith through education. Our "EDGE" Sunday morning meetings are **required** for public/homeschooled students and highly encouraged for Lumen Christi students (see back)

Mandatory

Retreats & Meetings

Hard-hitting, enthusiastic, welcoming, and holy!

FIRST MEETING

Sunday, October 29

2-4:00 Community Room
For candidates, parents, & sponsors

Regional mini-Retreat Day Saturday, March 3, 2018

11:00am until 8:00pm
Our Lady of Fatima Church
For Candidates

Teen Life Nights

Dates: TBA (spring/early fall)
Join St. John high school youth group for these evenings

Final Meeting Week before Confirmation

Date: To Be Announced once we have the final date for Confirmation!

Discipleship Follow-up

Following the celebration of Confirmation
Date: To Be Announced

40 Questions

You will have a booklet with **40 questions** to be completed during your preparation time, to be completed before an interview.

Interviews

Each candidate will meet with a member of the Staff. This is not a test, it is a chance to ask questions and to make a personal contact between the parish and each individual.

Service

Service flows from Baptism and we expect you to be helping others for **AT LEAST 15 hours** during your Confirmation preparation year. Many opportunities will be offered.

Bishop Letter

Bishop Boyea has asked that students who seek Confirmation **REQUEST THE SACRAMENT in writing a personal letter to him!**

The Celebration of Confirmation

Confirmation will be celebrated with the Bishop in the 9th grade, allowing us the entire 8th grade year for formation and continuity into high school. The Jackson Region celebrates Confirmation together at **Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church.**
Date: To Be Announced
Typically mid-late October

ALL PAPERWORK & PREP MUST BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

TAKE YOUR FAITH

TO THE



EDGE[®]

Catholic Middle School Ministry

Using Edge Life Teen curriculum, every Edge morning is a different approach to religious education for middle schoolers. Every Sunday morning we dive into the teachings of the Catechism and discover how to apply them to our lives. Then they break up into small groups to learn and hear from their peers.

Middle School Edge is offered as our middle school religious education and is a valuable component of our Confirmation preparation! Each morning there is worship, snacks, and fun activities, as well as witness talks and small group times so that youth have a full discipleship experience.

Dive into the Catechism and watch your faith come alive!

Come and See.

Edge Mornings happen every Sunday from 10a.m. to 11:30a.m. at the St. John Elementary school building in conjunction with Religious Education classes. Register on the parish website (saintjohnjackson.org) or at your first meeting. There is no charge for Edge, but donations are gladly accepted to help cover costs (suggested: \$50/yr)

Questions? Want to get involved?

Call Clare Kolenda at the parish office (517-784-0553) or email her at: clare@saintjohnjackson.org



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Choosing a Sponsor

Sponsors do NOT play a meaningless, *symbolic role* for the candidate. **Sponsors MUST be active, participating Catholic Christians with a desire to share their lived faith. Parents may not be sponsors according to Canon Law (874).** It is recommended that one of your Godparents could serve as your sponsor. *Please prayerfully choose someone who will gently, but firmly PUSH you DEEPER into your faith!*

The sponsors and the candidates must be in regular contact during the preparation period, including time spent together at Mass, serving others, studying the Faith, and experiencing Parish opportunities. **We ask that sponsors attend the FIRST meeting** if at all possible, as well as the actual day that the Sacrament is received. On the day of Confirmation, the sponsor literally presents the young person to the Bishop.

Take some time and think about who could serve as your sponsor. Pray about it. Ask the Holy Spirit for you to be lead to a person who can serve as the best guide for you.

CONFIRMATION SPONSORS: From the Code of Canon Law:

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

Choosing a Saint and Confirmation Name

We believe in the Communion of Saints; the common union of all Christians who are part of the family, part of the Body of Christ. It is traditional that you choose a Saint 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. Like choosing your Sponsor, choose your Saint with thoughtfulness and through prayer. You MAY keep your baptismal name (your REAL, legal name) if you choose.

It would be best to choose your Sponsor and your Confirmation name BEFORE the first meeting in October. Invite your Sponsor to come with you, and pray for your Saint to come with you as well!



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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, we ask **that YOU START THE PROCESS by writing a letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament.**

Write your letter to **Bishop Earl Boyea** but **send it to the parish office at St. John parish.**
We will send the WHOLE GROUP of mail to the Bishop later in the year.
Letters are due absolutely NO LATER than the retreat day (March 3, 2018)!

Send your letter to:

Angel Koerkel
St. John Parish
711 N. Francis
Jackson, MI 49201

Please follow this format or similar:

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..."



**St. John the Evangelist
Confirmation Preparation 2017-18**

Please return to: Angel Koerkel
St. John Parish
711 N. Francis Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 784-0553

PLEASE DROP OFF AT THE FIRST MEETING IN OCTOBER OR BEFORE!

*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) _____

Sponsors 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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Candidate's Name: _____

If your sponsor is NOT a registered member of St. John or St. Joseph in Jackson,
please give them this letter to complete and return to us.

Sponsor Information Letter

To be completed by Sponsor:

Full Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Parish where Baptized: _____

Approx. date of Baptism: _____

To be completed by the Sponsor's Pastor (if not a St. John/St. Joseph parishioner):

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: _____

Sponsor Parish:
Please return this letter,
no later than **June 1, 2018**, to:

Angel Koerkel
St. John
711 N. Francis St.
Jackson, MI 49201


Angel Koerkel
Coordinator of Sacramental Prep
angel@saintjohnjackson.org

PARISH SEAL

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