



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

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

 **CONFIRMATION**
2019


You are cordially invited to a life-changing year,

August 2018

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.***

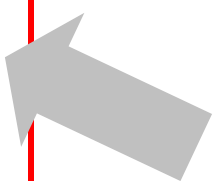
You are beginning preparation for one of the most important events in your Christian life: the Sacrament of Confirmation! **Your Confirmation will be celebrated in the fall of 2019**, when most of you will be freshmen in High School—be aware of the timing of things so you don't get mixed up if you see notices in the bulletin for THIS fall's Confirmation class.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that deepens and strengthens our baptismal graces which then: grounds us in the love of God, unites us firmly to Christ, increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us, makes our bond with the Church more perfect, and gives us a special strength of the Spirit to live our faith out loud and NEVER be ashamed of the Cross! (CCC 1302-3)



What do you need to do to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation at St. John the Evangelist? First and most important: you will need to be actively engaged in your faith. **We expect that you are attending Sunday Mass** and spending time in daily prayer. If you are not currently making it to Sunday Mass at least twice a month, but you do want to prepare for Confirmation, please contact us so that we can work with you!

In addition to regular participation in Mass, you need to be attending a **religion class** for your formation, either through Lumen Christi or through the parish if you go to a different school. There will also be several **essential events** throughout the preparation time. We will have our **Confirmation retreat** on Saturday, **October 6**. This is an all-day opportunity to encounter Jesus together. There will also be **Sunday afternoon meetings once a month** for both public and Catholic school students, beginning in November, for you to gather together with our wonderful youth minister, Clare, to ask questions about our faith, to grow deeper in relationship with Christ, and to discover what it means to be a child of God! You will need to write a **letter to the Bishop** requesting Confirmation. There is more info on these on page 3—and we will send reminders for events, too!



You will also need an ACTIVE, PARTICIPATING Catholic to be your sponsor. What do we mean by “active & participating”? Your sponsor must be a Baptized & Confirmed Catholic; they should be attending Mass regularly; they should have a personal prayer life; and they should, if married, be in a Catholic marriage. If in doubt, check out this great video from Fr. Mike Schmitz about being an active Catholic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrGW5G8QqQ4> (or just Google it!)

We invite you to enter into this extraordinary adventure of living a Catholic life, but it *is* an invitation. **You must choose** to accept or decline it. It is an exciting, joy-filled, but sometimes difficult life that makes demands of us, always requires our participation, and consistently calls us to be something greater than we can be on our own. It calls us to HOLINESS and RELATIONSHIP, with each other and with Christ. So, what do you say? Are you up for the challenge? We invite you in.

Parents, your participation is not only encouraged, but necessary and precisely what you promised on the day of your child's Baptism. 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 exhibit a regular, daily prayer life to them; also for you to encourage the sacrament of Reconciliation, primarily by example.

This is a beautiful time for you, as Catholic parents, to connect with your children in a whole new way and we are here to help with that! This is why we are having a special "parents only" meeting on **September 9, from 2-4pm** in the parish center for parents of both Confirmation and First Communion children. Hopefully we will see you there! We are your support team in passing on the faith to your children, but you are the leaders. Please let us know how we can better serve and enable you in this.

Any paperwork, forms, or documents needed for Confirmation can be dropped off at the parish office, placed in the Sunday collection basket (in an envelope marked "Confirmation"), or sent by US Mail to the office.

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



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



Angel Koerkel
Coordinator of Sacramental Prep
angel@saintjohnjackson.org



Clare Kolenda
Coordinator of Youth Formation
clare@saintjohnjackson.org

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, Michigan Center

Date: To Be Announced

(Typically mid-late October)

CONFIRMATION

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday (St. John): 4:15pm
Sunday (St. Joe's): 9:30am
Sunday (St. John): 8 & 10am
Noon & 5pm

St. John the Evangelist CONFIRMATION RETREAT



Saturday
Oct 6, 2018
11am-9pm
St. John Parish
Center

ESSENTIALS

GO BEYOND THE LIMITS

On the third Sunday of the month (usually*) we will go past the limits of an ordinary life by diving into the teachings of the Catechism and discovering how to apply them to our lives. Then we'll break up into small groups to hear and learn from peers.

This is a valuable component of our Confirmation preparation! These meetings will involve worship, snacks, and fun activities, as well as witness talks and small group time so that you have a full discipleship experience.

Go beyond the limits with your faith and be fully alive!

Come and See.

Middle School age gatherings happen most Sundays of each month and you are welcome to attend any of them, but the 3rd Sundays* are just for Confirmation prep and we'll expect to see you there! We'll meet from 3-5pm at the St. John Community Center. Donations are gladly accepted to help cover costs (suggested: \$50/yr)

Questions?

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

*Confirmation Prep dates: Nov 18, Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 3 (due to schedule conflict),
Mar 17, Apr 7 (due to Easter), May 19



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 **CONFIRMATION**

What Your “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 teachers of the faith (catechists) for their children. 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.

Bishop Letter

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

Service

Service flows from Baptism and we *trust* you to be helping others for **AT LEAST 15 hours** during your Confirmation preparation year. There is no log/journal for hours.

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.



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Choosing a Sponsor

Sponsors do NOT play a meaningless or symbolic role for the candidate. **Sponsors are vital and 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 serve as your sponsor if possible.

*Please prayerfully choose someone who will gently,
but firmly PUSH you to go 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 such as Adoration Hours. On the day of Confirmation, the sponsor literally presents the candidate to the Bishop.

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

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**,
- be a **Catholic who has been confirmed** 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.

***It would be best to choose your Sponsor and your Confirmation name BEFORE the retreat day in October.
Invite your Sponsor to pray for you while you are at retreat
and ask your Saint to come with you!***



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Your Letter Requesting Confirmation

You are being invited to respond to God's call to live your life with Him: to worship, serve, learn and join in community. If you desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, if you accept the invitation, then—as with any invitation—you'll need to RSVP! Do that by **writing a letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament and briefly explaining how Confirmation will change you.**

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 letters to the Bishop together.
Letters are due absolutely NO LATER than June 9, 2019 (Pentecost Sunday)!

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 2018-19**

Please return to: Angel Koerkel

St. John Parish

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2019

*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

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN RETREAT DAY: OCTOBER 6, 2018



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Please give this letter to your sponsor **Candidate's Name:** _____
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:

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,
with parish seal,
no later than **June 9, 2019**, to:

Angel Koerkel
St. John the Evangelist
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