



St. John the Evangelist Parish

711 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Jackson, MI 49201

517-784-0553

CONFIRMATION
2020

This letter is being mailed to our St. John, St. Joseph, & St. Mary 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.***

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

August 2019

You are cordially invited to a life-changing year! Are you ready for a challenge? If so, say, "Yes" and join us for your Confirmation Preparation! **Your Confirmation will be celebrated in the fall of 2020**, 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 prepare for 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 (St. John: Sunday mornings, 10-11:30; St. Mary, check with your DRE) 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, **November 2**. This is an all-day opportunity to encounter Jesus together. There will be **Sunday afternoon meetings once a month** for all Confirmation candidates, beginning in December, for you & your sponsor 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, more on that later.

You **must REGISTER** as a Confirmation candidate with us. Go to saintjohnjackson.org, select the Confirmation page under the sacraments tab, and complete the online registration form at the bottom of the page **BY SEPT 29** to be included in our Confirmation 2019-20 class.

You will 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.

We are looking forward to walking 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 DeWitt
Coordinator of Youth Formation
clare@saintjohnjackson.org




NOTE: St. Mary/Sacred Heart will be joining with St. John/ St. Joseph for Confirmation prep this year. All information & requirements listed in this letter pertain to students of both communities.

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.

We presume that you are already attending Sunday Mass, spending time in daily prayer, and celebrating sacramental Confession because if you didn’t already have that relationship with Christ, why would it be so important to you that your child receive Confirmation, to deepen *their* relationship with Jesus?

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 29, from 2-4pm** in the parish center for parents of both Confirmation and First Communion children. This is for all parents, regardless of where your child attends school. 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 you in your role.



CONFIRMATION

ESSENTIALS

God the Son

God the Father

God the Holy Spirit

UNIFIED

November 2nd, 2019
11 a.m.—8 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist Parish
Confirmation Retreat

Weekend Masses:

St. John -

Saturday : 4:15pm
Sunday : 8 & 10am
Noon & 5pm

St. Joseph -

Sunday : 9:30am

St. Mary -

Saturday : 5:30pm
Sunday : 8 & 10am
Latin: 1pm

St. Stanislaus -

Saturday : 4:00pm
Sun: Spanish: 11:30am

GO BEYOND THE LIMITS

Essential Meetings.

About once a month, beginning in December, we will go past the limits of an ordinary life by diving into the teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and discovering how to apply them to our lives. We will look at what it means to be a disciple, how to live a sacramental life, prayer, and much more.

This is an essential 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. Sponsors are **expected** to attend these meetings with you (January meeting is for student and parents)!

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

Dates: Sundays: Dec 8, Feb 9, Mar 15, Apr 19, May 17

Time: 3-5pm

Who: Student & Sponsor

Date: Saturday: Jan 11

Time: 2-5:30pm (includes Mass)

Who: Student & Parent

Questions?

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



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Candidates

Your choice to live a Catholic life starts now - with the support of parents and your sponsor - it is **EXPECTED** that you 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.

Being 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

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.

They are **EXPECTED** to attend the essential meetings with the candidate (student). Students should have a sponsor BEFORE the fall retreat and should give them the enclosed "Sponsor Letter".

Parents

Parents make a commitment at Baptism to raise their children Catholic. **Parents are the primary teachers of the faith** (CCC 2221-3) 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!

Bishop Letter

Bishop Boyea has asked that students **REQUEST THE SACRAMENT by writing a personal letter to him!** Guidelines are included in this packet.

Service

Service flows from Baptism and we *expect* that you are spending time in service within the parish community this year. There is no journal for service hours. More details on this will be given throughout the year.

The Celebration of Confirmation

The Jackson Region celebrates Confirmation together at:

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Michigan Center

Date: To Be Announced

(Typically mid-late October)



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Choosing a Sponsor

Sponsors do NOT play a meaningless or symbolic role for the candidate.

***Please prayerfully choose someone who will gently,
but firmly PUSH you to go DEEPER into your faith!***

Because 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, **we highly recommend inviting someone local to be your sponsor.** 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

***Choose your Sponsor BEFORE the retreat day in
November.***

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 role model & companion on your faith journey. Carefully, prayerfully choose this Saint as you will take their name in the sacrament and make sure to pray for his or her intercession as you prepare for Confirmation. Like choosing your Sponsor, choose your Saint with thoughtfulness, through prayer, and early in your time of preparation.



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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 May 31, 2020 (Pentecost Sunday)!

Send your letter to:

Angel Koerkel

St. John Parish

711 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

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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..."



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Name of Person

to be Confirmed: _____

Sponsor Letter

(This letter must be completed and signed by the sponsor, and then signed and sealed by a Priest or authorized delegate at the parish where the sponsor is registered and attending)

Sponsor:

Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Code of Canon Law #872-4 (summary): "To be permitted to take on the function of a sponsor a person must: ... have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function; have completed the sixteenth year of 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 bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared."

By my signature, I am testifying under oath in the Divine Name that:

- **I am a Roman Catholic** and have celebrated **all** of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation)
- **I participate regularly in Sunday Mass** and Holy Days of Obligation
- **I give witness** to my faith in Christ Jesus **by receiving** Him in **Holy Communion** at Mass and **celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation**
- If married, **I am married according to the laws of the Catholic Church**
- **I am at least 16 years of age** or will be by the date of Confirmation for which I will be a sponsor
- **I am aware that I am assuming a serious, lifelong responsibility** to be a good role model in the Catholic faith by my life and my prayer

Signature: _____ Date: _____

To the Sponsor's Pastor:

The above information is true to the best of my knowledge and I consider the above named person qualified to act as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Pastor's/approved delegate's signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Name/Address of parish: _____

Parish Seal: _____

Please return to:

St. John the Evangelist

attn.: Angel Koerkel

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