



CONFIRMATION

ST. HENRY CLUSTER CANDIDATE INFORMATION GUIDE

2020-2021



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your
faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Welcome to this holy journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation! In this packet, you will find a variety of information, including dates and forms.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is the final of the three *Sacraments of Initiation*. “Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal or ‘confirm’ the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church Glossary*). “By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed” (*CCC 1285*).

Confirmation is not a completion of sorts, but a new beginning, a stepping out into a new role as members of the Body of Christ. It is important to note, however, that while parents are often the ones making sure their child receives this Sacrament, the grace of Confirmation does not take root unless the one receiving it has chosen the Sacrament of their own accord.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You are welcome to reach me at sthenryccdcenter@gmail.com or by phone at 419-678-3811.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rachel Niekamp, St. Henry Cluster DRE

IMPORTANT DATES

The 2020-2021 school year is a very important time for you and your parents as you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation helps us to follow God in the Holy Spirit through gifts of wisdom, fortitude, knowledge, counsel, piety, understanding, and fear of the Lord.

The following is a list of important dates and events to place on your calendar:

All Confirmation Paperwork and Retreat Permission Form Due – Friday, December 4, 2020

Confirmation Retreat – The retreat information is yet to be determined at this time, but is required for Confirmation preparation.

A permission form will be sent out when the details are confirmed and must be returned in order to attend the retreat.

Interview with a Priest or Deacon – There will be a sign up for times the spring before Confirmation and is a requirement. More information will be forthcoming.

Confirmation Rehearsal – Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm Candidates and their sponsors should meet in the St. Bernard church basement.

Confirmation – Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 1:00 pm at St. Bernard Church with Most Reverened Dennis Schnurr

A separate picture order form will be distributed before Confirmation and must be returned with payment for your order to be submitted.

POINTS OF KNOWLEDGE

Parents, please talk and pray with your child.

Can he or she recite the following with a reasonable degree of competence?

Apostles' Creed

Act of Contrition

Hail Mary

Our Father

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Is your son or daughter familiar with the Bible?

Can he or she find scriptural references?

Does your child know the following and what they mean in his/her own words?

The Beatitudes

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Laws of the Church

The Ten Commandments of God

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

By the end of the year, your child will have learned the listed Catholic faith beliefs.

As parents, please review your child's knowledge and encourage him/her to grow closer to the Holy Spirit.

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.
(Proverbs 27:17)

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

WHY DO YOU NEED A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?

The way the saints became saints was by learning from other holy people, namely other saints! They were individuals that wanted to do good, please God, and someday go to heaven. Your sponsor will be another person who will help you to grow in your faith, guide you in what steps you need to take to do that, make suggestions to help you in the right direction for your life, and ultimately be with you and God in heaven. Your sponsor will also be responsible for making sure you act as a true witness to Christ and that you have prepared for this Sacrament.

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

A good candidate is someone who strives to live a holy life and to actively live their Catholic faith. They must be in **“good standing” with the Church** and living a sacramental life by **attending Mass every Sunday and Reconciliation frequently**. It should be someone who you admire and someone who can help you better live out your Catholic faith. It is also helpful if it is someone you can talk with about your faith and things going on in your life. There may be different aspects of the Christian life that are most important to you in a sponsor. Maybe you admire their prayerfulness, commitment to service, willingness to sacrifice for others, or how they live out their vocation. There are many things you can look for in a sponsor, but a sponsor should exhibit love for God and their Catholic faith, integrity, virtue, and a commitment to a life of holiness.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPONSORS

It is desirable that the one who took the role of godmother or godfather at Baptism also be the sponsor for Confirmation, if possible. Sponsors should take seriously their role in assisting with the preparation of each candidate and make every effort to attend the Confirmation mass. Like a parent, a Confirmation sponsor’s job is to be an up-close-and-personal witness of the Christian life to their candidate. The sponsor’s task does not end when the student is confirmed; rather, the sponsor is obligated to help the you continue to grow in faith, to help in your Christian walk throughout life, and to seek you out if you ever go astray. The sponsor should seek to communicate the Faith to his or her candidate, who, through the Sacrament, becomes in a very real sense, that sponsor’s “spiritual child.” Sponsors should commit to praying daily for their candidates and remind candidates that they are praying for them and **meet once a month with their Confirmation candidate** (whether in person, over the phone, etc.).

Be a practicing Catholic who has received Baptism, consistently receives the Eucharist, and be Confirmed in the Catholic Faith and at least 18 years of age

Live a life consistent with the views and teachings of the Catholic Church by attending Sunday and Holy Day Masses and generally participating in the Sacramental life of the Church (**If not an active member of our Cluster Parishes, a signed letter from the Pastor at the sponsor’s home parish must be provided.**)

If married, ***the marriage must be considered sacramental by the Catholic Church***. This includes if a person is divorced and remarried. If you have questions please double check with your teacher.

Does not need to be the same gender as the candidate, but **cannot be the parent, guardian, or boyfriend/girlfriend of the candidate.**

SPONSOR INTERACTION

Confirmation sponsors embody the spiritual truth that we, as Catholics, journey together to God, helping and supporting one another, just as God helps and supports us. It is vitally important that Confirmation candidates experience the presence and support of their sponsors.

Confirmation sponsors and candidates should complete *at least three* of the following activities together by December 4, 2020.

- ✦ Attend Sunday Mass together
- ✦ Share with one another thoughts and reflections from scripture readings
- ✦ The Candidate may write a note to their Sponsor about their reactions, impressions, thoughts, and fears about their spiritual journey towards Confirmation. Sponsors will then respond, affirming of their support.
- ✦ Pray a Rosary together
- ✦ Invite one another to a sporting event, movie, dinner, or other outing—and model Catholic values while sharing quality time together
- ✦ Go to Adoration together

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

(Hebrews 12:1)

CHOOSING YOUR SAINT

WHO ARE THE SAINTS?

What an incredible gift we have in the communion of saints. They are like us! They are our ancestors, our teachers, our friends, our siblings. They are real, truly human. They are sinners – they are repentant children of God. The saints lived on this earth and experienced suffering, joy, pain, broken promises, peace, frustration, war, injury, heart-break... they know our hearts. But mostly, they know what it takes to be united with God here on this messy earth. They know what it takes to live well for Him.

WHY DO WE CHOOSE CONFIRMATION SAINTS?

We choose a Confirmation saint (like we choose a Confirmation sponsor) not out of due diligence to the “rule,” but rather because we realize how unfortunate it would be to travel alone. We recognize how important it is to know your Confirmation saint not only by name, but also by story. The saints have so much to teach us about this journey. Pick a saint who speaks to you somehow. Know their story, and know the power of their prayer. Ask for their intercession like you would ask for the prayers of your friends. Saying “yes” to a Confirmation saint is like saying “yes, you may always pray for my poor and weary soul.” How fantastic is that!? Do not choose a saint simply because they are a patron of something you enjoy. Take the time to research and choose a saint whose life you identify with or relate to in some way, or whose story you find powerful; read their quotes or writings in your personal prayer, seek to emulate them in your everyday life, and discover an incredible spiritual friend.

WHERE CAN I LOOK FOR A SAINT?

<http://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

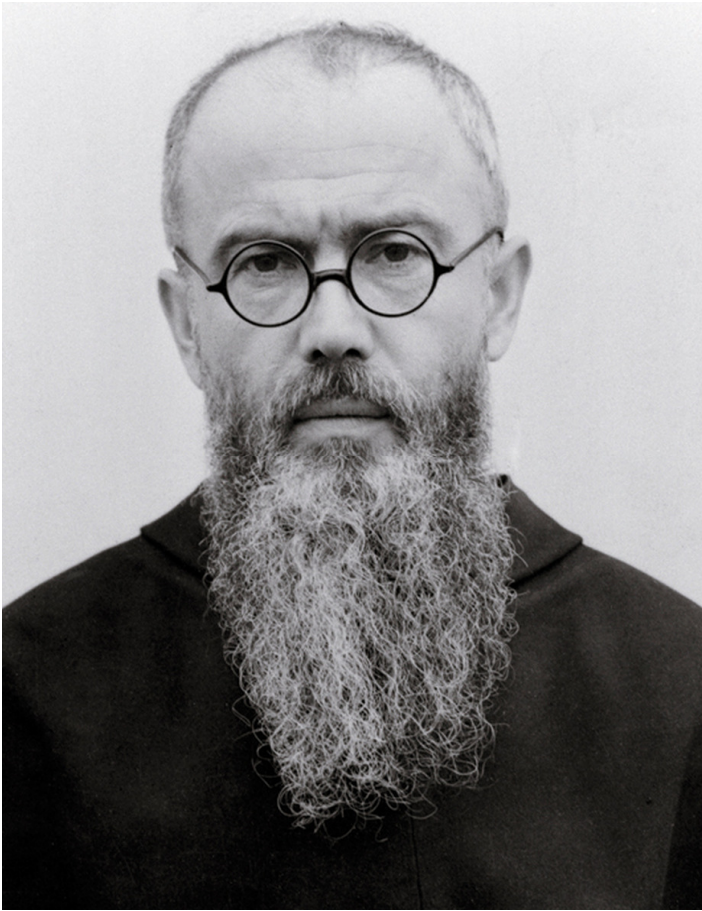
<http://catholicsaints.info/patronage-topics/>

<http://catholicsaints.info/alphabetical-list/>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Lives of the Saints by Fr. Alan Butler

All candidates will be asked to submit a typed project about your saint following **the example provided** on the next page. This should be simple and clean and will provide an opportunity for us to hang them in the hall and share with younger students people in our Catholic faith who have inspired us to live lives of adventure and holiness for God.



St. Name

Born: 1234

Died: 4321

Feast Day:

Patron Saint of:

Known for: Where did they live? What was their life like? What made their life unique? In your own words, provide a paragraph to explain what stands out about their life to you.

How I want to follow their example: Confirmation saints are chosen to help us grow in holiness and intercede for us. They are chosen based upon the virtues they have demonstrated rather than their name. Explain why you look to them as a model of Catholic faith and virtue.

Student Name

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
There are different forms of service but the same Lord;
There are different workings but the same God who produces
All of them in everyone.

(1 Cor. 12: 4-6)

LIFE OF SERVICE

Humble service to others and to our Church community is part of our Christian Baptismal calling. With this in mind, and with a desire to encourage all to become a part of our community, all Confirmation students will **volunteer for the Church and community through two projects of between 3-5 hours each.** *A true spirit of service is not about accumulating a number of service hours or completing projects, but instead is about the desire to help others.* The hope is that through participation in service projects you will grow to incorporate the service of others as a part of your life. Parents are encouraged to participate in these activities. Projects may be completed **after the signature of approval** from the DRE/teacher. Please complete both sides of this document and **submit it to the teacher by December 4, 2020.**

_____ Assist in the upkeep of a cluster parish or cemetery: cleaning or groundskeeping

_____ Volunteer for St. Vincent De Paul, C.A.L.L. Food Pantry, Ansonia Methodist Food Pantry, Grace Resurrection

_____ Visit or assist a parishioner on the Homebound list

_____ Join the Eucharistic Minister when they bring Communion to the Homebound

_____ Make a meal for a family in our Cluster who celebrated a Baptism recently
(This is outside your relation.)

_____ Volunteer for House of Bread or Rustic Hope

_____ Visit someone from our Cluster who recently lost a family member

_____ Provide service to the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein

_____ I'd like to define my own service: _____

SERVICE RECORD

Name: _____

Project 1: _____

Approval by DRE/Teacher

Date

Date Completed

Time

Total Hours

Supervisor's Signature

Date

Contact Number

Project 2: _____

Approval by DRE/Teacher

Date

Date Completed

Time

Total Hours

Supervisor's Signature

Date

Contact Number

Once you have completed your service hours, please type a **2 page summary paper** (Arial, font size 12, double spaced) explaining **what** services you completed, **why** you chose this project, which **Work of Mercy** it relates to, **who** you were serving, a **reflection** of your time, and how you plan to include **servicing others in your future**. Your paper must have a header including your name, teacher, class, title, and date and be stapled to the front of this sheet.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Return form by December 4, 2020

(Please print to complete.)

Chosen Confirmation Name _____

Candidate's Name _____

Last

First

Middle

Date of Birth _____ Age at Confirmation _____

Parish You Belong To _____

Church Baptized At _____

City _____ State _____

Date of Baptism _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's (Maiden) Name _____

Will Be Confirmed At : St. Bernard/St. Henry Cluster Parishes

P O Box 350

St Henry, OH 45883

All information was correct

Some information was incorrect

