

## **St. Christopher Catholic Parish Confirmation Formation Overview – 2019**

Below is an overview of the formation process for Confirmation at St. Christopher Parish. Page 1 is a broad overview, with further explanation and details found on Page 2. Please note: some dates may not be set yet. All deadlines are subject to minor revisions that will be communicated to all candidates as needed.

### Administrative Tasks:

- Attend Information Meeting (January 24, 2018)
- Complete Online Registration Form (due April 2, 2018)
- Attend follow-up meeting (May 16, 2018)
- Present certified copy of Baptismal Certificate to parish (due May 31, 2018)
- Register @ St. Christopher parish (as soon as possible)
- Turn in Sponsor form (due June 30, 2018)

### Remote Preparation (for 2 years prior to Confirmation):

- **Meet Christ**
  - Participate in Sunday Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation
    - Use cards starting June 2-3, 2018
  - Participate in a parish retreat experience each year
- **Know Christ**
  - Participate in regular formation each year (Religious Education/HS Ministry, Catholic School, etc.)
- **Bear Christ**
  - Complete 15 hours of service to the parish or the poor each year

### Immediate Preparation (1 year prior to Confirmation):

- Sponsor Discussions
  - Sponsors completes sponsor formation (open June 1-August 31, 2018)
  - Six meetings – includes Saint Report & Letter to Bishop (due dates vary)
- Confirmation Retreat – **April 5-7, 2019 @ Camp Gray**
- Formation (2 options – see notes on following page)
  - At home – *Decision Point* with parents (12 sessions w/ workbook work)
  - At parish – 6 sessions throughout the year w/ parents
- Confirmation Rehearsal & Mass – dates TBD in Fall 2018

### Post-Confirmation:

- Live in the grace of the Holy Spirit and continue Meeting, Knowing, and Bearing Him in the parish and throughout the world!

## **Formation Notes:**

### Mass Participation:

Participation in Mass is essential to our relationship with Jesus Christ. To help candidates build a habit of participating in Mass, they will be asked to turn in a card each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. Cards can be found just outside the Usher's Room at St. Andrew and just inside the front doors at St. William. In the event that a candidate participates in Mass at another parish, they can simply bring a bulletin from that church to the parish office – please turn in bulletins by Wednesday of that week. It is anticipated that candidates make every effort to participate at Mass at their home parish (i.e. St. Christopher) as often as possible. Candidates should begin turning in cards the weekend of June 2-3, 2018 and continue through Confirmation. In addition to Sundays, the Holy Days of Obligation are:

- Wednesday, August 15 (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
- Thursday, November 1 (Solemnity of All Saints)
- Saturday, December 8 (Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
  - To fulfill our obligation we must attend one Mass for the Immaculate Conception *and* one for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Sunday, December 9)
- Tuesday, December 25 (Nativity of the Lord)
- Tuesday, January 1 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

### Retreats & Service Opportunities:

High School Ministry offers various opportunities for retreats and service throughout the school year. Keep an eye on the bulletin and emails for dates as they approach.

Some retreats that will definitely be offered are:

- Summer Trips – Love Begins Here (service trip) & Steubenville Conference (retreat)
- Saturday, October 6 – John Bosco Youth Day @ Holy Hill
- February 1-3 (Fri-Sun) – Frassati Fest @ Kalahari Resort
- Saturday, March 16 – Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally, Milwaukee

### Sponsor Training & Discussion Packet:

Once the parish receives a sponsor form from the sponsor's parish, we will send them the link to the online sponsor formation (available June 1). The formation takes about 2-3 hours to complete, and can be done over several sessions if needed. Once a sponsor completes the formation, the parish will send the sponsor and candidate a copy of the discussion packet and a copy of the book *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* by Matthew Kelly. Each of the six sessions includes reading and discussing a chapter of this book along with activities meant to reinforce the topics discussed. Two of these activities are the Saint Report, where candidates select and research a Saint name for Confirmation, and a letter to Bishop Morlino reflecting on the candidate's preparation and the reasons he/she wishes to

be confirmed. In order to allow candidates time to progress through their formation, instructions for this letter will be given to candidates and sponsors after the Confirmation retreat in April 2019.

The discussions can take place at any time throughout the year, but we strongly encourage sponsors and candidates to only cover one discussion per meeting.

#### Confirmation Formation:

Candidates have two options to complete their formation for confirmation.

- Option 1: Candidates and their parents will work together through the *Decision Point* curriculum. This will include watching all videos for each of the 12 sessions, answering all discussion questions and journaling questions in the workbook, and completing all the exercises in the workbook as well. All the questions should be answered with 2-3 complete sentences.
  - In order to help candidates move through the curriculum at an appropriate pace, candidates who choose this option will need to complete sessions 1-6 before December 2018. That month, they will schedule a meeting with the parish to show their progress in their workbook. Candidates should also be prepared to discuss various aspects of the curriculum in this meeting. It should be clear that they have not only completed but internalized the concepts covered in each session. In April 2019, a second meeting will be scheduled to discuss and check-in on sessions 7-12.
  - Each month during the school year, an evening will be offered for candidates and parents who wish to discuss the concepts presented in *Decision Point* with others. This time will also serve as an open time to discuss any other topics or ideas with the program coordinator (“office hours”).
- Option 2: Candidates participate in six sessions at the parish with a parent. These sessions will cover content similar to that in *Decision Point*, but presented by a parish catechist. Time for prayer and discussion will be included in each session. Sessions will be approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes long and will be held in September, October, November, January, February, and March, likely on Mondays.

#### Confirmation Conference:

In most cases, the candidate’s dedication to completion of his/her formation and their letter to Bishop Morlino will be sufficient to show their readiness for receiving the Sacrament. In cases where, due to an inability or unwillingness to complete the formation outlined here, the parish is uncertain of a candidate’s readiness, they may be asked to schedule a meeting with the pastor to further discuss their preparation. Candidates will be notified if this is the case by early April in order to schedule a meeting.