

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

2011

Note of Welcome

Hello Families!!!

I want to officially welcome you and your family to the St. Margaret Mary Confirmation Program. My name is Michaela Brown, the Director of Confirmation and High School Youth Ministry. I will be on this Confirmation preparation journey together with you and your family by helping answer your questions, modeling the faith, and teaching the preparation classes.

Parents, thank you for taking the time to help your child on their faith journey and allowing me to be a part of it.

I hope you will work with me by encouraging your child through this preparation both inside and outside of class. In addition, I

hope you support your child by being an active participant in all High School Youth Ministry events which will enable them to build their faith throughout the year.

Our Catholic faith provides us with a unique opportunity to experience grace through this sacrament by being involved in this amazing preparation journey.

As Catholics we call to mind the Blessed Trinity every time we enter a church, dip our fingers into the Holy Water and bless ourselves by praying "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". We acknowledge our Creator- God, our Savior- Jesus, and our deepest grace- the Holy Spirit. The Spirit that de-



scended upon the Apostles at Pentecost and strengthened them for their journey is the same Spirit we come to recognize through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

At St. Margaret Mary, Confirmation preparation is about assisting youth to become more aware of this Sacrament of Initiation and helping them tune into the activities of the Holy Spirit in their own lives.

I look forward to meeting all of you.

The Sacrament

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It is the sacrament in which one enters into full membership in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives us the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply as children of God. It incorporates us more firmly into Christ, strengthens our bond with the Church, associates us more

closely with Her mission, and helps us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once.

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God. It is our duty to seek the grace that God offers us in order to live our lives as Christians in the way that God intends.

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Expectations of Students



1. Attend Mass Regularly

- Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Catholics as we build up the Body of Christ.

2. Participate in Confirmation Classes

- Proximate (immediate) catechesis on topics which will prepare the candidate for receiving and living this sacrament.

3. Write a letter of intent

- Confirmandi is to demonstrate to Fr. Walsh his/her desire to be confirmed and willingness to make this commitment.

4. Perform 20 hours of service

- We are called to love our neighbor and stand up for justice and peace. Serving others is not something we do to fill a requirement. We do it because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons and in all of God's creation.

5. Hold regular prayer time

- Prayer is necessary for salvation (Luke 11:9) Through prayer, we acknowledge God's power and goodness and our own needs and dependence.

6. Attend Confirmation Morning of Reflection

- Gives Confirmation candidates time to focus on God and an experience of Church that allows them to see God's presence with them, in them, and among them.

7. Write Saint/Sponsor Reflection

- In the Bible, when God had a new mission for someone, he often gave them a new name. This is the reason for us choosing a Saint name. God calls Candidates to fulfill a special mission and do it with the support of a Sponsor who guides candidates in their faithful journey.

8. Hand in Baptismal Certificate

- Confirmandi renew their baptismal promises before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as a solemn recommitment to a life of discipleship and a public profession of faith.

9. Inform Sponsor to obtain a Sponsor Certificate

- A sponsor is someone who guides Confirmandi in the Catholic faith and is an active participant in the Catholic Church.

10. Attend Interview

- Taking ownership of and voicing faith is vital in becoming an adult in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation Preparation Classes

Tuesdays (7-8:30pm)

Session 1

September 13 (Class 1)
September 20 (Class 2)
September 27 (Class 3)
October 4 (Class 4)
October 11 (Class 5)



Session 2

October 18 (Class 1)
October 25 (Class 2)
November 1 (Class 3)
November 8 (Class 4)
November 15 (Class 5)



Session 3

December 6 (Class 1)
December 13 (Class 2)
January 10 (Class 3)
January 17 (Class 4)
January 31 (Class 5)



Make-up Classes

If Confirmandi can not make it to the class for their session, they can attend the same class in another session.

*For example: If Billy Joe couldn't make it to class 2 of Session 1, he could make it up by going to either class 2 of Session 2 or Class 2 of Session 3.

If they miss all three opportunities for a particular class, an assignment will be given.

Parent Sessions

While Confirmandi are in class each night, parents will gather in the Youth Room for a Parent Session, led by an adult facilitator. This is a huge step in the faith life for each Confirmandi and their parents. These sessions are designed to provide teaching, growth in spirituality, support, and further direction to parents along this Confirmation journey with their child.

Letter of Intent

Each Confirmation Candidate will write a letter of intent addressed to Fr. Walsh. The purpose of this letter is for the Confirmandi to demonstrate in writing, his/her desire to be confirmed and willingness to make this commitment. Please use the following guide for the letter:

First: begin with a greeting to our pastor, Fr. Walsh

Second: Introduce yourself and share some information about yourself, such as your family, your interests and hobbies, and a little about your background.

Third: State your wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and explain (in one/two paragraphs) why you want to be confirmed. It may help you to think about:

- a.) Ways in which this sacrament will strengthen your relationship with Jesus
- b.) The role of faith in your life
- c.) What it means to you to be a part of our parish community
- d.) How the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to be witnesses for Jesus (Acts of the Apostles) and how you hope to do the same

Fourth: Include a Scripture quotation which will serve as your inspiration during your preparation for Confirmation. This can be a sentence or a few sentences. Add an explanation as to why you chose this particular Scripture passage.

Fifth: Conclude your letter with an ending and your name.



Serving God's People

Having an awareness of the vital need for and importance of serving others is a critical aspect of preparing for Confirmation.

God calls us to have a heart of service. We do service because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons and in all of God's creation.

As a way to get you involved and to be God's hands and feet on earth, you will perform a variety of service projects totaling 20 hours.

Confirmandi's service from the summer months of June, July, and August will go towards 10 of the service hours and the other 10 will be completed during the months of

Confirmation preparation (September-January).



Morning of Reflection

Each Confirmandi will attend a Confirmation "Morning of Reflection."

The purpose of this is to assure each candidate a personal and prayerful time for conversation with God. It will provide Confirmandi a time to ponder their faith, the inspiration they can receive from their Saint, and what it truly means to renew their Baptismal

Promises and become an adult in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation Candidates will also be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation during their "Morning of Reflection."

Confirmandi will choose one of three dates to attend. All three Mornings of Reflection will take place at SMM from 9am-12pm.

"Morning of Reflection"

Dates:

1. Saturday, October 1
2. Saturday, November 12
3. Saturday, February 4

"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD, YOUR GOD, WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR BEING, WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. HE REPLIED TO THEM, ' YOU HAVE ANSWERED CORRECTLY; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.'"

(LUKE 10:27-28)



Confirmation Saint Name



When Jesus told Simon that his new name was now Peter (Matthew 16:18), it was because his role was changing and he was going to be asked to take on a position of leadership. Taking on a new name at Confirmation carries with it the idea that you are asking for the Lord to change you.

The name of the Saint you choose should have some significance to you. The Saint should be an example of the type of holiness you would like. Some people take St. Francis because they want to be kind to animals, or some people take St. Joseph because they want to be as holy as he was, or some people take St. Monica because she had such patience with her children, and the list goes on. The idea is to pick somebody who says something about you.

Confirmation Sponsor

Confirmandi must choose a sponsor who can witness to them the teachings and life of the Catholic Church. Sponsors must be at least 16 years of age, a Confirmed Catholic, not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed, and be an active participant and in good standing with the Catholic Church.

Confirmation Candidates will want to ask someone who is active in the church, can share why faith is important to them and can help in their preparation.

Usually, the best person to be a sponsor is one of the baptismal godparents. Having one of the godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. However, some students may no longer be close to their godparents... they may live too far away... or may no longer practice their faith. If so, Confirmandi will need to

choose a different individual to be their sponsor.

Students should think about these questions when deciding on a sponsor:

1. Who in my life practices the Catholic faith?
2. What type of person do I want to guide me on my faith journey?
3. Are there any adults in my life that live their Catholic faith in a way that shows Christ to me?
4. Which adults in my life can I depend on in a time of need and joy?
5. Can I depend on the adult I have chosen to answer my faith questions?
6. Will the sponsor I have chosen practice the Catholic faith with me?
7. Who can I trust to ask questions of the Catholic faith?



Saint & Sponsor Reflection

-Total of one page in length

*First Section:

-Answer the following questions about your Saint:

1. What is one action by your Saint that inspires you?
2. What qualities do you admire in this Saint?
3. What characteristics would you like to imitate?

*Second Section:

-Open Reflection

- Why did you chose your Sponsor?
- What is it about their faith life that you admire?
- How in the past have they helped or guided you?

Sponsor

Each sponsor is required to obtain a letter confirming their membership in their local parish thus demonstrating their ability to serve as a sponsor. This is accomplished by contacting the Parish in which they are a registered member (not needed if a SMM parishioner). This sponsor Certificate can be sent to St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church at 526 N. Park Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789 to the attention of Sandi Hagan.



Baptismal Certificate

Candidates renew their baptismal promises before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as a solemn recommitment to a life of discipleship and a public profession of faith.

Unless a graduate of SMM school, each Confirmandi must provide a copy of their Baptismal Certificate to the Youth Ministry Office to the attention of Sandi Hagan.

Interview

Confirmandi will meet and have an interview with Parish priests or staff prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It is important that Confirmation Candidates are able to verbalize their faith, its role in their lives, and how they plan to become “adults” in

the Catholic Church.

As preparation for this interview, Confirmandi should live their faith, pray, and reflect on what the Catholic faith means to them. Confirmation Candidates should also recall class topics, service performed, and an understanding of who and

why they chose their Saint name and Sponsor.

It is the intention of those performing the interviews to make sure that the students are adequately prepared for the Sacrament and know what it means to live the Sacrament daily.

“COME HOLY SPIRIT,
FILL THE HEARTS OF
YOUR FAITHFUL AND
ENKINDLE 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.”

Important Due Dates:

- ***Registration form:** Thursday, September 1
- ***Baptismal Certificate:** Thursday, September 1
- ***Letter of Intent:** Friday, November 11
- ***Sponsor Certificate:** ASAP
– Deadline: Sunday, January 1
- ***Service Hour Sheets:** Monday, February 6
- ***Saint/Sponsor Reflection Paper:** Monday, February 6



Important Dates:

- ***Confirmation Rehearsal:** Friday, March 2 at 7pm
- ***Confirmation Mass:** Sunday, March 4 at 6pm
- ***Interviews:** To be determined

**ST. MARGARET MARY
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“After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:21-23



**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!**

**STMARGARETMARY
.ORG/YOUTH**

Parish Vision



Called into relationship by the Holy Spirit and
Centered in the Eucharist,
St. Margaret Mary Parish is a welcoming community,
Sent by Christ to serve.



Parish Mission

We, the parishioners of St. Margaret Mary, remain rooted in Christ by:

- Creating a spirit of hospitality in all that we do,
- Celebrating the liturgy with great care and devotion,
placing the goal of active participation before all else,
- Witnessing faithfully to God's presence and love in our daily lives
and effectively communicating that message,
- Sharing our God-given gifts and caring responsibly for those in need.

Core Values



Inclusiveness:

In a spirit of hospitality we reach out in welcome and strive to honor the dignity and unique giftedness of each person.

Prayerfulness:

In our individual and communal prayer we acknowledge God as the source of all that we are and the driving force of all that we do.

Compassion:

In imitation of the Jesus we encounter in the Gospels, we strive to be empathetic in our relationships with one another, especially toward the most vulnerable among us.

Service:

In response to our incorporation into Christ, we are called and empowered to use our gifts and talents for the benefit of others and in the building up of God's Kingdom on earth.