

Dear Confirmation Candidates and Parents,

I am excited to get to know you and work with you. St. Mary and St. Henry will be preparing for and celebrating Confirmation together.

There are a number of requirements the Archdiocese of Dubuque has that each of the Confirmation candidates is obligated to fulfill. I will try to provide an explanation of each item to help you understand the “why” behind each requirement.

Requirement #1

You are required to continue your religious education along with your Confirmation preparation.

Reason

The Archdiocesan Board believes that faith formation is a lifelong process and that Sacramental preparation is separate from the actual faith formation process.

Requirement #2

You are required to show proof of Baptism for each Sacrament received.

Reason

The Church’s Sacramental records are required since we are a Sacramental Church. Confirmation is recorded in our official record books. If the candidate was baptized somewhere other than St. Mary, St. Henry or I.C., you need to provide a recent copy of the candidate’s baptismal certificate.

Requirement #3

You must choose a Sponsor.

Sponsor requirements:

At least 16 years old,

Be a confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing with our faith,

Someone other than a parent,

Best if sponsor is someone from the parish community, who can work with you, as there are a number of activities to do together

Reason

If our faith formation is a lifelong journey, a sponsor is someone who is on that journey too. A sponsor is the candidates’ companion, mentor and guide.

Requirement #4

You are required to build a new relationship with your sponsor.

When I receive from you the sponsor information for the sponsor that you have chosen, I will send your sponsor an outline giving suggestions for these gatherings. You need to submit a write up on these gatherings so that I know that you have met. If I don’t get a write up I don’t know that you have met. Please choose a sponsor who will be able to meet with you. You may e-mail your write-ups to me.

Reason

We have found that by suggesting some activities it is more likely that the sponsor and candidate get together and form a new relationship, that of candidate and sponsor. You may choose different activities.

Requirement #5

You are required to perform 24 hours of service.

It is encouraged that the family work together on these projects. A page of reflection should be submitted so that I know that you are progressing. Please don't wait to turn in your reflections. You may e-mail these to me.

Reason

To serve is part of belonging to a faith community. Christ came to serve, not to be served. It is the same with the confirmed of the church; it is our mission to serve as Jesus served. Many of you already serve in a ministry and just don't realize it as service. For others, service projects begin a new way of life. Picture Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. Being a confirmed Christian, like being a confirmed soccer player or a confirmed music lover, is a matter of deeds, not just words.

Requirement #6

Each student will participate in Confirmation Classes,

Dec. 14 Family Mtg 9:15am SH DR

Jan. 18 Candidate Class 6-8pm SH DR

Feb. 15 Candidate Class 6-8pm SH DR

Mar. 8 Candidate Class 6-8pm SH DR

Sept. 20 Candidate Class 6-8pm SH DR

Oct 18th Sponsor & Cand. 6-8 SH DR

April 4-5 Retreat Quaker Heights Eldora

April 18 or 19 Rite of Enrollment

It is crucial that the student attends each of these classes and retreat.

Reason

These are the final "practices" before the big "game". Think about what coaches require of athletes before state finals. That is the dedication and focus that make for a meaningful Confirmation. Plus the classes and retreat fulfill the requirement rules of the Archdiocese.

God Bless,

Lisa Lynk

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