

Spring 2019

Dear Families,

In accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Canon Law, and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, Bishop Sheridan and I have outlined the preparation expectations for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Family circumstances may affect your ability to fulfill these expectations. We want to do what we can to help all families. Please communicate with the Youth Coordinator, Angelle Schott, to discuss your individual circumstances and needs. We will do all we can to help your teen receive Confirmation if there is a sincere desire to do so.

If you have any questions regarding Confirmation, please contact Angelle Schott, our Youth Ministry Coordinator at 720-842-4116 or aschott@avemariacatholicparish.org

In Christ,

Rev. August L. Stewart
Pastor

Confirmation Handbook 2019/20

Sacrament Registration

If you desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 2020, registration is taking place now. You must register by June 1, 2019, no exceptions.

Registration Deadline is June 1, 2019

How do you register?

1. Read this handbook and submit a signed copy of the Acknowledgment of Receipt page at the end of this handbook.
2. Complete the Sacrament Registration Form – It is only online; no hard copies available; reach out if you need assistance

***Visit www.avemariacatholicparish.org under Faith Formation, click the tab “Children’s and Youth Ministry” to access the Sacrament Registration Form

Sacrament Registration Open House

September 18th 2-6pm

OR

September 22nd 4-7:30pm

*** You can come anytime within the above window

All of those families who completed the Sacrament Registration Form by June 1st are asked to come any time during the window above to submit the following documents:

Baptismal Certificate

Sponsor Form – completed**

Retreat permission slip – completed**

Candidate Commitment Form – signed**

**Blank copies of the following are available on our website

Requirements

Mass Attendance

Attendance in a Roman Catholic Church for Sunday Mass and Holy days of Obligation is required by Sacred Scripture (Deut. 5:12-15) and universal church law.

Attendance recording will begin on June 2nd

- Ave Maria requires confirmandi to submit documentation that they have attended Mass each week.
- If you are out of town, bring a bulletin from the visiting parish and turn it into to the Youth Office with the teen's name on it.
- Masstimes.org is a great resource when you are away from home to locate a church and mass near you.
- While participation in Sunday Liturgy is expected, more than 3 absences will require special permission from the pastor in order to be confirmed in the spring. You may obtain permission after having a face-to-face meeting with him.
- For further explanation, please visit the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops Website, www.usccb.org

Faith Formation Classes

ALL confirmandi must be registered by August 18th in Faith Formation classes or be a student at Ave Maria Catholic School.

- This is crucial to making sure we have enough catechists and resources to teach.
- More than 3 absences in Faith Formation will need to be made up in a timely manner
- All seeking confirmation in the spring must be catechized to grade level.
- If your teen has not been participating in Faith Formation between 3rd-7th grade, please make an appointment with Angelle to discuss how we can help him/her prepare. Please email Angelle at aschott@avemariacatholicparish.org to set up an appointment.
- **Faith Formation classes begin September 8th @ 6:15pm in Brownstein Hall/Dwyer Hall**
- **Ave Maria School begins August 14th**

Parent Meetings

Preferably both parents but at least one parent is required to attend one 4hr session in the fall semester and one 4hr session in the spring semester

Fall Semester Options:

September 29th 12:30-3:30pm OR October 1st 10-1pm in Dwyer Hall

Spring Semester Options:

February 23rd 12:30-3:30pm OR February 25th 10-1pm in Dwyer Hall

Goals of the parent sessions:

- Review their role as models in the faith development of their son/daughter;
- Deepen their own faith lives
- Strengthen their family relationships so all may grow in relationship with God.

Parent Responsibility

- Parents are responsible for encouraging their teen to attend preparation activities while maintaining their child's freedom to make the final choice to be confirmed.
- The choice you are asking your child to make is not whether or not to prepare but to:
 - Believe what the Church teaches
 - Want to be Confirmed in the faith
 - Practice their Catholic faith.

Such a decision can only be made after a period of thoughtful study, intentional practice and prayer.

- Parents who significantly reduce the parish's ability to effectively serve our youth or who continuously undermine the role of the church staff and pastor may be asked to delay the sacrament of Confirmation for their youth. We are aware that conflict or disagreements may arise so our expectation is our staff and our church families will speak the truth in love and respect for one another. Please do not delay in addressing your concerns. Our role is to walk with you on this journey and provide pastoral care when it is most needed.

Confirmation Retreat

All confirmandi are required to attend 1 retreat. Confirmation retreats begin Friday at 7pm and end Sunday at 11:30am. Attendance is required for the entire duration of the retreat. The dates are as follows:

November 8-10th

March 6-8th

Saint Report

Confirmandi are asked to research and choose a saint they want to emulate. Specific details will be provided at a later time. The google form can be found on the avemariacatholicparish.org website under Confirmation.

- **Saint reports are due November 1st or earlier**

Sponsors

Candidates must choose a suitable sponsor who will accompany them and meet the following requirements:

- Have been chosen by the candidate personally and have a significant relationship with the candidate
 - Have attained the age of sixteen (16) unless special circumstances are approved by clergy
 - Be a fully initiated, confirmed, practicing Catholic that participates in Sunday liturgy weekly, leads a life of strong moral character and faith and is not bound by any canonical penalty
 - Is not the mother or father of the candidate
- ***Canon law states that it is preferable that the Confirmation sponsor be the baptismal sponsor so the link between Baptism and Confirmation is clearly defined**

Sponsor Form – to be completed by the sponsor and signed by the sponsor’s parish.

**If the sponsor is a parishioner at Ave Maria, please have sponsor read and sign their portion and return to the youth office for parish signature.

Sponsor/Confirmandi Meeting Dates

Sponsors will attend with confirmandi on the following 2 dates, if the sponsor is out of town or cannot make these dates; a parent may take the place and provide materials to the sponsor.

October 27th 6:30-7:30pm in the Church

April 5th 6:30-7:30pm in the Church

These meetings will take place in the church. Please be mindful of the sacred space and maintain reverence by taking conversations in the gathering space, no drinks, snacks, gum, or hats.

Priest Interview

Fr. Gus would like the clergy to meet with each confirmandi to determine readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation. These will be scheduled through the Youth office and completed in the spring (generally March/April timeframe). Please make yourself available for the scheduled blocks of time.

Confirmation Date

The sacrament of Confirmation is reserved for the Bishop and the dates will be announced at the beginning of 2020. Families will be invited to sign up for a date once all paperwork is completed and turned in.

Mass Attendance 2019/20

Attending Mass at Ave Maria

- Attending Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation has been given to us in the 3rd Commandment and is a basic precept of our Catholic Faith.
- This is the guide and premise for Fr. Gus requiring signing in for Mass.
- Thank you for taking on the task of bringing your family to worship every week.
- Mass times for regular Sunday observance are:
 - Saturday: 5:00pm AND Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am or 5:00pm
- Inside the church, you will find a table with a box on it. See picture below:



- This box and table are located inside the church next to the 6th Station of the Cross. See picture below; box is circled:



- Next to the box will be the Mass attendance cards to complete. See example below:

Mass Attendance Card

Name: _____

Date: _____

Who is presiding? _____

hint: Fr. Tom is shorter than Fr. Gus AND they both have their own chalice. Can you figure out who's is who?

What is one take away from Mass that will help you grow closer to God this week?

- Place the completed attendance card inside the box during/after the Mass you attended.
- Mass cards will only be accepted if they are in the box inside the church.
- If there are no forms available, you can use any paper – remember the date, name, and comment on what you got out of Mass.
- If you have forgotten to turn in your Mass card; please email me aschott@avemariacatholicparish.org.

Attending Mass on Holy Days of Obligation

- Follow same guidelines for Sunday Mass attendance
- **Holy Days of Obligation for 2019/20:**
 - All Sundays
 - August 15th – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - November 1st – All Saints Day
 - December 25th – Christmas
 - January 1st – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Attending Mass at another Roman Catholic Church

- If you are unable to attend Mass at Ave Maria, please use www.masstimes.org to help you find a catholic church near you.
- Grab a bulletin and put your confirmandi's name on it.

- Turn into the Faith Formation Kiosk in the breezeway between the Church and Brownstein Hall
- Please turn them in weekly or as soon as you can
- If no bulletin is available, please grab some handout from the church that has the church's name on it.
- You can also take a picture of the bulletin with your confirmandi's name on it and email it to aschott@avemariacatholicparish.org.
- The church must be Roman Catholic.

Attendance Policy Reminders

- If your confirmandi has missed more than 3 Masses, please email me at aschott@avemariacatholicparish.org to schedule a meeting with Fr. Gus.
- Angelle will also be reaching out to families with 3 or more absences to schedule an appointment with Fr. Gus.
- Please use this opportunity for us to help understand the needs of your family and how the church can help you.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

By signing this Acknowledgement of Receipt, you are demonstrating your understanding and commitment to fulfilling the requirements as they are outlined in the Confirmation Handbook.

Name of Confirmandi (Print)

Parent Name (Print)

Parent signature

Date