

Confirmation Handbook

2023-2024



Pam Waldrom, CRE
St. Christina Sacrament Coordinator
773-780-1438
pamwaldrom.stchristinare@gmail.com



St. Christina Religious Education

Fostering your Child's Religious Education from K thru 8th grade

Welcome St. Christina Confirmation Class of 2023-2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the upcoming year, significant participation will go into preparing for the reception of the Holy Spirit at the Confirmation Mass and to become more ardent followers of Christ. This preparation will involve the confirmandi's, teachers, sponsors, and most critically, **the parents**. Your child's faith journey starts with you at home. We are here to direct them into a deeper spiritual commitment.

At the time we had our children baptized, we, as their parents, made the commitment to raise them in the Catholic faith. This year will be a special year of growth as we closely share our faith more fully and as a result, watch them grow in a deeper understanding of their own faith.

One of the requirements the confirmandi needs to incorporate is the service portion of their growth process. All confirmandi will be required to complete 32 hours of service that should include the church, school and the community.

I am planning to arrange some service hour opportunities throughout the year, but the majority of the hours will need to be obtained individually by each student. It is the program's intention for these initiatives to serve as an example to the students of the many types of ongoing service opportunities in which Christians partake throughout their lifetime. If your child was not able to fulfill the requirements of the service hour projects, please keep encouraging more participation.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and we look forward to a wonderful, rewarding year. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, concerns or ideas for improvement. For our Religious Ed students, our primary method of communication with you will be via e-mail plus handouts sent home with your child. Please check their Sunday folder. For St. Christina students, please check your child's Thursday folder every week to keep up-to-date as we move through the months to prepare for the Sacrament. We also will use the parish website to post various communications. The website is stchristinaparish.org. Tab over to the Sacrament section and scroll down to Confirmation.

Peace,

Pam Waldrom

Coordinator of Religious Education

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which baptized persons receive a special grace that strengthens them in the Christian faith. Confirmation is usually conferred by the Bishop, who lays his hands on the confirmandi, making the sign of Cross with Sacred Chrism on their foreheads, saying: “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

People who receive Confirmation obtain a special grace to profess and live their faith. Their souls are imprinted with an indelible character, and the Sacrament of Confirmation can only be received once. When preparing for this Sacrament, the young person typically selects the name of a saint for their Confirmation name.

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom: A true knowledge of how to act and live based upon God’s viewpoint. Look for the ability to see things as they truly are in an open-minded manner.

Understanding: A deeper insight into what we believe by faith. The ability to draw out consequences from the significance of events.

Counsel: The ability to make good and wise decisions dealing with everyday problems.

Fortitude: The strength to overcome fear when called to do what you sense is right and to stand up for one’s beliefs.

Knowledge: The ability to comprehend the truths of the universe and being aware of that truth in one’s life.

Piety: A deep respect for God and all creation because one recognizes the presence of God in our created world.

Fear of the Lord: The realization that our great and powerful God loves me and is close to me, and so also in all of God’s people and all of God’s creation.

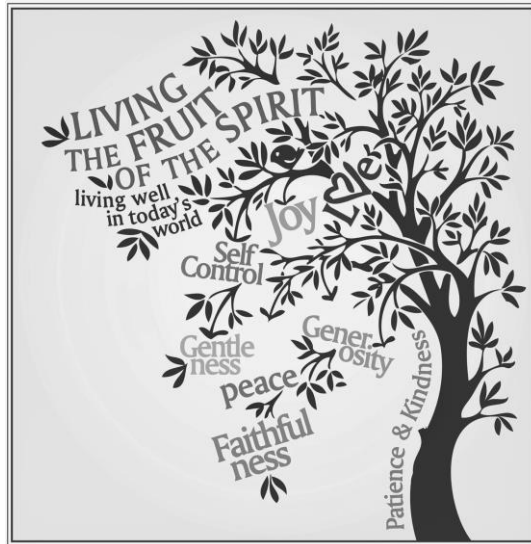
Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Charity, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control chastity.



Requirements for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Requirements for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Christina are:

1. Must have received the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.
2. Regular attendance at Mass.
3. Must complete 2 years of preparation for the Reception of the Sacrament.
4. Must be in 8th grade and have completed necessary service hours during 7th and 8th grades.
5. Attendance at the required Confirmation preparation meetings and Confirmation retreats.



Attendance at Sunday Mass for Confirmation Students

Sunday Mass is an important part of building your faith especially during the preparation period for receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is expected that students preparing for Confirmation attend Mass every Sunday.

St. Christina Confirmation Service Hours Suggestions

While you are participating in service projects, we expect you to behave yourself as respectful young adults. If your actions do not meet that expectation, you will not be allowed to participate in further service projects.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!



Opportunities at St. Christina Parish

Dear 8th Grade Parents and Students,

Service hours are unpaid **work** performed by a person or group of people for the benefit and betterment of their **community, church, or school** without any form of compensation.

Service hours are your time helping a loved one or a family member, a neighbor, etc., without getting paid. It is because you sincerely want to help someone out. It is about opening your heart. Ask your Mom, Dad, and Grandparents, how many times they have volunteered in their life. Ask them to share their experiences. I bet you will even get some ideas by listening to them. Give yourself 10 minutes per person that you spoke with. Make sure you log service hours on your sheet starting with who shared their stories of volunteering.

- 1 You must complete 24 hours of service by April 2023 for 7th grade and 32 hours for 8th grade to be turned in by January 7th- 8th .
2. Please keep track of your service hours on the log that is attached.
3. Please be kind and polite while doing the service you have committed to.
4. Be on time.

Some ideas for service hours

Mow the lawn each week

Rake the lawn after cutting or in the fall

If you own a dog, clean up after it.

Help with cleaning the house, vacuuming for Mom or Dad, do the dishes every day this year.

Clean the bathrooms, dust, help with preparing a meal

Bake grandma's or grandpa's favorite cookie

Wash family members cars, vacuum inside the car

Help Mom with the Laundry, washing, folding, and putting clothes away

Help Grandma with things around their house, and she may need you to read to her or help open items that she can no longer open

Help your teacher ask what you can do to help her/him

We may have one detailed list as we open up in the fall

There may be opportunity to complete service hours through RE. Please reach out to the office if you are in need of hours.

Service Hours Newsletter: A special newsletter will be sent out when a service hour opportunity arises in our parish or at the 19th Ward.

Report on the Life of the Saint Chosen for your Confirmation Name

Due Dates: Religious Ed Students – December 10, 2023

St. Christina Students - Due December 11th, 2023

Your paper should be two to three typed pages with an additional cover page that includes a picture of your Saint and their Feast Day. **Do not copy and paste from an Internet resource.**

The content of the pages must include the following:

- Early life of your Saint
- Qualities of that particular Saint
- Later life of your Saint
- Greatest contributions/significance of the Saint to the Church
- Why you chose that particular Saint
 - Connect how taking this Saint's name will enhance/help/change your life.
 - Relate the experience of the Saint to your own life experiences.
- Information about your Saint's Feast Day (Why that day was chosen and whether it has moved over the centuries.)

Your paper must include a bibliography with two print sources and two Internet sources. Make sure your paper has your name and your homeroom teacher's name.

Choosing a Sponsor

Please note: Taken from Canon Law #892-3 of 874

To be admitted to undertake the role of sponsor, a person must:

1. As far as possible a Sponsor for the one to be Confirmed should be present; it is for the Sponsor to see that the Confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this Sacrament. It is desirable but not essential that the one who undertook the role of Sponsor at Baptism be Sponsor for Confirmation.
2. To perform the role of Sponsor it is necessary that a person fulfill the following qualifications:
 - To have completed the sixteenth year. The Pastor or Bishop may allow an exception to be for a just cause;
 - To be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith and the role to be undertaken;
 - To be not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
 - To not be the father or mother of the one baptized.
3. A Baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted as a Sponsor but rather as a Witness. There must be a Catholic Sponsor.

Please pray about the Sponsor choice you are making.

SPONSOR'S PRAYER

God of all ages, you send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.

Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice.

Open their hearts to Your Spirit
and bring to fulfillment the good work that You have begun in them.

As I reach out to my candidate, make me an instrument of Your love.

Teach me to reverence what is holy in others, and to be patient with what I do not understand.

Deepen my faith in the Gospel and help me to pass it on by my example.

With those who are hesitant or afraid, let me be a source of encouragement;
and with those who are weak, let me be a pillar of strength.

I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor and pray that You will continue to guide and sustain me.

We praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Parents introduced you to the Church when you were Baptized and as part of that ceremony you receive your name. Parents and Godparents agree to share their faith with you, to support you in learning about Christian beliefs, and to help you develop spiritually. Confirmation complements and fulfills your initiation into the full life of the Catholic Church.

For Confirmation, you can choose another saint name or affirm the name given to you at Baptism. Every candidate should have a saint's name. If you wish to choose a name other than your baptismal name, here are some ideas. You have until November 5, 2023 to make changes on your Confirmation name.

- Choose the name of a Saint who represents a cause you find important.
- Choose the name of someone in the Bible whom you admire.
- Choose the name of someone in your life who has influenced your faith or has been a living witness of the Spirit to you. It should also be a Saint's name.
- Affirm the name your parents gave you at Baptism.



Fr Tom McCarthy Retreats

There will be meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in church for parents, sponsors and Confirmation students. This meeting will be given by Fr. Tom McCarthy and will include a discussion on the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmandi will be going to St. Rita School on Thursday, October 19 from 9:00-1:00pm. Busses will be provided. Fr Tom will finish his retreat from 10/19/22 at St Rita High School. This will be for students only.

St. Christina Confirmation Photo

A professional photo will be taken of your child as they are confirmed by the Bishop. This is given to you as a gift from St. Christina Parish. We thank Art Lynn Photography of Evergreen Park for their expertise.

Confirmation Dress Attire

Each student will be measured during class in October or November for their Confirmation robe. Red robes will be worn by the boys and the girls will wear white robes. The robes will be distributed to the students the week of Confirmation. The robes can be kept by the students and **please note that the St. Christina School students will wear their robes during their graduation ceremony in June.**

Each student is to wear dress clothes under their gown. Appropriate attire for the girls would be a nice dress or skirt in an appropriate length (no short skirts or mini-skirts), blouse or sweater and dress shoes. For the boys, we ask that they wear khaki or dark colored pants, a long or short sleeve white shirt with a tie and dress shoes. Gym shoes are not allowed.



Confirmation Calendar of Events 2023-24

| Date | Event | Location |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Sunday, September 24, 2023 | Rite of Election Mass 10:30 am | St. Christina Field 111 th & Central Park |
| Thursday, September 28, 2023 | Retreat for Parents, Guardians, Sponsors & Candidates 6PM with Father Tom McCarthy | St. Christina Church |
| Thursday, October 19, 2023 | Confirmandi Retreat at St. Rita High School Students only from 9am-1:30pm with Fr. Tom McCarthy. Bus service will be provided. | Meet at St. Christina School Parking Lot |
| Sunday, October 22, 2023 | Blessing of Senses & Presentation of Cross Mass at 10:30am | St. Christina Church |
| Saturday, November 11, 2023 | Presentation of the Lord's Prayer & the Creed Mass at 10:30am | St. Christina Church |
| Sunday, December 10, 2023 | Saint Report Due for Religious Education | St. Christina School |
| Monday, December 11, 2023 | Saint Report Due for St. Christina School | St. Christina School |
| Sunday, January 7, 2024 | First Scrutiny Mass at 10:30am | St. Christina Church |
| Sunday, January 7, 2024 | All Volunteer Outreach programs must be completed for Religious Education | St. Christina School |
| Monday, January 8, 2024 | All Volunteer Outreach programs must be completed for St. Christina Students | St. Christina School |
| Saturday, January 13, 2024 | Second Scrutiny Mass at 4pm | St. Christina Church |
| Sunday, January 21, 2024 | Third Scrutiny Mass at 10:30am | St. Christina Church |
| Thursday, February 1, 2023 | Confirmation Practice for Candidates from 3:15-4:15pm | St. Christina Church |
| Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | Confirmation Mass at 6PM | St. Christina Church |

St. Christina Parish Confirmation Information Form

A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM. Form is DUE by September 17, 2023.

In accordance with the Archdiocese of Chicago, it is **required** that the information requested below is verified and recorded **prior to receiving the Sacrament**. All areas of this form must be completed in **full**. Please print clearly.

Child's Full Name _____
(Last) (Middle) (First)

Date of Birth _____ City of Birth _____ State _____ Country _____

Sponsor's Full Name _____

Saint Name _____ Male / Female (circle one)

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

Please provide a copy of the Baptismal Certificate with this completed form.

Child's Name on Baptismal Cert. _____

Mother's Name on Baptismal Cert. _____

Father's Name on Baptismal Cert. _____

Date of Baptism: Month _____ Date _____ Year _____ City of Birth: _____

Church of Baptism _____ City _____ State _____

All forms must have an **attached copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate**. You must still complete the Parent Information section below in full and return this form by the date shown at the top.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Father's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mother's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Number _____ Cell Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____