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Questions?

Ashley Cermak, the Confirmation Coordinator can be reached through the following ways:

1. acermak@hnoj.org
2. (763) 233-0251

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, “if you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31)

To The Parents: Intro to Confirmation

When you brought your child to the Church for Baptism, you accepted the sacred responsibility and privilege of “training them in the practice of the faith.” (Rite of Baptism, 30). You were reminded that you are the first and best teachers of your child and you were entrusted with keeping the light of faith burning brightly in their life. Parents instruct their children, both by what they say and what they do. It is now time for that next step. Confirmation is a celebration of the ongoing power of the already-present Holy Spirit in our lives, the Spirit first received in Baptism. Through this sacrament, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are deepened and intensified.

Following are some suggestions on ways to assist your young person in their preparation:

1. Pray for and with your young person everyday.
2. Initiate conversation about the Sacrament of Confirmation, share your memories of receiving the sacrament, and encourage them to share their ideas of how receiving this sacrament will change their faith life.
3. Help with the selection of a sponsor and saint’s name for Confirmation.
4. Make sure all documents are completed and returned in a timely manner.

Guidelines for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

1. Regular participation in Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass.
2. An appropriate understanding of the Catholic Christian life. The candidate should understand and reflect the life of Christ in their lifestyle.
3. A firm determination to live the Christian life to the best of their ability. The candidate must be a good steward, giving in Christian proportion of their time, talent, and treasure.
4. The candidate must understand the importance of personal and communal worship in the life of the Church.
5. Faithful participation in the Confirmation preparation program, scheduled classes, retreats, etc.
6. Commitment to further religious education by the candidate and parents or guardian. Reception of this sacrament is a beginning – not an end. It is one step in our life-long journey to holiness. The candidate must be willing to be actively involved in parish life after Confirmation.



Holy Name of Jesus Faith Community will assist in the faith formation of the Confirmation candidates by:

1. Scheduling class sessions during which the candidates will delve deeper into understanding their faith, the scriptures, and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sessions will be held on the campus of Holy Name of Jesus.
2. Inviting speakers from the local faith community, greater Twin Cities' area to share their insights with the candidates. The small groups will be led by volunteers from HNOJ under the direction of the Senior High Youth Minister. It is important that the candidates attend all sessions so as not to miss the information shared at these sessions. *(the attendance policy can be found on page #16)*
3. Priests will attend and/or participate in some of the sessions with the candidates.

Expectations

Regular participation in the Sunday liturgy:

Sunday Mass is not optional for Catholics. Celebration of the Eucharist is our highest form of worship and candidates are expected to be active participants. This is the faith they will affirm.

Participations in Sessions

1. Candidate should be Respectful and attentive to speakers, fellow small group members and others in attendance.
2. Candidate should Invest in each session in order to get as much out of it as possible, and complete any assignments including meeting with their sponsor, saint's report, service requirements, interviews with small group leaders, and retreats.
3. Candidate should actively Participate in small group discussions and take part in the scheduled retreats.

Phone Policy During Sessions

Students are allowed to bring their phones to all sessions, but the expectation is they will be on silent or turned off and not used until session is complete. Those who fail to uphold this policy are subject to leaders taking their phones until the end of the night.

Sponsor

Choosing a Sponsor:

If you have ever attended a Confirmation Liturgy, you have seen an adult who stands behind the candidate with a hand on their shoulder as they are anointed, but the role of a sponsor goes far beyond a simple gesture of support. Did you know that the word sponsor comes from the same root word as “responsible”? A Confirmation sponsor is someone whom you look up to as a role model in faith and will be there to support you spiritually before, during and after you receive the sacrament. In essence, your sponsor is meant to act as a spiritual guide and friend in your faith.

That being said, choosing your sponsor is an important task. Don’t just choose someone because they are fun or because they haven’t done it yet. Choose your sponsor because you know that they will help you grow in your faith this year and because they will continue to support you.

Here are some good questions to consider when choosing your sponsor:

- Who in my life has made an impact on my faith?
- Is this person responsible?
- Is this person mature?
- Does he/she practice his/her Catholic faith actively by attending Mass at least weekly?
- Does he/she practice his/her Catholic faith actively in the way that he/she lives and acts?
- Do I trust him/her?

The Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis has specific requirements that are to be met by all sponsors:

1. The sponsor must be an active, participating Catholic who has been confirmed; someone who will be an inspiration and support for the candidate. There is to be one sponsor, male or female.
2. Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
3. He or she may not be the candidate’s mother or father. It is desirable, but not mandatory, that the baptismal sponsor (godparent) also be the sponsor at Confirmation to show the close



connection of the two sacraments. In many cases this is not possible and another suitable person may be selected. A parent may be proxy at the ceremony.

4. The sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving and is comfortable sharing his or her faith with young people.

5. The sponsor should be someone who is a witness to Christ and to the importance of a Catholic Christian lifestyle by their words and actions. A person who will be a support and example to the candidate as he/she moves through periods of crisis, questioning, and discernment.

Sponsor Information

To complete required confirmation sponsor information, please have your sponsor visit: hnoj.org/crewconfirmation *(the form will be on the left side)*

Please have your sponsor complete the online form no later than **December 1st, 2019.**

In this program, the following is asked of the sponsor:

1. Accompany the candidate to the designated Confirmation prep meetings on 1/22 & 4/22 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.)
2. Attend the Liturgy of Confirmation (May 10, 1:30 p.m. Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis).
3. Present the candidate during the Confirmation Rite.
4. Meet with the candidate regularly throughout this year of preparation and discuss the topics addressed in the preparation sessions.
5. Share their faith story with his or her candidate.
6. Pray for and with the candidate.
7. Continue to be there for the candidate and lend spiritual support after the Liturgy of Confirmation is over.

Saint Report

Saint Reports are due no later than April 1st, 2020.

Background:

So many times when we think of saints the first thing we think of is a halo, but the truth is that saints can't be reduced to people who walked around the earth with heads that glowed. No! Saints were ordinary people, like you and I, that lived extraordinary lives. The Church says that a saint is someone who possessed "heroic virtue" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #828). Each candidate will be asked to take on the name of one of the saints at Confirmation. The name choose should be one whose life will be a model and inspiration for them during their life as a Catholic. The Saint name that is chosen should express something of the candidate's innerself, an ideal or goal they are setting for themselves as a Catholic, and should be a reflection of their resolve to live as a disciple of Christ. The name will be the name by which they are addressed by the Archbishop at the Confirmation ceremony.

The following are requirements for this report:

- Submit report by emailing it to: **Confirmation@hnoj.org**
- Save file as: "LastName.FirstName.SaintReport"
 - (ex. Ashley.Cermak.SaintReport)
- **Must be typed, written in your own words, and be 1-2 pages double spaced in size 12 "Times New Roman" font.**
- What should go in your Saint Report
 - Brief History of your saint
 - What are the dates of birth and death?
 - Where was the saint from
 - Where did they do their work?
 - Why they are a saint
 - What are some major/important events in the life of this saint?
 - What makes this person so holy?
 - Why did you choose this saint?
 - How do you relate to this saint?
 - What qualities did this saint possess that you admire?
 - What special aspects of the saint's life would you like to use as an example in your own faith life?

***Saint information can be found in parish libraries, the internet, and books on Saint's in the fireside room at Holy Name of Jesus. Below are a few trusted websites to check out as well:* www.lifeteen.com www.catholic.org www.newadvent.com

Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent are due no later than April 1st, 2020.

Background:

“Letter of Intent” is just a fancy way of saying: tell us in writing why you want to be confirmed. Please take time to compose this statement carefully. Not only does it give us a chance to understand what you have gained in your formation, but also allows you to process what you have learned and how you have grown as well as what you desire to receive from this sacrament. Please be honest and thoughtful. This will be given to Father Steve to read and may be sent to the Archbishop prior to Confirmation.

The statement must be:

- Submit Letter of Intent by emailing it to: **Confirmation@hnoj.org**
- Save file as: “LastName.FirstName.Intent”
 - (ex. Ashley.Cermak.Intent)
- **Letter of Intent Guidelines**
 - **Must be typed**
 - **Written in your own words**
 - **Address the letter to Fr. Steve Ulrick**
 - **No less than 1 page double spaced**
 - **Size 12 “Times New Roman” font**
- Please touch on all of the following points in your statement:
 - Why do you think you are ready to receive this sacrament?
 - Explain one aspect of the faith that became clearer to you through this process, and tell why you believe it is an important aspect of our faith.
 - Explain how you plan to continue being an active member of the Church after Confirmation.

Schedule

Track A: Regular

Confirmation 2020 Date: Sunday, May 10th, 1:30 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Mary (88 17th St N, Minneapolis, MN 55403)

First Sunday Dates

- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 3rd (10th Grade Only)
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 5th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 9th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1st
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 5th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday May 3rd

***Lifeteen Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a free meal.*

Confirmation Prep Meetings

- 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22nd (parent, teen, and sponsor)
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19th (teens only)
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th (teens only)
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22nd (parent, teen, and sponsor)
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6th (teens only)

**Sponsors should plan on attending the two indicated meetings unless they live out of town.*

Encounter Sundays *(Optional for Track A, please see dates listed below under track B)*

Encounter Sundays are opportunities for all high schoolers to gather for a talk that dives a little deeper into our faith than the content in our First Sunday talks.

Teen Holy Hour *(Optional for Track A)*

5:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday Starting September 25th in the Adoration Chapel. Open to all those in grades 6-12. Throughout the hour there will be praise and worship music, guided prayer, and silence. Show up for the whole hour or stop in for a few minutes. **Feel free to stay after for fine Dining until 7:30 p.m.*



Schedule

Track B: Teen Core Team

First Sunday Dates *(Required for Track B)*

- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 5th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 9th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1st
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 5th
- 7:00- 9:00 p.m. on Sunday May 3rd

Encounter Sundays *(Required for Track B)*

- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 20th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 24th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 22nd (Christmas Party)
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 19th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 16th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 22nd
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 17th

Teen Core Team Meetings *(Required for Track B)*

- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 13th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 17th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 15th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 12th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 26th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 2nd *(Optional: Big-Football-Game Party)*
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 23rd
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 15th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 10th
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 24th

Track B: Teen Core Team Schedule Continued

Confirmation Prep Meetings

7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22nd (parent, teen, and sponsor)

7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19th (teens only)

7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th (teens only)

7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22nd (parent, teen, and sponsor)

7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6th (teens only)

**Sponsors should plan on attending the two indicated meetings unless they live out of town.*

Middle School Event *(Track B required to attend at least 3).*

Friday Night Alive 5:30-8:30 p.m.

November 22nd, January 10th, March 20th, April 24th, and May 15th.

Winterblast Lock-in

December 13th-14th

Psalm 78 Retreat

October 25th-27th

Luke 18 Retreat

February 21st-22nd

Extreme Faith Camp

June 27th-July 3rd

Teen Holy Hour *(Optional)*

5:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday Starting September 25th in the Adoration Chapel. Open to all those in grades 6-12. Throughout the hour there will be praise and worship music, guided prayer, and silence. Show up for the whole hour or stop in for a few minutes. **Feel free to stay after for fine Dining until 7:30 p.m.*

Retreats

Retreats are wonderful opportunities to step away from life's busyness and spend time reflecting more deeply on one's relationship with God. They are meant to draw youth into a closer relationship with God and into a closer relationship with other persons from our parish community. One of our primary goals is to connect the youth to their local faith community, Holy Name of Jesus, and provide awesome retreat experiences.

Each Confirmation Candidate is required to experience at least two parish based retreats or a Confirmation specific retreat during the two year preparation for Confirmation. **If none of the retreat experiences below work for your son or daughter, please contact Ashley Cermak as soon as possible.*

2019-2020 Retreats:

Fall Retreat: November 8-10, 2019

Core Team Retreat (Track B/Teen Core Team only): January 3-5, 2020

Spring Retreat: April 17-19, 2020

Steubenville Conference: July 10-12, 2020

Christpower Mission Trip: July 2020 (dates TBD)

NPH Mission Trip: First week of August, 2020

***While teen core team members are expected to attend the teen core team retreat each year they are on core team, this retreat counts for 1 out of 2 required retreats for Confirmation. Teen core team members must participate in one other retreat experience over the course of years 1 & 2 confirmation preparation.*

Retreat Phone Policy

Yes, in the past we have not consistently enforced the rule of no cell phones.

This year we absolutely will. If adult leaders see or hear that you are on your cellphones while on retreat, we will take them away for the remainder of the retreat. This includes bus rides, free time, and bed time. Why? To help teens be fully present to each other and the way God is working in their heart. We know it's hard to disconnect, but have seen the how the retreat experience is much more powerful without the distraction of phones. We know sometimes teens and parents like to stay in contact while away on retreat, we are asking teens and parents alike to please resist this temptation in order for you to be fully open to what God wants to do. Parents, please feel free to contact Ashley Cermak if you must get a hold of your teen. Teens, be assured that if there be any kind of emergency, you will be able to use a leaders phone. Be at peace. Leave the phone at home. It will be hard, but you absolutely will not regret it.

Checklist for Confirmation

Track A: Regular

Year 2 Checklist

- Attend First Sundays (*see page #8 for dates*)
- Have sponsor complete online information form (*due December 1st*)
- Participate in one HNOJ retreat Experience (*see page #11 for dates*)
- Attend weekly Mass and holy days of obligation.
- Saint Report (*due April 1st*)
- Letter of Intent (*due April 1st*)
- Complete Baptismal Information sheet if child was baptized at a location other than Holy Name (*see page #17*)
- Year 2 Confirmation interview. Time slots will be available April 1st-May 7th (*signup genius will be available early March*).
- Attend Confirmation Prep sessions (*see page #8 for dates*)
- Attend Rite of Welcome on 2/9 at 5:30 p.m.
- Attend Rite of Sending on 5/3 at 5:30 p.m.

Checklist for Confirmation

Track B: Teen Core Team

Year 2 Checklist

- Attend First Sundays (*see page #9 for dates*)
- Attend Encounter Sundays (*see page #9 for dates*)
- Attend Core Team Meetings (*see page #9 for dates*)
- Attend Confirmation Prep sessions (*see page #10 for dates*)
- Attend and assist with 3 middle school events (*see page #10 for dates*)
- Have sponsor complete online information form (*due December 1st*)
- Participate in one HNOJ retreat Experience (*see page #11*)
- Teen Core Team Retreat (*see page #11*)
- Attend weekly Mass and holy days of obligation.
- Saint Report (*due April 1st*)
- Letter of Intent (*due April 1st*)
- Complete Baptismal Information sheet if child was baptized at a location other than Holy Name (*see page #17*)
- Year 2 Confirmation interview. Time slots will be available April 1st-May 7th (*signup genius will be available early March*).
- Attend Rite of Welcome on 2/9 at 5:30 p.m.
- Attend Rite of Sending on 5/3 at 5:30 p.m.

**While teen core team members are expected to attend the teen core team retreat each year they are on core team, this retreat counts for 1 out of 2 required retreats for Confirmation. Teen core team members must participate in one other retreat experience over the course of years 1 & 2 confirmation preparation.*

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is a Sacrament that strengthens us and obliges us to witness to, spread and defend the faith (CCC 1303). Confirmation is not graduation from a life of Christian learning, a mere cultural passage into maturity or an opportunity to choose whether or not to remain Catholic. Confirmation completes our full initiation as Catholic Christians (CCC 1306) and strengthens our ability to be missionary disciples through the reception of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What do the specific Confirmation preparation sessions look like? There will be five Confirmation sessions that explore topics specifically related to preparing for the night of Confirmation, when the Holy Spirit will seal the candidate with the gift of the presence of God. These sessions are an important opportunity for the candidate to continue to develop their relationship with God. These sessions take place throughout late winter and early spring as the Confirmation date approaches. The dates of these sessions are included (*see page #8 & #10*)

When does Confirmation preparation begin? When does it end? How long does it take? Most teens will begin completing the pre-requisites for Confirmation preparation immediately following their 8th-grade year. Many will choose to complete the process over a two-year period, be Confirmed in their 10th-grade year and continue to be involved in youth ministry in their 11th and 12th-grade years. Some students may choose to complete their preparation over their four years of high school.

Why is there such a strong emphasis on retreats? Retreats are one of the most critical components of Confirmation preparation through HNOJ. Life can be a little crazy. Rarely do we take the time we need to get away from it all. Retreat experiences with HNOJ CREW are exactly that, opportunities to take a break, relax, think, talk and pray about who we are, why we are here and what our faith in Jesus has to do with it all. Retreats with the HNOJ CREW provide the environment for young people to have a personal and transformational encounter with Jesus Christ.

What is the Confirmation preparation interview? It is a lot less scary than it sounds. Think of it more as a conversation than a test. The youth ministry team at HNOJ wants to hear about your experience of Confirmation preparation, your relationship with God, and how you plan to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ following Confirmation.

Attendance

We expect teens to be at all required sessions (for their track) for the entirety of the session. We do however understand things beyond your control come up. In cases of unpredictable circumstances teens may miss one small group gathering, up to two First Sundays, and one confirmation prep meeting.

Emergency absence considerations:

Extreme circumstances, including death of family member, severe sickness and/or inclement weather will be considered emergency absences and candidates may be excused from the minimum requirements. These extenuating situations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. If you feel as though any of your absences fall into this category, please call the Senior High Youth Minister to discuss options.

Weather Policy

If the weather is severe and we decide to cancel any sessions, you will receive an email from the Senior High Youth Minister. In addition, the cancellation of classes will be posted on www.hnoj.org in the newsbox section of the front page, on HNOJ social media, and will be broadcast over: WCCO radio station (830) and KARE 11 (channel 11).

We will defer to your judgment as to whether or not it is safe for you to travel. If a session is missed due to weather conditions, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that the child(ren) have completed any assignments that may be due and have their child turn those forms into the small group leaders at the next session.



@hnoj.crew



HNOJ Crew



Greetings,

I would like to request a Baptismal Certificate for my child, who is schedule to be Confirmed on Sunday, May 10th in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. My child is preparing for the sacrament at Holy Name of Jesus in Wayzata, Minnesota. According to the Archdiocesan policies, Holy Name must receive a Baptismal Certificate issued by the parish of Baptism within the six months prior to the Confirmation date. By completing the information below and signing this letter, I am authorizing you to send the certificate directly to the parish. Please send the certificate to:

Holy Name of Jesus
Attn: Kelly Schumacher
155 County Road 24
Wayzata, MN 55391

If you have questions or need further information please contact me using the information below. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Signature

Information about the requestor

Name: _____

My relationship to the baptized: _____ My Phone Number: _____

My email: _____

Information about the person whose certificate is being requested

Name (as it appears on the birth certificate): _____

Date of birth: _____

Mother's full maiden name: _____

Father's full name: _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Address of church: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

****To Parents of Confirmation Students:** Please return this form to the HNOJ Parish Office (attn: Kelly Schumacher) to be mailed OR mail directly to the church of baptism after December 10th to fit your request into the six month time frame.*

