

# St. Christina Faith Formation



## Handbook for Confirmation 2024-2025

# Confirmation Requirements

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## Parent Prayer

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.

We thank and praise You.

Thank you for the gift of our children.

Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore.

Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know You, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May You, Holy Spirit, help them to grow in faith, hope and love, so they may know peace, truth and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice.

May their eyes see your presence in all things.

May their lips proclaim your word.

May their hearts be your dwelling place.

May their hands do works of charity.

May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen

## Candidates Prayer

Spirit of God, grant me:

The gift of wisdom, to see the world through your eyes;

The gift of counsel, to make difficult decisions;

The gifts of knowledge and understanding, to use my mind to know you and to love you;

The gift of fortitude, to have the courage to live in faith despite the difficulties and disappointments;

The gift of piety to be able to express my special love and commitment to you;

And the right kind of awesome fear that makes me pause to wonder and revere God's Love.

Amen



# CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

As part of your preparation for Confirmation, there will be several decisions you need to make this year as you grow into adulthood as a Catholic. Each one is personal to you and involve choosing and interviewing your sponsor, choosing a Catholic Saint to be your Confirmation Name and choosing how to volunteer in service to the Church, community, neighbors or family. You will also be participating in two retreats, one with your parents and sponsors and one with the other Confirmand. You will be doing some writing as well that includes researching and completing worksheets on saints and a written letter of intent to the Bishop. Like Baptism and Communion, Confirmation is a Sacrament given to us by Jesus. Your parents chose to have you Baptized and make your Communion. Confirmation is a Sacrament that you are choosing to commit to Jesus and his teachings of the Catholic Church.

Confirmation is a public statement of faith that indicates a readiness, willingness and ability to take on the rights and responsibilities of a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church. It is a commitment to being a witness to the gospel in words and deeds. According to Catholic doctrine, the faithful are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and strengthened in their Christian life. The Confirmation curriculum focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus, the sacraments and our communal worship in Mass.

## Parental Involvement

Parental Involvement in preparing for this Sacrament is not only important, it is vital. While the Church is here to assist, the primary role in the sacramental preparation and religious education belongs to the parent. Your guidance and example are indispensable in forming your child's faith. Please make every effort to remind, encourage and (if need be) insist that your child:

1. Takes time to pray each week
2. Frequently receives the Sacrament of Confession (Recommended once a month)
3. Do things with the student to help grow in the faith such as family prayers, works of service, learning the faith together and attending mass.
4. Turn in all of his/her Confirmation requirements on time

Reminder, your own practice of the Catholic faith is the greatest lesson you can teach your child. If your faith life is important to you, it's more likely to be important to your child.

## Attendance Policy (Sacramental Preparation Classes)

Attendance is Mandatory for all children in sacramental preparation classes. Students preparing for a sacrament who miss 3 or more classes per semester will not be recommended to the Pastor for the sacrament unless absences are due to illness, death in family, or other emergency situations. Parents must notify the RE Office every time there will be an absence. And excused absence is when the parent or guardian has informed the RE Office by email or phone and then makes up the missed assignments for the week missed. If you know in advance that a sport will be problematic please contact Pam Waldrom at [pamwaldrom.stchristinare@gmail.com](mailto:pamwaldrom.stchristinare@gmail.com) for options.

## Part 2 – Confirmation Curriculum Requirements

**Attention:** All students must turn in their requirements to their teachers. I recommend making a copy for your own records. The dates listed below are the latest times to turn in your forms and work. Please try to get them in before the due dates. If there is no class on the due date, get it in as close to the date as possible.

### Confirmation Requirements

Enrollment Mass  
Parent/Sponsor/Confirmand Retreat  
Retreat  
Baptismal & Communion Certificate copy  
Confirmation Candidate Information Form  
Sponsor Certificate  
Sponsor Interview Form  
Saint Research Worksheets  
Final Confirmation Saint Worksheet  
Presentation of the Cross, Creed & Lord's Prayer Mass  
Volunteer Hours  
Letter of Intent to the Bishop  
Shield Art Project  
Confirmation Practice  
Confirmation

### Due Dates

September 15, 2024  
September 23, 2024  
November 5, 2024  
December 1, 2024  
December 1, 2024  
December 1, 2024  
December 1, 2024  
December 8, 2024  
December 8, 2024  
January 12, 2025  
February 2, 2025  
February 2, 2025  
February 2, 2025  
February 20, 2025  
February 25, 2025

### Baptismal & Communion Certificates

Baptism & Communion Certificate copies need to be turned in no later than December 1, 2024. If the Confirmation Candidate was baptized and/or made First Holy Communion here, we will need you to fill that out on the Confirmation Candidate Information Form for verification. All candidates must be verified as receiving Baptism and Communion before they may be Confirmed.

### Confirmation Information Form (Appendix 1)

The Confirmation Information form must be filled out with the Coordinator of Religious Education office no later than December 1, 2024.

### Sponsor Certificate (Appendix 2)

In order to verify that the sponsor that your child has chosen meets the criteria set forth by the Church for sponsors, you will need to give a copy of the Sponsor Certificate to your child's sponsor. Your child's sponsor is to fill out the certificate completely. Important Note: If the person that your child has chosen to be his or her sponsor is not in a marriage recognized as licit by the Catholic Church, or if he or she does not attend Mass regularly, or is not a Catholic in good standing, your child will need to choose another person to be his or her sponsor. Please make sure the chosen person is actually eligible to be your child's sponsor!

After the form is filled out, your child's sponsor will need to give the certificate to the Pastor of the parish where the sponsor is a registered parishioner. This is true even if the sponsor is a member of St. Christina Parish. If your child's sponsor is a member of any other Catholic parish, have the sponsor give the certificate to his or her own Pastor to verify and sign. **Please note that the parish seal is needed on the certificate along with the Pastor's signature.** Also, for sponsors who are members of other parishes – once the Pastor's signature and parish seal are obtained, it is the responsibility of the sponsor to make sure that we receive the certificate. Our address is at the top of the form, please have the sponsor send directly to the rectory so it does not get lost. Due no later than December 1, 2024.

## Choosing Your Confirmation Sponsor

Each Confirmation Candidate must have a sponsor to assist them in their preparation and to stand with them at the Confirmation ceremony. It is very important that parents guide the Confirmation Candidate in choosing a sponsor who is:

- A Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Leading a life of faith in keeping with the Sacrament to be taken on.
- Is an active and practicing Catholic regularly attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- At least 16 years of age.
- Not the father or the mother of the Confirmation Candidate.

Parents may not serve as sponsors, but siblings over the age of 16 and other relatives may. Canon Law does not allow for us to make exceptions to any of the above requirements for any reason. Even the Bishop has not been given the authority to give dispensation from any of these stipulations.

The Church recommends that the candidate choose one of his or her Godparents as a sponsor since through Confirmation the work of the Holy Spirit begun in Baptism is completed. (Note: if your child's Godparent is no longer a Catholic in good standing, your child needs to choose someone else to be his or her sponsor) If the sponsor cannot be present at Confirmation, a proxy may be designated. Please note, however, that a parent cannot be a proxy, the proxy must meet all of the requirements of a sponsor (listed above), and you must have a Sponsor

Certificate on file in the Religious Education Office for a proxy no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. In case of an emergency requiring a proxy closer to the time of Confirmation, please call the Faith Formation Office at 773-445-0132 X246. A proxy should be designated an exception, not as the rule.

The sponsor should be a person that the Candidate can easily have contact with even if by telephone or email.

### Sponsors – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can a non-Catholic who is a very strong Christian serve as a sponsor? No. Only an active and practicing Catholic can serve as Confirmation sponsor.
2. Can my child have two sponsors? No. There is some confusion about this because a child has two Godparents when baptized. But for Confirmation, only one sponsor is permitted per Candidate.
3. Can two children have the same sponsor? Yes. If that is going to be the case, please let us know so we can work out the particular details for seating and such.
4. What if my child's sponsor can't make it to Confirmation? A proxy can be appointed. See the information in the above section for details.
5. If the person my child wants as sponsor is 15 now, but will turn 16 by Confirmation, can that person be my child's sponsor? Yes. The sponsor must be 16 on the day of Confirmation. It is OK if he or she is not yet 16 throughout your child's entire Confirmation preparation process
6. If the person my child wants as sponsor will turn 16 the day after Confirmation, can that person be my child's sponsor? No. The sponsor must be 16 on the day of Confirmation. We have no authority to make exceptions to this rule.
7. If the parish that my child's sponsor belongs to wants to submit their own sponsor certificate instead of the one provided by Saint Christina, is that acceptable? As long as all of the information provided is the same, this is fine. If the other certificate is more general, however, your child's sponsor will need to fill out the one that we have provided and get it signed. It is best to check with us if this happens.

## Twenty Questions to Ask Your Confirmation Sponsor

1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA program? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult.
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
5. Do you have a favorite saint (or favorite saints)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
6. How do you define the word “holy?” Do you know people in your life that you would describe as “holy?” Do you think anyone describes you as “holy?” How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
7. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic - perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith or a time when you struggled to believe in the teachings of your Catholic faith. What did you do to “keep your faith” or find answers to your questions during these times.
8. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week (or maybe every day) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? What do you think caused the change?
9. What is your understanding of what it means “to sin?” What does “forgiveness” mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
10. One very special aspect of our Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell me about your own feelings and thoughts about and experiences with this Sacrament. Is it difficult for you to celebrate this Sacrament or was there a time when it was? What kind of preparations do you find helpful before you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
11. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, to whom do you usually pray: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mary, a particular saint? For whom or what do you usually pray?
12. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or in your neighborhood? Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.
13. How would you answer someone who told you that “Catholics worship Mary?” To whom do you turn or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?

14. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.

15. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God. Tell me about it and how you kept your faith in the end.

16. Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your Catholic faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?

17. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?

18. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Tell me why.

19. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment (Counsel), Courage (Fortitude), Knowledge, Reverence (Piety), Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord), are strengthened and increased within each of us. These seven special gifts represent all of the gifts and blessings that God gives us to lead a good and holy life. They are special graces that are given to us through the Holy Spirit to enable us to respond to God's call to holiness. Reflecting back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you used a lot? Which gift do you need to use more?

20. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

Don't forget to ask any of your own questions! AND REMEMBER- Your Sponsor should ask you a few too!



## Sponsor Interview

This form must be completed and turned to class February 2 (RE) February 3 (StC)

Confirmation Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print first and last name)

Date Sponsor Meeting #1 Occurred: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If the interview took place by phone or email, parent may sign for sponsor.

### DIRECTIONS:

Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2.

Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during your meeting?

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2. Write about one story or experience that your sponsor shared that you felt showed that he/she was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation to live a life of holiness.

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3. Did you make a good choice of who you asked to serve as your Confirmation sponsor? If you are not sure if you did, pray about it, talk to your parents, and feel free to talk to your teacher or Mrs. Waldrom about your decision and where to go from here

## **Saint Project**

### **Saint Projects – Choosing a Confirmation Saint**

Choosing a saint name is an essential part of Confirmation and it is an acknowledgement that the Holy Spirit will change you through the grace of this Sacrament. We see in Scripture that Jesus changed the name of some of his disciples to signify that their role had been changed and that they were becoming, in a sense, a new person. For example, Abram became Abraham (Genesis 17:5), Sarai became Sarah (Genesis 17:15), and Simon became Peter (Matthew 16:18). When choosing a saint, you should choose someone who exemplifies a quality that you wish to have, somebody whose life you want to emulate, or somebody you have something in common with. You should also be asking for the prayers and intercession of the saint that you choose.

When you choose a saint, and begin to pray for their intercession, he/she becomes your patron saint for the rest of your life! If you are a musically inclined, you might select St. Cecilia, the patroness of musicians and singers. If you admire purity, St. Maria Goretti, virgin and martyr, would be a great intercessor. There are thousands of saints that are acknowledged for a wide variety of reasons. In 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, you completed a saint presentation. This is the next step in finding your saint name.

### **SAINT RESEARCH**

Your first assignment is to research 2 new saints, different from your 7<sup>th</sup> grade project, that you are interested in learning more about. Use the Saint Worksheets 1 & 2 to answer questions about each saint. You may not be able to answer every question on the worksheet for each saint, but fill in as much information as you can.

A good online resource you can use is [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints). There are many other sites with good information available also, but make sure you use a catholic site (do not use Wikipedia). This project should be completed at home with parents' help and turned in to your confirmation teacher. Remember to turn in both worksheets; one for each saint you choose to research.

### **CHOOSE YOUR SAINT NAME**

After completing your research, your next assignment is to choose ONE of the three saints you learned about (1 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 2 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade) for your confirmation saint. When choosing, consider these questions: Is there a particular saint you relate to? What have you struggled with? (example: anxiety and worry – Saint Dymphna); What do you enjoy? (example: animals – St. Francis of Assisi); What talent has God gifted you with? (example: sports – St Sebastian); What qualities do you value most? (example: honesty – St. Teresa of Avila). Make sure to ask God to help you choose a saint to whom you can relate and learn; a saint that you would like to have praying for you for the rest of your life.

Once you've chosen your confirmation saint, complete the CONFIRMATION SAINT worksheet and turn it in to your confirmation teacher. All 3 Saint Worksheets are due by December 8, 2024.

Saint Worksheet #1 – Due December 8, 2024

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Saint: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a saint to research and write the saint's name in the blank above. Answer the questions below about this saint.

**1. Locations**

- a. Where and when was this saint born?
- b. Did this saint travel throughout his life? If so, where?
- c. Where and when did this saint die?
- d. Where is this saint buried?
- e. When, where and by whom was this saint canonized?

**2. Age**

- a. How old was this saint when he/she began their journey for holiness or heard their call from God?
- b. How is this saint a good role model for young people your age?

**3. Family**

- a. Was there a family member who was particularly supportive of this saint as he/she grew up?
- b. How did this saint's family feel about the choices this saint made for his/her life?
- c. Did this saint have any role models or people he/she looked up to that were NOT family members? If so, who were they and how were they a role model for this saint?

**4. Story**

- a. What is the story for this saint?
- b. What was significant about him/her and his/her faith?
- c. Did this saint die because he/she was standing up for God or his/her faith? If yes, please explain.

d. Did anything significant happen after the saint's death; or did anything become known after the saint's death about the saint or about something he/she did while alive?

e. Was this saint's journey toward holiness easy or difficult? Did this saint have more joy and happiness or suffering during his/her lifetime?

f. Why did others view this person as a saint? What did others see in him/her that was different or inspirational?

## **5. Your thoughts about the Saint**

a. What are your thoughts about this saint and how he/she lived his/her life?

b. Is there something in the story of this saint that you could apply in your life, or something you can learn from this saint? If so, what is it?

c. Is this saint someone you can relate to? What similarities are there between this saint's life and your own? What differences are there?

d. Is this a saint you might consider for your Confirmation saint? Why or why not?

Saint Worksheet #2 – Due December 8, 2024

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Saint: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a saint to research and write the saint's name in the blank above. Answer the questions below about this saint.

**1. Locations**

- a. Where and when was this saint born?
- b. Did this saint travel throughout his life? If so, where?
- c. Where and when did this saint die?
- d. Where is this saint buried?
- e. When, where and by whom was this saint canonized?

**2. Age**

- a. How old was this saint when he/she began their journey for holiness or heard their call from God?
- b. How is this saint a good role model for young people your age?

**3. Family**

- a. Was there a family member who was particularly supportive of this saint as he/she grew up?
- b. How did this saint's family feel about the choices this saint made for his/her life?
- c. Did this saint have any role models or people he/she looked up to that were NOT family members? If so, who were they and how were they a role model for this saint?

**4. Story**

- a. What is the story for this saint?
- b. What was significant about him/her and his/her faith?
- c. Did this saint die because he/she was standing up for God or his/her faith? If yes, please explain.

d. Did anything significant happen after the saint's death; or did anything become known after the saint's death about the saint or about something he/she did while alive?

e. Was this saint's journey toward holiness easy or difficult? Did this saint have more joy and happiness or suffering during his/her lifetime?

f. Why did others view this person as a saint? What did others see in him/her that was different or inspirational?

## **5. Your thoughts about the Saint**

a. What are your thoughts about this saint and how he/she lived his/her life?

b. Is there something in the story of this saint that you could apply in your life, or something you can learn from this saint? If so, what is it?

c. Is this saint someone you can relate to? What similarities are there between this saint's life and your own? What differences are there?

d. Is this a saint you might consider for your Confirmation saint? Why or why not?

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CONFIRMATION SAINT WORKSHEET**

Due December 8, 2024

1. Which 3 saints did you research?
  - a. (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Saint)
  - b.
  - c.
2. Which saint did you choose for your patron saint (confirmation name)?
3. What did you find most interesting about him or her?
4. What is he/she the patron saint of? (I.e. sports, animals, bee keeping, etc.?)
5. Why did you pick this particular saint?
6. What do you have in common with this saint?
7. Are there other reasons you chose this saint? If so, please explain.

# Volunteer Hours

Why be a person of service?

Christian service flows out of our Catholic beliefs, which are expressed in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. These is a whole set of teaching in our church we refer to as Catholic Social Teaching. Being familiar with these teachings will help you to see how being a person of service can influence the world (and yourself) in a positive way.

As you decide how you want to serve this year, remember the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. No act of service is too small. No person or group unworthy of our care. At your baptism, you were claimed for Christ and called to follow him. When you receive the Eucharist, you become the body of Christ for the world. As a confirmed Catholic, you are sent forth to be Christ's witness in the world. We give witness to Christ when we put our faith into action.

## Hours Required:

You are to complete 10 Hours of service. 6 hours should be with an organization, 4 hours may be used for neighbors or family members. All service is to be done without pay and with a good spirit. Jesus tells us to say yes when we mean yes and no when we mean no. So find the opportunities that help you to grow. Volunteer Hours Due February 2, 2025.

Volunteer Ideas within 20 minutes of Mt. Greenwood.

**Sister Ann Vincent Ministry** – Located right here at St. Christina, Sister Ann has many volunteer activities throughout the year. Homebound meals meets 1X a month to prepare food for our parishioners that cannot leave their homes easily. She also has small group opportunities right after school. For more information reach out to her at [sisterann@stchristinaparish.org](mailto:sisterann@stchristinaparish.org). Her phone number is 773-445-6779.

**Burrito Brigade** – Make Burritos for the homeless. Meets 1x a month at Morgan Park Presbyterian Church. Go to Facebook – Burrito Brigade Chicago to register to volunteer.

**St. Christina Beautification Program** – Come out and volunteer 1x a month to clean up the grounds over the summer. Wear comfy clothes and be ready to pick up garbage and pull weeds. Moms and Dads, if you have plants that you can divide, we would like to plant some easy-care plants on the East side of the school in August. Dates will be listed on the Religious Ed Website and an email will be sent prior to the dates- Pam Waldrom will be supervising this service.

**Lake Katherine** – Do some outdoor work. Lake Katherine offers service opportunities throughout the year. Go to their webpage for more information. [www.lakekatherine.org](http://www.lakekatherine.org)

**Local Library** – Previously emailed to parents. Please contact your local Library branch to ask about ongoing volunteer opportunities.

**Pro Labore Day (Feed My Lambs)**– Sort, bag and distribute groceries to needy families. St Stanislaus Catholic Church. 14416 S. McKinley Ave, Posen. [www.facebook.com/PLDFeedMyLambs](http://www.facebook.com/PLDFeedMyLambs) for more information. (We have worked with them in the past and they are a wonderful organization)

**Ronald McDonald House** – Meals from the Heart. Grab 5 friends and 2 parents and make a meal at RMH in Oak Lawn for Hope Children's Hospital Families. Go to their website to find out more information. <https://rmhccni.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/advocatemeals/>

**Operations Blessings of Southwest Chicagoland** – Volunteer at a food pantry. 4901 W. 128<sup>th</sup> Place, Alsip, IL. <https://opblessing.org>



**Meals on Wheels** – Greeting Card Artist - Want to put your artistic skills to work? MoW are looking for people to create greeting cards, which are delivered to our senior citizens on Birthdays, Holidays and as way to let them know someone cares. Parents will turn in cards to the RE office to be mailed. We will give a total of 1 service hour for 6 Cards thoughtfully made. No more than 1 service hour total will be given for this service.

**Mount Greenwood Business Association.** - We have been in contact with the Mount Greenwood Business Association and they will be giving us listings of volunteer opportunities they have throughout the year. This is what she has emailed us so far: (Students can help stuff goodie bags. Age-appropriate items for the following events)

September 26, 2024 – Wine Walk

October 12, 2024-Tombstone 5K at Mt. Greenwood Cemetery

December 6, 2024-Business Holiday Stroll.

Besides these events, there are opportunities to help clean up the garden at the corner of 111th Kedzie.(Under the Mt. Greenwood sign. Jamie Berton is also in discussion with MTG Park Director, Jackie Guthrie, about hosting a pet event in September. Details are still being worked out. –for more information, email Jamie Berten at [mgcba2013@gmail.com](mailto:mgcba2013@gmail.com)

**Oak Lawn Children’s Museum - Youth Volunteer** - This program provides opportunities for teens ages 13 to 17 to assist with event activities and interact with museum visitors. Here are just a few things you may be asked to do as a volunteer at the museum...helping families do art projects in the art room, facilitating a science activity, playing with children in the museum and assisting with cleaning and resetting museum exhibits. Hours are flexible during regular museum hours and at special events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out a youth volunteer application and sign up for youth volunteer orientation. [www.cmoaklawn.org](http://www.cmoaklawn.org)

**Evergreen Park Food Pantry** – Food Pantry with many volunteer opportunities. [www.eppantry.org](http://www.eppantry.org).

**Pat’s Pantry** – Food Pantry at Mount Greenwood Community Church 3509 W 111th St, Chicago, IL 60655 – Contact Kathy Turney at [CavalloneKathleen@gmail.com](mailto:CavalloneKathleen@gmail.com)

## Letter to the Bishop

Letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation:

The letter may be typed but has to be proofed for errors. Each Confirmand will sign the letter in ink before turning it in to be mailed to the Bishop.

The letter to the Bishop is stating your desire to be confirmed. The letter should be personal and not part of a form letter. In their own words and style, the young people are encouraged to introduce themselves to their Bishop, speak of the importance the Catholic Christian Faith in their lives, and explain their preparedness for the reception of this final Sacrament of Initiation. They may speak of their patron saint or their time of service. The letter is your own description of your personal faith journey so far. They are also a reflection on both you and on St. Christina Church, so please write what is in your heart and take this endeavor seriously.

### A LETTER TO THE BISHOP REQUESTING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Here are some guidelines. These topics should be covered, in your own words and style. All letters should be typed and you should check your spelling and grammar.

#### GREETING

Begin your letter with the greeting – Your Excellency

#### BODY OF LETTER

**Paragraph 1** Introduce yourself. Say something about your family, your education and your parish

**Paragraph 2** Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed

**Paragraph 3** Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you talk about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service hours, your sponsor's name and why you chose them and/or your saint's name and why you chose it.

**Paragraph 4** Tell what difficulties young people today face and how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the Faith real and alive in your life.

#### CONCLUSION

Conclude the letter and include your complete signature

There is no "right" way to write this letter. Everyone's will be different, as each of you have had a different experience. Most importantly is should be your own work and a personal reflection of your journey.

Religious Education should turn letter into Mr. Tony or Ms. Julia by January 12<sup>th</sup>.

St. Christina Students should turn letter into Mr. McGonagle or Mrs. Folinazzo by January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Any questions may be sent to Pam Waldrom at [pamwaldrom.stchristinare@gmail.com](mailto:pamwaldrom.stchristinare@gmail.com).

## Shield Art Project

This shield is designed to remind, inspire, and encourage the soon-to-be confirmed of the gifts bestowed on them by the Holy Spirit. Help your students be prepared to spread and defend their faith thanks to the graces of the Holy Spirit. You will have some time in class to work on this. Due February 2, 2025

### Create

1. Once you have determined your Confirmation name you will receive a cardstock shield with instruction from your teachers on how to create the project.

2. Plan out how you want to design your shield. On the shield should be your confirmation name and the gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit. The 7 gifts represented on the shield are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of God.

**Wisdom** is the ability to exercise good judgment. It distinguishes between right and wrong, seeks and upholds truth and justice, and balances personal good with the common good. It is in touch with reality, demonstrates common sense and is prudent. It often increases as a person advances in years and gains life experience.

**Understanding** is the gift of intelligence and enlightenment. It is the ability to think clearly; to perceive, comprehend and interpret information; and to have insight and discern meaning.

**Counsel** is good advice. It is the ability to teach, inform, guide, direct, warn, admonish, recommend and encourage. It is not limited to the giving of advice but extends to the ability to graciously receive it. The gift is needed by parents, teachers, coaches, supervisors, mentors, therapists, lawyers, clergy, consultants, elders and spouses — anyone who offers advice to others.

**Fortitude** is an unwavering commitment to God or a proper course of action, and it shows itself as moral strength, courage, determination, patient endurance, long suffering, a resolute spirit, stamina and resiliency.

**Knowledge** is the ability to study and learn; to acquire, retain and master facts and information; and to put what is learned to good use for constructive purposes.

**Fear of the Lord** is awe, reverence and respect for God. It acknowledges that everything comes as a gift from God, downplays personal achievement and self-sufficiency, and gladly offers praise, worship and adoration to God.

**Piety** is personal holiness, and it includes devotion to God, prayer, virtue, goodness, decency, self-mastery, innocence, the avoidance of sin and obedience to God's will.

■■ You should strive to make the shield represent you in the design of the project. Some common symbols that may be on your shield is a flame, dove, book or cross.

3. After the shields are complete turn them into your teachers. Religious Education turn in February 2, 2025.

St. Christing turn in February 3, 2025. Please have your name written on the back of the shield.

These will be on display at the Church for your Confirmation night. You may take them home that evening after Confirmation Mass.

# General Information

## MEETINGS

Please plan to attend all of the listed events and meetings.

Retreat for Parents, Sponsors and Confirmand on **September 23, 2024 at 6PM** in St. Christina Church

Confirmand(only) retreat at St. Rita **November 5, 2024 8:30AM-1:30PM**

## MASSES

Rite of Election Mass for Confirmand, Parents & Sponsors on **September 15, 2025 at 10:30AM**

Blessing of the Senses Mass for Confirmand, Parents & Sponsors on **January 12, 2025 at 10:30AM**

## Tips for Parents

Sometimes the Confirmation Preparation process can seem a bit overwhelming and so we try to make it as simple as possible for you to be as informed as possible throughout the process. The following tips might help to make the year go more smoothly:

- Keep this handbook in a safe, accessible place. The answers to many of the questions that come up throughout the year can be found in this book. If you are confused about anything, we encourage you to look through this book to see if the issue is addressed.
- Please check for emails from Pam Waldrom frequently. This is my best form of communication.
- Make copies of important items that your child turns in (sponsor certificates, service hour logs – items that require others signatures, etc.).
- Call or email me if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for our Confirmation Preparation program.
- Pray for our Candidates. The grace of God is the most precious and powerful gift that our Candidates can receive throughout this process and throughout their lives.

## Confirmation Preparation Fee

In addition to the regular materials that we provide for all of our Faith Formation students, our Confirmation Candidates are provided supplemental materials, retreat fees and a robe for Confirmation. In addition, we provide items for the Confirmation Mass such as programs, and reception items. In order to cover the cost of these materials, there is a \$75.00 fee for Sacramental Preparation. This fee is due at the time of registration for Faith Formation. If payment of the fee presents a hardship to your family, please call the Faith Formation Office at 773-445-0132 X246 to discuss financial assistance.