

**St. Blase Catholic Parish**

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**Confirmation Preparation  
Parent/Candidate Handbook**



**2023-2024**

# INTRODUCTION

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Hello and Welcome to Confirmation Preparation!

We look forward to joining you and your son or daughter as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a very exciting time for your child to learn about this incredible sacrament and be enriched in the life of the parish community.

Confirmation preparation is a time for youth to learn, share and grow into a young adult in the life of the church. This is a time for youth to learn more about their Catholic faith and to ask questions. When they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, they will be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. When we receive this Sacrament, we become stronger witnesses of the Catholic faith.

The goal of Confirmation Preparation is for the youth to become fully initiated into the life of the Catholic Church and help them continue to grow into Christian maturity. Our faith is an incredible gift and blessing! We are invited by God at our baptism to form a special union with Him that lasts into eternity, and we should never stop growing in our faith! The mission of Confirmation Preparation at St. Blase Parish is to aid your child as they journey into adulthood.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Again, St. Blase Catholic Church could not be happier that your son or daughter is preparing for Confirmation with us!

God's Blessings,

*Diane Chase*

Director of Religious Education

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Confirmation  
Session Dates

2023-2024

(Revised 5-10-2023)



Tuesday, October 17, 2023	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>PARENT/CHILD ORIENTATION MEETING</b> Thea Bowman
Tuesday, November 7, 2023	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Thea Bowman Room
Tuesday, December 5, 2023	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Thea Bowman Room
Tuesday, January 16, 2024	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Thea Bowman Room
Tuesday, February 13, 2024	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Thea Bowman Room
Tuesday, March 5, 2024	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Thea Bowman Room
<b>Saturday, March 9, 2024</b>	<b>12:00p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>RETREAT</b> <b>Includes 4p.m. Mass</b>
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Thea Bowman Room



**CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL - Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

**6:30pm in the church**

**(Candidate and Sponsor must be present at rehearsal)**

**CONFIRMATION MASS -- Sunday, April 21, 2024**

**11:00 a.m. MASS**

# CONFIRMATION EXPECTATIONS – AT A GLANCE

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- Recite basic Catholic prayers.
- Attend all Confirmation Preparation classes
- Attend all Faith Formation family events
- Attend all Faith Formation class (if enrolled)
- Regular attendance in Sunday Mass.
- Participation in classes.
- Completion of Confirmation Retreat.
- Prepare themselves spiritually, mentally, and emotionally for this sacrament.
- Check out St. Blase Youth Events.
- Choose a qualified Confirmation Sponsor
- Complete and return all required paperwork.
- Complete all homework assignments.
- Attend Confirmation Rehearsal with Sponsor.
- Attend the Confirmation Liturgy.
- Celebrate being confirmed!
- Continue to attend mass, participate, and practice the Catholic Faith!

# EXPECTATIONS IN DETAIL

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Here are the expectations for those preparing for Confirmation Preparation. Confirmation preparation is an exciting, rewarding time, but it also requires dedication. If you or your son or daughter has any concerns or questions, please contact the parish office!

## **Mass Attendance**

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents must have a sincere intention to participate in Mass every week. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. It is also a holy obligation for all Catholics. When we worship together, we can build up the body of Christ and express to our young people how imperative it is to participate in this Sacrament. The Catholic Church firmly believes that your family will notice significant benefits from attending mass regularly! Again, **regular mass attendance is mandatory for Confirmation.**

One of the beautiful benefits of the Catholic faith is that it is universal! There are millions of Catholic parishes around the world partaking in the same celebration. We also understand that not every family is able to attend mass at St. Blase every weekend. If your family attends mass at a different parish, we would like to hear about it! Please have your son or daughter fill out the Parish Mass Attended Form and submit to the Director of Religious Education, by the Friday after that weekend's mass.

## **Class Attendance**

Likewise, it is essential that your child participate in every Confirmation preparation class. Attendance in class is extremely important in preparing the candidates for reception of the Sacrament. When a class is missed, your child loses time for fellowship, prayer and vital material that was covered that day. We only meet for six sessions! Confirmation preparation requires dedication and interest in receiving this vital sacrament.

Unlike school, your child cannot receive "excused" or "unexcused" absences in Confirmation preparation. A missed class is a missed opportunity. For the first class

missed, you need to call or email Diann Chase for make-up session instructions. Any additional absences will result in a meeting with Diann Chase.

### **Confirmation Retreat**

A part of Confirmation preparation is also attending the day-long Confirmation Preparation Retreat on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., which *includes* attending the 4 p.m. mass. Retreats are a great way for youth to escape hectic everyday life and devote time to relax, pray and contemplate. This is also a great time for the youth to enjoy time with their peers! We encourage parents to attend the 4 p.m. mass with their child.

The youth are expected to be in attendance for the entire retreat

### **Candidates Must Prepare**

Confirmation preparation is not limited to what we discuss in class. Youth that are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are aware of the importance of this sacrament. This is the perfect time for youth to grow in their relationship with God, develop a strong personal prayer life and share with their family what is discussed in class. Confirmation is not a “graduation from religious education.” Confirmation preparation is a time for us to recognize the power that God has in our lives and grow in our faith. We will never stop learning about God and our Catholic faith.

### **Participation in Youth Events**

St. Blase offers many opportunities for our youth to get involved in the parish. We hope that everyone will feel a sense of belonging when they walk through the doors! The variety of ministries, events and opportunities at our parish are catered to appeal to youth with different talents and goals. We encourage all youth to participate in the various opportunities this year. Please review the Liturgical Ministry Opportunities for Adults, Teens & Children.

## **Confirmation Sponsor**

Each candidate is asked to choose a **Catholic** adult to be his or her Confirmation sponsor. A Confirmation sponsor is active in the life of the church and is a role-model for our young people. This person will walk with your son or daughter as they mature in their faith and will vouch for your child's readiness to receive this sacrament.

Confirmation Sponsors **must**:

- Be a practicing Roman Catholic who attends mass regularly.
- Live accordingly to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Support your child in his or her commitment to a Christian life and be a long-lasting Christian influence.
- May not be a parent of the candidate.
- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must be fully initiated themselves having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- **If not a parishioner at St. Blase, the sponsor request and submit a letter from his or her parish stating that he or she has an active role in their parish.**
- Must attend the Confirmation Rehearsal.
- Must attend the Confirmation Mass.
- The Confirmation Sponsor must fill complete and return the "Confirmation Sponsor Form" by appropriate date to the Confirmation Coordinator or Director of Religious Education.

## **Confirmation Name**

The candidate is also asked to choose a confirmation name. Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in us at Baptism. It is highly recommended that your child uses the name that they were given at Baptism. However, since Confirmation can be viewed as a "beginning a new mission into adulthood," candidates may choose a new name after a saint or person that they deeply admire.

The Catholic Church is blessed with numerous saints! We will be discussing various saints throughout Confirmation Preparation. Once the candidates have researched various saints and have prayed about the name they decide to take, whether a saint or

Baptism name, they are to fill out the Confirmation Name sheet that will be given to them.

### **Confirmation Forms**

All candidates must complete the required forms and return them to the Confirmation Coordinator or Director of Religious Education by the due date listed on each form. The forms are distributed to the candidates at registration and parent-youth orientation.

### **These are required to receive this sacrament:**

Baptismal Certificate (if not baptized at St. Blase)

This is needed on or before first class session

Sponsor Interview

Confirmation Name

Letter to Father Randy

Confirmation Sponsor Name – sponsor to complete and return

(Including letter from sponsor's parish if not a member of St. Blase along with Baptism certificate)

Prayer Checklist – to be completed in class, recited to catechist

Our Father

Hail Mary

Act of Contrition

Glory Be

Sign of the Cross

Regular weekly attendance and participation at mass

### **Confirmation Rehearsal**

All candidates and their sponsors must attend the Confirmation Rehearsal at St. Blase Parish, date and time to be determined once the Arch Diocese of Detroit (AOD) provides a Confirmation. The AOD provides the date of Confirmation and while we ask for a time-frame, we cannot choose the actual date of Confirmation.



## **Confirmation**

All candidates and sponsors must attend the Confirmation Mass. This date is given to us by the Arch Diocese of Detroit (AOD). Confirmation and appropriate attire will be discussed during Confirmation Preparation; additional information to follow.

If your child cannot attend the Confirmation Mass at St. Blase, please inform the Confirmation Coordinator or Director of Religious Education as soon as possible. It may be possible to arrange for the candidate to be confirmed at a different parish.

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

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*“As the primary educators of their children; parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis of Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.” (NCD, no. 119)*

As your child prepares to become fully initiated into the Catholic Faith, it is essential that parents participate in this process with them. Confirmation preparation is a wonderful time for the whole family to become involved with this process.

Parents are expected to:

- Worship with your family regularly.
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate, which includes reviewing the Parent/Candidate Handbook.
- Engage your family in discussion about the material covered in class.
- Share with your family your experience of the sacramental preparations you’ve received.
- Encourage your son or daughter to become active at St. Blase, including attending youth or family events and becoming part of a ministry at St. Blase:
  - Altar Serving
  - Greeters
  - Ushers in Training
  - Youth Group
  - Youth Choir
  - Volunteering at Summer Circle/VBS
  - Catechist Aide
- Check your emails regularly for updates and reminders.
- Faithfully bring your child to sessions.
- Actively help your son or daughter discern the best Confirmation sponsor.
- After Confirmation, encourage your child to join our Liturgical Ministries as a Communion Minister, Lector, Commentator, or Sacristan.
- Pray for and with your children every day!