

Confirmation



Sponsor Guide

2026-2027

By a signing with the gift of the Spirit, Confirmation enriches the baptized with the Holy Spirit, binding them more perfectly to the Church, and strengthening them in their witness to Christ by word and deed and in their work to bring to its fullness the Body of Christ”

~Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Congratulations

A young person in your life thinks you are special!

You have been invited to sponsor a candidate for Confirmation. Your candidate has identified you as a living witness of faith in Jesus Christ and his Church. Being a sponsor is an honor, a calling, and with this honor comes the responsibility to guide and support your candidate as he or she prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. You are called to be a Christian witness, friend, prayer warrior, and ally to your candidate for the rest of your life. How do you do this? First, let's review.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacramental outpouring of the Holy Spirit that leaves a permanent imprint on the soul, completes Christian initiation, and empowers us to be witnesses to Christ (CCC 1302-1305)

In other words, it deepens our relationship with God as Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit through our identity as children of God. It strengthens our bond with the Church, and it empowers us to share and defend the Faith by word and action.

Is Confirmation like graduation?

No. Confirmation is not graduation from religious education nor merely a cultural passage into maturity. Neither is it merely a symbolic act. The outward signs of the sacrament, such as laying on of hands and anointing with sacred chrism, symbolize a spiritual reality. This invisible reality is a seal by the Holy Spirit, that is, an indelible mark on the soul claiming us for Christ. Confirmation completes the graces we received at Baptism, when we became children of God, and leads us to focus on what we have been called to do—to be living witnesses of God's love in the world. It's a beginning, not an ending!

What is the role of a Sponsor?

Accompany your candidate in preparing for Confirmation by talking about his or her faith struggles, questions, hopes, and experiences. Walk the walk—participate in the sacramental life of the Church, demonstrate service to others, and be a role model. Share your own faith story!

Pray for your candidate that he or she will truly encounter Christ and will grow in knowledge of the Faith. Commit to lifting up your candidate in prayer every day.

Encourage and challenge your candidate to set aside anything that leads away from Christ (habits, cultural influences, certain acquaintances). Challenge him or her to live as an authentic disciple and to view discipleship as a lifelong commitment.

Present your candidate to the bishop during the Confirmation rite. Your role will be to announce the candidate's name to the Bishop, who will call him or her by name just as Jesus called his disciples by name. Your hand on the candidate's shoulder will symbolize a shared journey and a bond in God's family.

I'm not sure I'm qualified to be a sponsor.

A sponsor should be a fully initiated Catholic who is faithful to Christ and his Church and is at least sixteen years of age. You might think you are unworthy or a less-than-perfect role model, but you don't need to be perfect. As a sponsor, you are a fellow traveler with a bit more experience in the journey of faith. You can do it!

Confirmation Retreat Letters

Due Wednesday, January 6th, 2027

PLEASE KEEP THIS CONFIDENTIAL!

Dear Parents and Sponsors,

Plans are underway for the Confirmation Retreat! I am confident that it will be a wonderful and meaningful weekend for your child/candidate. During the retreat, the candidates will be given the opportunity to stop and think about their relationship with God and how this relationship affects and inspires other relationships in their lives. They will participate in quiet time, group activities and outdoor fun.

We need your help in a very special way! We would like to surprise each candidate with letters of encouragement from home. These "love letters" are presented to the candidates as part of the retreat. This will truly be a wonderful gift from you.

If you have never written such a letter, or need a little help to get it started, here are some ideas to consider. Perhaps include:

- ◆ How proud you are of this young person for the way he/she is preparing for Confirmation - their effort, Christian awareness, prayer, concern for others, etc.
- ◆ The special place he/she holds within your family or life; how he/she has brought love and joy to the family and others
- ◆ Words of encouragement to help them through the rough spots that come up in life
- ◆ The hope that he/she will always strive to grow in his/her relationship with God and live a moral, responsible life as a fully initiated Catholic Christian.
- ◆ Don't pressure yourself to write deep or profound thoughts. Genuine encouragement is best. (Don't preach.)

It is very important for every child to receive at least one letter. Letters from family members, sponsors, and other significant individuals in the candidate's life are also encouraged.

Where and when?

- ◆ Each letter should be sealed in its own envelope. On the front side of the envelope, print the first and last name of your child/candidate.
- ◆ Please send or drop off these letters to the Faith Formation Office by Wednesday, January 7th.
- ◆ This is a surprise! We have found that it is best when the kids are not expecting a letter from you, so I ask that you not send the letter to me with your child.
- ◆ As you can imagine, there are many details to attend to in preparing for the retreat; please do not wait until the last minute to send in letters. Thank you for taking the time to do this for your child/candidate. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Blessings,

Thaddeus D. Loduha
Youth Formation Coordinator
loduhat@stjmuk.org
262-395-0176 (Cell)
262-363-7615 x 108 (Office)

Sponsor Involvement

Refer to the **Confirmation Sponsor Information Sheet** for guidance in choosing a sponsor and submit the information sheet to Thaddeus Loduha by Nov. 5th.

Four Important Conversations with Your Sponsor

1 Confirmation Name / Saint's Name (Submit a Conversation Reflection—Due Dec. 9th)
Talk with your sponsor about the name you plan to choose for Confirmation and why. If you are using your baptismal name, share with your sponsor what is special about it to you. If you are taking on a Saint's name, what drew you to it? What was your sponsor's Confirmation name? Investigate together some saints whom you admire. How can you become more like them?

2 Receiving the Holy Spirit (Submit a brief Conversation Reflection) - Due. Jan. 27th
Read together the following passages from *Acts of the Apostles* in your Bible before answering.
Acts 1:3-11 (Ascension of Jesus to heaven)
Acts 2:1-4 (Pentecost)
Acts 8:14-17 (Laying on of hands)
Acts 19:1-6 (Baptism of new believers)

- ◆ How is Confirmation like the first Pentecost?
- ◆ What connection do you see between Baptism and Confirmation?
- ◆ What stood out to you in the Scripture verses above? What stood out to your sponsor?

3 Works of Service (Submit a brief Conversation Reflection) - Due. Feb. 24th
Read *James 2:14-26*.
Pick a common act of **service to perform with your sponsor**. If you live in the same area, do the activity together. If candidate and sponsor are not nearby, choose a similar act of service that you can each do in your respective locations. For example, you can each serve at a local food pantry or soup kitchen or visit a nursing home. After you have completed your act of service, discuss your experience and consider the following questions:

- ◆ What does it mean that we find ourselves when we give ourselves away?
- ◆ St. Teresa of Avila says, "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours." In what ways can we be Jesus' hands and feet?
- ◆ Why do Catholics believe that faith without works is incomplete? (See James 2:14-26)

4 One-Month Check-in after Confirmation—Highly Encouraged
Select a date to meet or talk one month after Confirmation. Perhaps go out to dinner or plan a fun activity together and discuss these topics:

- ◆ How is your prayer life developing? What are you doing to keep in contact with God every day?
- ◆ How will you continue to increase your knowledge of the Faith? What do you want to know?
- ◆ How are you staying connected to the parish community?
- ◆ In what simple ways do you live out your discipleship in life outside of the parish?

Conversation Reflections

Candidates submit reflections to Thaddeus Loduha based on the questions and content of the conversations listed above.

Confirmation Names

Confirmation is a sacramental outpouring of the Holy Spirit that leaves a permanent imprint on the soul, completes Christian initiation, and empowers us to be witnesses to Christ. (CCC1302-1305)

Throughout Christian history, such powerful encounters with God were marked with a name change. For example, God gave Jacob the name of Israel, and Jesus gave Simon the name of Peter. Following this tradition, Confirmation candidates will choose a Confirmation name to mark the importance of being sealed to God through the sacrament.

When you are confirmed, the Bishop says to you, “(Confirmation Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” So, what name do you want him to use? Keep these points in mind:

- ◆ Traditionally a **Christian** name is chosen (after a particular saint or biblical figure).
- ◆ You may be confirmed using your **baptismal Christian name (first or middle)**.
- ◆ **You may choose a NEW Christian name!** This gives you an opportunity, if you wish, to “adopt” a new saint as your patron. Is there a saint whom you admire as a role model or whose life has inspired you?

Why Choose a Saint?

As Catholics, we believe that many who have gone before us are in heaven, having reached the ultimate goal of eternal life and glory with God. We venerate such saints as models of the Christian life on earth. We may also ask them to pray (intercede) to God on our behalf.

How Do I Choose?

First, pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you find a saint or blessed who inspires you. Do some research on your first and middle names. Are you named after a particular saint or biblical figure? If so, see if this saint captures your interest through specific qualities or life struggles. Ideally, the Bishops would like us to make the connection with our given baptismal name in the final sacrament of initiation, Confirmation. However, if you do not connect to that particular Christian’s story, you have the option to research a new Christian name, and that will be the name given to you for Confirmation. In both cases, this is the name you will designate as your “Confirmation Name” for our parish records.

Confirmation Name Paper

Your paper does not have to be complex, but it should be at least one page. It might contain the following:

- ◆ Saint or biblical figure’s biography: What did this person do to become a saint? Where was he/she born? What does the saint represent? Is the saint a patron of any particular group?
- ◆ What inspires you most about this saint’s life? What drew you to this saint?
- ◆ What is a lesson you can learn from this saint?
- ◆ How can this saint help you follow your faith?

Recommended Websites:

<http://catholicsaints.info/>

www.catholic.org/saints/

www.archmil.org/YouthEv/Confirmation-Names.htm

www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day

www.newadvent.org/

Name Papers due Dec. 9th

“Here I am Lord. I’ve come to do your will.”

With Jesus as our model, we all must seek to live a life that responds to the needs of others. The mission of the Catholic faith goes beyond the walls of the Church. Finding out who you are and how you can use the gifts that God has given you are important steps in living a life of discipleship. God will call you to serve others.

Scheduled *Disciples in Action* (DIA) Activities will give confirmands opportunities to work together on projects that will help those in need both in their parish and in the community. DIA activities are for candidates only.

All Candidates will undertake a service activity with their sponsor. (See p. 4 for more information)
Focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy listed on the following page. Other service ideas are listed below.

Service and Ministry Opportunities Within the Church

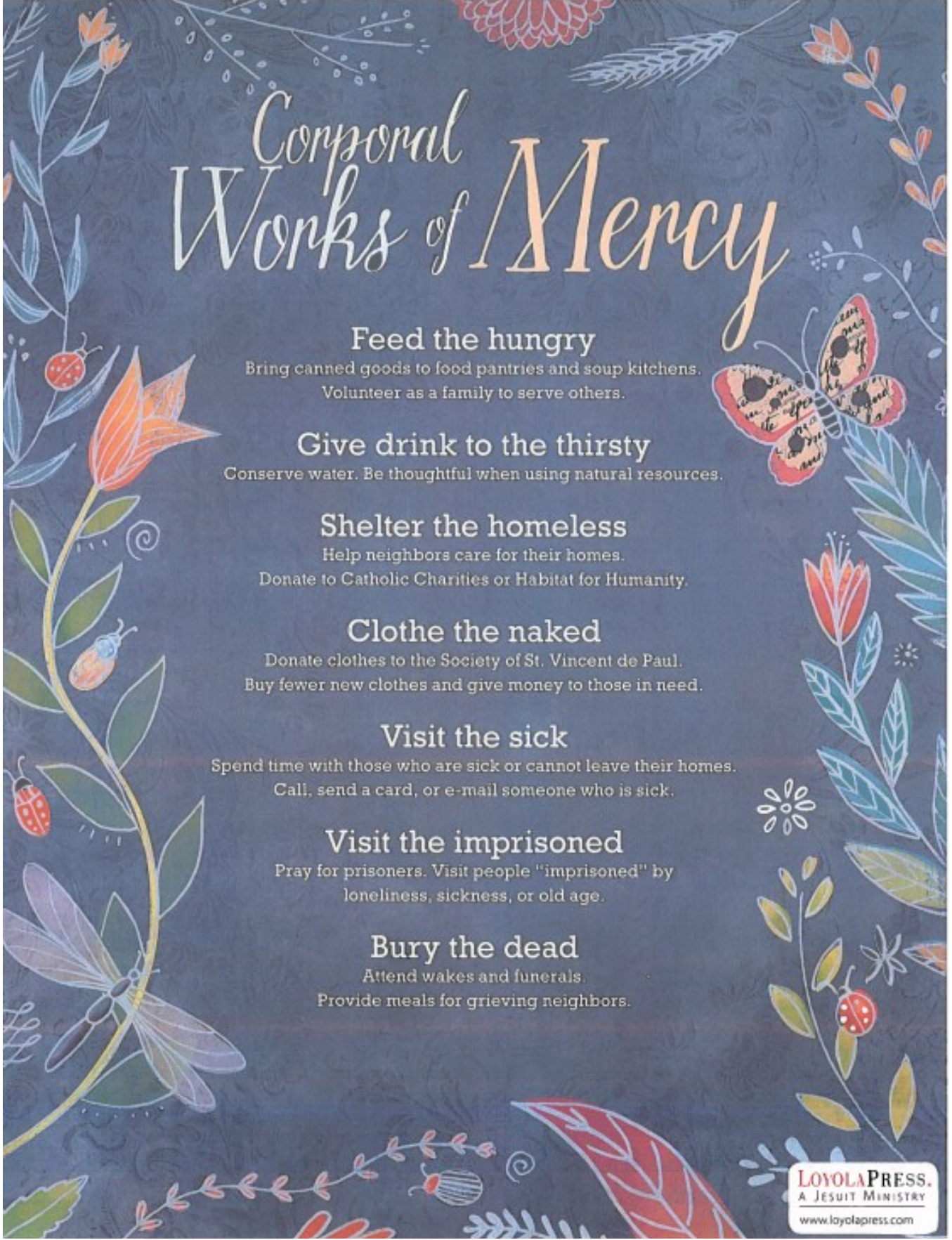
- ◆ Liturgical ministry (Mass): Altar Server / Lector/ Choir / Instruments / Usher / Technology
- ◆ Children’s Liturgy of the Word volunteer
- ◆ Gardening volunteers
- ◆ Assist with festivals and celebrations

Service Ideas – Local Organizations

Research local organizations for volunteer and service opportunities. Focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy, as we are called to serve those most in need. The list below may guide you in your selection of a service activity, but it is by no means exhaustive.

- ◆ Eagle Food Pantry
- ◆ East Troy Food Pantry
- ◆ Mukwonago Food Pantry
- ◆ Volunteer to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society– St. James or St. Theresa
- ◆ Heritage Independent Living, East Troy
- ◆ Linden Grove Communities, Mukwonago Campus
- ◆ Retzer Nature Center (www.waukeshacounty.gov/retzernaturecenter)
- ◆ Salvation Army
- ◆ Capuchin Community Services (Contact: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org)
- ◆ Donna Lexa Art Center (Volunteer Coordinator 262-521-2292)
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Hebron House of Hospitality and Sienna House (Email Jennifer: jrowedder@hebronhouse.org)
- ◆ Hope Center, Waukesha (www.hopecenterwi.org)
- ◆ Katy’s Klostet, Waukesha
- ◆ Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council
- ◆ Special Olympics (www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/getinvolved/volunteer)

Amen. I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)



corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry

Bring canned goods to food pantries and soup kitchens.
Volunteer as a family to serve others.

Give drink to the thirsty

Conserve water. Be thoughtful when using natural resources.

Shelter the homeless

Help neighbors care for their homes.
Donate to Catholic Charities or Habitat for Humanity.

Clothe the naked

Donate clothes to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
Buy fewer new clothes and give money to those in need.

Visit the sick

Spend time with those who are sick or cannot leave their homes.
Call, send a card, or e-mail someone who is sick.

Visit the imprisoned

Pray for prisoners. Visit people "imprisoned" by
loneliness, sickness, or old age.

Bury the dead

Attend wakes and funerals.
Provide meals for grieving neighbors.

Important Program Dates

The activities listed below are for all Confirmands (Summer or Wednesday evening session)

Date	Event	Notes
June 15th-19th Monday-Friday @9:30am-3:30pm	Summer Confirmation Sunday Evening bonfire (14th)	Week-long intensive option Substitutes the traditional Wednesday evening classes. Confirmands must be able to commit to the entire week (Call if needing appropriate flexibility)
October 1st Thursday @ 6:30pm	Parent Night @ SJL Fellowship Hall (Confirmands do not attend)	Social evening with presentation on requirements of the Confirmation program, and a prayerful talk by a guest speaker on the domestic Church..
November 5th Thursday @ 6:30pm	Sponsor Night @ SJL Fellowship Hall (Confirmands attend w/ sponsor) Sponsor Information Sheets due	Submit to Thaddeus Loduha loduhat@stjmuk.org OR bring to event Sponsor Form Found HERE
December 9th Wednesday	Saint Name Papers Due (Also called Confirmation Name) 1st Sponsor Reflection Due	Submit to Thaddeus Loduha loduhat@stjmuk.org OR bring to class Name papers must be typed (Guidelines in Handbook) Both Forms Found HERE
January 9th-10th Sat—Sun	Confirmation Retreat Alt. Retreat Options Available	Pallotti Retreat Center Elkhorn Essential component of Confirmation program.
January 27th Wednesday	2nd Sponsor Reflection Due	Form Found HERE
February 24th Wednesday	3rd Sponsor Reflection Due	Form Found HERE
March 31st Wednesday	Candidate Questionnaires Due Service Slip Due	Candidate Questionnaire must be typed Questionnaire & Instructions Found HERE Service Slip Found HERE
May 6th Thursday @5:45pm	Confirmation Rehearsal + Mass Practice Sheet Found on SJL website	5:45pm Rehearsal @ SJL Sponsors attend with Confirmation candidates 7:00pm Mass @ SJL
After Confirmation	4th Sponsor "Reflection" (Consider making this a monthly event! - No submission required)	Select a date to meet or talk one month after Confirmation. Perhaps go out to dinner or plan a fun activity together and discuss.

- ♦ **Holy days** are what Catholics refer to as holidays within the liturgical calendar. **Every Sunday** is considered a Holy Day of Obligation, as are six other solemnities within the Church year. The Eucharist is at the heart of our worship and strengthens us with grace to grow in faith. Don't miss out on the great gift of Sunday!
- ♦ The sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered regularly at the following times.
St. Peter: Saturdays 9:00-9:30 am
St. Theresa: Saturdays 3:45-4:15 pm
St. James: Saturdays 3:00-3:30 pm; Wednesdays 5:00-5:45 pm

Encouragement

Sponsors, please encourage your candidate to:

- ◆ Actively participate in all program elements, including attending Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- ◆ Be respectful of catechists, facilitators, and other candidates.
- ◆ Develop their prayer life.
- ◆ Receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ◆ Keep an open mind and heart.
- ◆ Be present; put away cell phones unless otherwise indicated by a catechist.

Prayer for Your Candidate

Come Holy Spirit, enlighten [Name].
Open his/her heart to see the gift of
your presence in all of life.

Give [Name] wisdom to make good choices,
courage to stand up for right things,
and perseverance and fortitude to live
as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen

Thank you for taking the time to review this packet. We hope to make this year a very special time for our confirmands, sponsors, and families. If you have a question, comment, or concern, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thaddeus D Loduha
Youth Formation Coordinator
loduhat@stjmuk.org
262-395-0176 (Cell)
262-363-7615 x 108 (Office)

