

St. Benedict Catholic Church

Confirmation Handbook

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REQUIRMENT		DUE DATE
1	Baptismal Certificate	October 19, 2018
2	Retreat Registration	November 2 , 2018
3	Saint Name Report	November 16 , 2018
4	Mandatory Retreat	November 19 (School) and 20 (Rel Ed & VMA), 2018
5	Sponsor Certificate	February 8, 2019
6	Bishop's Letter of Request	February 25, 2019
7	"Works of Mercy" log sheet	March 1, 2019
8	Confirmation Interview	March 10 and 13, 2019

Mass Attendance

Participation in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents (along with the rest of the family) must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. This is also an important way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place on the faith they are handing on to their children. Worshipping as a community we build up the Body of Christ. If your family has not been attending Mass regularly in the past, we are confident that by doing so you will notice many benefits by the time Confirmation approaches.

Mass attendance is a REQUIREMENT for our Confirmation Program. Every student is asked to sign the Confirmation book after Mass. The book will be located near the altar after every weekend Mass.

Every Catholic has the right to attend Mass anywhere the Mass is offered. As such, you are welcome to attend Mass at another church if need, but we ask that attain a bulletin from church where you attended Mass. This bulletin should be LEGIBLY signed by the priest from that parish and then brought to the student's next religion class.

Our Mass schedule here at St. Benedict's is Saturday evening at 4:00pm and Sunday at 7:00am; 8:00am (Italian Mass); 9:30am; 11:00am; and 7:00pm.

Traveling for work, sports, dance, family obligation, etc. is never an excuse to miss Mass. This website will help you find a church for Mass wherever you are: <https://masstimes.org>

Confirmation Sponsor

Choosing Your Sponsor—It is a very ancient custom of the Church that candidates for Confirmation select a sponsor who will help them persevere in the faith. They represent the Christian community, and are to see that the newly confirmed act as true witnesses of Christ living out the obligations of the Sacrament.

When choosing a sponsor for yourself please ask:

- Why am I choosing this person?
- Does he/she share and live his/her Catholic faith?
- Is he/she mature, confirmed, and practicing his/her faith?
- Does this person exhibit his/her commitment to Christ and the Church?
- Does the person have knowledge of his/her faith?

You should not make this decision simply based on friendship or to repay a favor. Your sponsor shows you how to live the Catholic faith by their example. Please pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

If your sponsor cannot be present for the Confirmation ceremony, you will have to choose a proxy. The qualifications for a proxy are the same as those required for a sponsor. The proxy must also obtain certification from the parish in which he or she is registered.

The requirements of the church for serving as sponsor are:

- 1. The person designated is at least 16 years of age.**
- 2. The person designated is confirmed.**
- 3. The person designated partakes in the Eucharist, lives in accord with Church teaching including Her moral expectations, and actively practices their Faith.**
- 4. The person designated is Catholic.**
- 5. The person designated CANNOT be your mother or father.**
- 6. It is desirable that the person who undertook the role of Godparent at Baptism should also be designated sponsor at Confirmation.**
- 7. The person designated must obtain certification to be your sponsor. See the information below.**

Confirmation Sponsor Certification: Your sponsor must go to their parish and present the form titled, "Confirmation Sponsor Certification", to your parish priest. He will sign the document and affix that parish's seal testifying that he/she meets all the requirements of a sponsor.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

Please print clearly.

NAME OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE: _____

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) The sponsor must be 16 years of age or older.
- 2) He/she has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- 3) He/she is a practicing Catholic who can receive Eucharist (Communion) at Mass.
- 4) If married, he/she is married in the Catholic Church, or if single, he/she is not cohabiting.
- 5) He/she is **not** the parent of the Confirmation candidate.

NAME OF SPONSOR (as should appear on Confirmation certificate/registry):

I meet all the requirements listed above and will have this form signed by my own parish priest.

Sponsor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____ **City/State** _____

My relationship to the candidate: _____

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR'S PARISH PRIEST:

The sponsor above is a member of our parish, and to the best of my knowledge, is a practicing Catholic in good standing and qualified to act as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Signature of Priest: _____ **Date:** _____

Return to: St. Benedict Church – Religious Education
2969 Otis Ave
Bronx, N.Y. 10465

Parish Seal

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME REPORT

Almost everyone has two names: A first name and a last name. Your first name tells others who you are. Your last name tells others what family you belong to.

Names are a sign of identity. Maybe you were named after a saint, a family member, or both. If so, you may draw inspiration from the way they lived their lives, especially in the service of God and the Church. Your name probably means something too. For instance, my name, Matthew, means “gift of God,” and this identity motivates me to try to be a gift, and be generous with what God has given me.

One of the benefits of the Sacrament of Confirmation is choosing, or reaffirming, your Christian identity by choosing a new confirmation name or sticking with your baptismal name. Because the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity to enter into a deeper relationship with God and with the Church, the Church asks you to either reaffirm your Catholic-Christian identity by being confirmed with your baptismal name, or by choosing a new name, one of a saint or blessed in the Church, from whom you will draw inspiration. The Church’s preference is that you are confirmed with your baptismal name, if it meets the aforementioned condition, but all candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation, are invited to choose a new name for their Confirmation if they desire to. Your confirmation name is used in the ceremony.

Candidates are required to complete the “Confirmation Saint Name Report” sheet and return it to their catechist (teacher) or the Office of Religious Education.

Some websites that might help for your research: www.catholicsaints.com; www.catholiconline.com; or www.ewtn.com

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME REPORT

CANDIDATE'S NAME:

Name of chosen saint: _____

Saint's date or year of birth: _____

Saint's date or year of death: _____

Country/Area where saint was born or lived: _____

Brief summary of saint's life and accomplishments:

When was this saint canonized? _____

Why did you choose this saint?

Please Neatly hand-write, filling in each blank! NO "one sentence" answers. You may use another sheet to answer

Retreat Information

As part of the preparation for Confirmation we ask every student to participate in a Retreat experience. The retreat experience allows the candidates a time and space 'set apart' from normal life to be intentionally with God and with each other. Specifically, a confirmation retreat is meant to nurture the personal integration of what is taught in a catechetical program. It is often through a retreat process – in a space free of distractions – that the young person is able to have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus and to discover a personal connection to the love of God and His Church. The retreat is thus an opportunity for them to listen, to contemplate what God is calling them to and to respond to God speaking into their heart.

The retreats will be done during school hours. In the past, all students have been able to receive an **excused absence** from their school.

Our Retreat Dates for this year are as follows:

- **St. Benedict's School Retreat – Monday November 19th, 2018.** This retreat will be conducted in-house. Mr. Vitiello will follow up with the school families about the times and details.

- **St. Benedict's Religious Ed. and Villa Maria Academy Retreat – Tuesday November 20th, 2018.** This retreat will take place at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Scarsdale. Students are asked to be dropped off at St. Benedict's by 8:30AM on the retreat day. They will be bused to Our Lady of Fatima. The retreat will be from 9:30AM – 1:30PM and the students will return to St. Benedict's at 2:00PM for pick up. **The cost will be \$45.00 per student.** This will include the site, the bus, and lunch.

WORKS OF MERCY

The Works of Mercy component of our Confirmation Program is designed to help you learn what unselfish service really means. You are expected to complete at least ten **(10) hours** of service as part of your Confirmation Program. You are urged to perform far more than the mere **10 hours** minimum and to continue to help others in these ways after your Confirmation.

You may complete this service individually or as part of a group. These service projects are to be **your** free expression of sincere Christian help for others.

These projects are some examples of Confirmation service hour possibilities.

1. Help as a teacher's aide in the Religious Education (CCD) program.
2. Set up for parish events.
3. Help serve at First Communion, Confirmation and other parish receptions or dinners.
4. Help serve coffee and doughnuts after Mass on the monthly Welcome Sundays
5. Assist senior citizens with their chores.
6. Rake leaves, shovel snow, and help the elderly and poor.
7. Visit the elderly in nursing homes (Providence Rest and/or Throgs Neck).
8. Help shut-ins, that is, the elderly or those who are infirm and unable to leave their homes.
9. Help a needy family.
10. Help prepare Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.
11. Work at a food pantry or soup kitchen.
12. Collect and distribute clothing and personal items for the homeless.
13. Collect and distribute baby clothes for a pregnancy crisis center.
14. Special projects for others over and above regular jobs or chores.
15. Read to the blind, and/or contribute your services to the local library.
16. Aide your own school or neighborhood day care centers.
17. Tutor one of your peers or a younger student.
18. Initiate clean-up campaigns and collect bottles and cans for recycling.
19. Help with an existing recycling project.

LETTER OF REQUEST

As a Confirmation Candidate, you will write a letter to **Bishop James Massa**, the bishop who will be administering Confirmation, requesting permission to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the letter, you must indicate your readiness and desire to receive Confirmation. Please mention something about yourself, the school you attend, and something about your family. In your own words, explain how you have become more knowledgeable about the truths of the Catholic faith through your religious instruction classes, and are prepared to profess this faith, as well as, assume responsibility to spread and defend it. You are also welcome to share something about your Confirmation saint's name, such as, what impressed you about your saint. You may also want to include something about your service projects.

Drafts of these letters will be written in-class and then sent home with the student so final, typed copy can be made.

Candidates are required to complete the "Bishop's Letter of Request" sheet and return it to their catechist (teacher) or the Office of Religious Education.

Please make sure that your writing is clean, legible and readable. Use proper grammatical skills (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.)

Confirmation Date and Rehearsal Dates

There will be two Confirmation Masses on the **SAME DAY, Saturday, April 6, 2019.** The first Confirmation is at **9:30am** (**St. Benedict's School and RE (CCD) Wednesday**). The second Confirmation is at **12:00pm** (**Villa Maria Academy and RE (CCD) Sunday.**)

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE FOR THE 9:30am MASS:

Tuesday, April 2nd from 7:00pm – 8:15pm Candidates AND Sponsors (or substitutes)

Practice begins promptly at 7:00pm

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE FOR THE 12:00pm MASS:

Thursday, April 4th from 7:00pm – 8:15pm Candidates AND Sponsors (or substitutes)

Practice begins promptly at 7:00pm