

The Sacrament of Confirmation

ST. BENEDICT
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



Information for
Parents/Gaurdians and Students

St. Benedict Catholic Church and School
165 Bethany Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733

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165 Bethany Road
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Phone: 732.264.4712
Fax: 732.264.9080
www.stbenedictnj.org

September 2017

Dear Confirmation Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we watch our children grow physically, emotionally, and intellectually he/she also grows spiritually. You have seen that your child has been initiated in our faith through Baptism and the Eucharist. Now it is time for your child to make a lifetime commitment to our faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation and complete the Sacraments of Initiation.

In preparing your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation, consider the following points:

- Do I make time for prayer?
- Do I participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do we attend Mass as a family?
- Do I try to grow in the knowledge of faith and share it with my family?
- Am I involved with parish activities as much as I could be?

Attached are materials which explain the Confirmation process. Please read through these materials carefully and discuss them with your child.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. for St. Benedict School and 4:00 p.m. for Religious Education. Rev. Monsignor Thomas J. Mullelly will be the celebrant.

It is important that the information requested in this packet be returned to us as soon as possible. The deadlines are outlined in the packet.

Be assured that you and your child are in the prayers of the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have any questions regarding the information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Denise Contino
Director of Faith Formation
contino@stbenedictnj.org

St. Benedict Confirmation Information Form 2017/2018

Name of candidate(as it is to appear on the Certificate)(example: First Name / Middle Name / Confirmation Name/ Last Name:)

Please Circle: St. Benedict School or Parish Program

Home Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Name (include maiden name): _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____

Date & Church/Town of Baptism: _____

Date & Church of First Holy Eucharist: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Confirmation Sponsor: _____

Sponsor Relationship to Confirmandi: _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Parish Name and Place: _____

The Sponsor must fulfill the following requirements according to Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law:

1. Sponsor must be 16 years of age.
2. Sponsor must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
3. Sponsor, if married, their marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church
4. Sponsor may not be a parent.
5. Sponsor must be practicing Catholic (i.e. attend Church at their home parish)

The candidate will be required to obtain a sponsor certificate from the Catholic Church they attend that will testify to the above. If the sponsor is a parishioner at St. Benedict's, the Religious Education office will check the computer census to determine the above; therefore no certificate is necessary.

Height: _____

(This information is required)

Return Completed Form to the RE Office no later than Nov. 5, 2017.

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Calendar of Events / Important Information for Confirmandi and Parents 2017/18

Confirmation forms/paper work:

These requirements are due on November 5, 2017 for RE and November 6, 2017 for SBS.

1. Confirmation Information Form
2. Confirmation Saint Report
3. Sponsor certificate

Confirmation Retreat: All students are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Penance Service: All candidates are required to attend a Penance service on Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Candidates will be asked to arrive at 5:45p.m. to check in with their catechist/teacher. All families are invited and will also have the opportunity to receive the sacrament.

Community Service: All students are required to complete a total of 20 hours of service by February 11, 2018 along with the completed essay.

Mass: Continue to celebrate your commitment by attending Mass weekly and on Holy Days.

Confirmation Practice:

Religious Education students: Sunday, March 18, 2018 during regular class time and Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

St. Benedict School students: Rehearsal will be conducted while in school.

Sponsor is not required to attend practice.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. for St. Benedict School students and 4:00 p.m. for Religious Education students with Rev. Monsignor Thomas J. Mullelly officiating. All Confirmandi are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the ceremony with your sponsor.

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Choosing a Confirmation Name

*Fear not for I have redeemed you: I have called you
by name and you are mine. Is 43:1*

A Confirmation name that is chosen is to be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. This saint would symbolize a new beginning in your faith journey with Christ. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name because of the Christian life they have led.

Saint Report – Due Date: Sunday, November 5, 2017 for Religious Education and Monday, November 6, 2017 for St. Benedict School.

The Candidate is required to complete at least a one page report on their chosen Saint. The report must include what the Saint did during their life, where and when they were born, and when they were canonized (if possible). The report should also include why they picked this name and Saint.

The report can be hand written or typed. If typed the following format must be used:

- Times New Roman
- 12 point font -- black
- Double spaced

This is an outline to help organize the report:

Name of Saint

Saint's place of birth

Saints Family

Saints Occupation

Life and death of your chosen Saint.

What virtues did this saint practice in his/her life?

What aspect of this Saint's Christian life attracted you?

How is this saint a model for Christians today?

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The Role of the Sponsor

Candidates for the sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation need a sponsor. Each candidate is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the baptismal sponsor (godparent) also be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that men must be sponsors for boys and women must be sponsors for girls. A parent cannot be chosen as the sponsor.

The sponsor is a Catholic who knows the ways of faith and will be able to help the person who is receiving the sacrament to begin living the faith in the Catholic Church more fully.

There are certain qualifications that Church has for sponsors. Consider choosing a sponsor after considerable reflection and responses to the following questions. The answer to the questions must be yes for your sponsor to be eligible according to the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

- My sponsor is 16 years old or older. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor is a baptized Catholic (or has made a profession of faith in the case of a conversion to the catholic Faith.) (Yes or No)
- My sponsor has been confirmed in the Catholic Church. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor is a practicing Catholic and attends Mass weekly. (Yes or No)
- If my sponsor is married, he/she was married in the Catholic Church. (Yes or No)
- My sponsor can obtain a certificate from his/her parish that they are a Catholic in good standing. (Every sponsor needs one.) (Yes or No)

If you answered "NO" to any one of the questions above, then that person cannot be a sponsor according to the Code of Canon Law (Church rules).

This guideline is given to you to help you in choosing a sponsor. Do not return it with answers. It is to help you choose a person who will be eligible.

Any questions can be directed to the Faith Formation office at 732/264-4712 X24 or cesario@stbenedictnj.org or contino@stbenedictnj.org



Parent Check off List:

- Read all information in the booklet
- Complete the Confirmation information sheet
- Complete Saint Report
- Attach sponsor certificate
- Christian service form completed with signatures
- Christian service essay
- Mark your calendar with all important dates
- Hand in all forms on time

You're finished, AMEN.