



**Youth Faith
Formation**

St. Raphael Confirmation



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to St. Raphael Catholic Church Confirmation program! As fathers, mothers and caretakers you are the first and most important teacher for your child/children. No Catechist or priest, no matter how effective, can replace the influence you alone have on whether your child has a living faith in God, in the Catholic Church, and in the Sacraments. Faith Formation is unlike any other subject at school because it does require faith. For faith to be passed on, children need examples to follow. Again, there is no one who influences your child/children more than you, especially when it comes to passing on your belief and faith in Jesus Christ! Our amazing and dedicated Catechists are committed to this partnership with YOU! Our Faith Formation program is meant to support parents in the Catholic Education of their children.

The most important thing we can do through this program as teachers, leaders, and parents is to make sure our young Church have that personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Our mission is the same as the Great Commission found in the gospel of Matthew (28:16-20) when Jesus told His Apostles to go out and make Disciples. We want to be Disciples and to make Disciples of Christ.

Confirmation is the third and final sacrament of initiation that completes the grace we receive from baptism. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (CCC 1285).

Confirmation preparation is a two-year process beginning in 8th grade. Following accordingly, Candidates must complete all necessary components of the program for two years to be eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This journey is not meant to be traveled alone. The parents and the Candidate's sponsor should be walking and praying with the Candidate on this journey throughout the entire 2 year preparation. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Youth Faith Formation Office at any time.

Peace and God Bless

Michele Kmety

St. Raphael-Director of Youth Faith Formation

Mkmety@st-raphael.com

St. Raphael Confirmation Program Requirements

- ◆ Attend and fully participate in all scheduled class meetings. Participation is very important, we want the Confirmation students actively engaged in the discussions, prayers, icebreakers, etc. They should complete all work assigned to them by their Catechist.
- ◆ Attend Mass weekly as a family. Attending class does NOT replace the need/obligation to attend mass on a weekly basis.
- ◆ Confirmation Record Form should be returned no later than **November 17th, of 8th grade.**
- ◆ Confirmation Eligibility Sponsor Form should be turned in as soon as the Candidate chooses a sponsor, no later than **January of 9th grade.** The Candidate's Sponsor should be chosen within the first month of the program so they can be involved throughout the Confirmation journey. The parish seal of the sponsor's parish must be present on the form unless the sponsor is a member of St. Raphael's.
- ◆ Confirmation Name Form returned by **December 1st of 9th grade.** The Confirmation or Saint name can be any Saint that is recognized as such by the Catholic Church. Research on the history of the saint should be done so that the saint chosen is meaningful to the Candidate.
- ◆ Saint Project/Paper completed at the direction of the Catechists. Most Catechists will spend 1 or 2 class times writing the papers as a group. This needs to be turned in by the **May 1st of 9th grade.**
- ◆ Letter to the Pastor should be written as soon as the Candidate feels confident enough to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. This will need to be turned in by **May 1st of 9th grade.**
- ◆ Attend a **Mandatory** 1 day retreat, either in February or May during 9th grade preparation. Exact dates for the Confirmation Retreats will be confirmed and passed onto families as soon as the dates are scheduled. The Confirmation retreat is a vital part of the Confirmation journey. If your family has a major conflict not including sports, school activities, or other club activities please contact Michele Kmety for other options which may include attending a retreat at another parish. If we are unable to come up with a suitable alternative Confirmation may be deferred until they are able to attend a retreat.



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Christian Service Hour Form

(One form for EACH event served)

Name of Candidate: _____

Name of Catechist: _____

Place and date of Service: _____

Total Hours Served: _____

Description of Service: _____

What contribution did you make to society or another's life by the ministry/service you did? _____

What did you like/dislike about this service: _____

Title and Signature of Person in Charge of Service Event

Title _____ Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

- ◆ Complete **15 hours** of community service over the two year preparation. Families are encouraged to participate in the service project with the Candidate. There are many community opportunities that are available: Feed My Starving Children, Hesed House, Nursing Homes, yard work for a neighbor. We will also offer several opportunities to help out here at the parish. When we have opportunities available, Michele will send out an email with the event details. These opportunities are filled on a first come first serve basis. The service hour form must be filled out for **EACH** service completed. These can be turned into the Catechist as they are completed. We will record them and keep track for you. There is a maximum of 4 hours earned for each service event. The Candidate must do a minimum of 4 different service experiences.

- ◆ Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once each year during preparation.

- ◆ The Candidate and their Sponsor will need to attend rehearsal, this will typically take place the week of Confirmation. If the Sponsor is unable to attend due to living out of state or other circumstances beyond control, a proxy must stand in for rehearsal.



**Youth Faith
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CONFIRMATION RECORD FORM

Please fill out this form COMPLETELY and accurately. Information on this form will go into your child's permanent record. **Please return to the YFF Office no later than November 17th 2024.**

Candidate's Full Name

First Middle Last

Parents' Names (include mother's maiden name)

Father's Full Name Mother's Full Name with Maiden Name

Address

Street City State Zip

Baptismal Parish Name, City and Date

Parish Name City Date of Baptism

First Eucharist Parish Name and Date _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Name

First Middle Last

CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

The selection of a Confirmation Sponsor is an important step in your journey to Confirmation and should be undertaken seriously and prayerfully. A sponsor should be someone whom you admire as a practicing Catholic, someone you would feel comfortable going to with questions about faith. Your sponsor is a role model whom you ask to stand by you in your faith journey and help you grow as a Christian. As an outward sign of their spiritual commitment to you, your sponsor will stand with you when you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are important steps in that selection process:

1. Choose your Sponsor:

A. Pray about whom you would like to be your Sponsor. Talk to your parents and/or other trusted adults about your options but remember that the choice is ultimately yours.

B. Make sure that your Sponsor meets the following requirements. These are requirements set forth by the Catholic Church, not our parish and so exceptions cannot be made to any of the following:

- A sponsor must be Catholic who actively practices the faith.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old and already be Confirmed.
- If married, the marriage must be valid according to Church law.
- A sponsor may not be the parent of the candidate.
- A sponsor need not be the same gender as the candidate.
- A sponsor will support the candidate in their commitment to the Catholic Church.

2. Ask your Sponsor:

A. After making your choice, ask! Be sure to explain to your Sponsor why you have chosen him/her.

All sponsors must complete the Certificate of Eligibility (found on the next page) and have it signed and sealed by their parish. This form should be given to your Sponsor as soon as you choose him/her. Please do not wait, once the form is completed it will need to be turned into the YFF Office. This must be turned in by the end of 8th grade preparation.



St. Raphael Catholic Church 1215 Modaff Rd., Naperville, IL 60540

Confirmation Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility

Sponsor For: _____
(Name of Confirmation Candidate)

Sponsor Information

I _____
(Please print first and last name, initial each statement below and sign)

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

___ I am at least 16 years of age. I am a practicing Catholic and I have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.

___ I participate in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.

___ I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the community life of the Church by my loving response to those with whom I come in contact.

___ I realize that I assume a great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a sponsor and will faithfully fulfill the obligations connected with it. I will give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the Christian example of my daily life.

By my signature I attest to the truth of these statements.

(Sponsor Signature)

MUST BE COMPLETED AND STAMPED WITH SEAL BY THE SPONSOR'S CURRENT PARISH

Priest Signature _____
(must be signed by a Roman Catholic Priest at your current parish.)

Church Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Date _____





Choosing a Confirmation Name

When you are confirmed you will be given the option to choose a separate Confirmation name. Although there is no obligation to select a Confirmation name that is different from the name you were given at Baptism, you should choose the name of a canonized saint for your Confirmation name.

Importance of Names

Your parents probably spent many hours thinking about what they would name you. Your name may have been chosen to honor a relative or a saint who is revered by your family or culture. While it is customary to use the names of saints as baptismal names, the Church now permits other names at baptism as long as they are not incompatible with the Christian faith. However your baptismal name was chosen, it is now part of your history and identity.

A Confirmation Name

Taking a new name at Confirmation can be can be symbolic of a new or deeper stage in your faith life. There are several Scripture stories of people whose names changed after they experience a conversion: Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul. Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity for you to reflect on how you want to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you choose a name other than your baptismal name, look to saints and holy people who are truly witnesses of faith for you. Choose the name of a saint you admire and whom you want to be your patron

CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME AT BAPTISM

CONFIRMATION NAME CHOSEN

Confirmation Saint Report

As Catholics, we believe in the Communion of Saints. We believe that the saints in heaven are examples for our life, intercede for us, and can help us to be strong disciples of Christ.

You have a choice to keep your baptismal name. If you use your baptismal name, it must be the name of a saint or someone who has been beatified. You may also choose to add a name, to signify your new and deeper awareness of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. If the choice is made to add a new name, it must be the name of a saint or someone who has been beatified. In either case, it should reflect a saint whom you admire and would like to imitate. The chosen saint will become the name listed as your Confirmation Name in official Church records.

Before writing the report, you should complete the Saint Fact Sheet (next Page). It will guide you on what to include in your 3 paragraph paper. Please note: if you later decide to change your Confirmation name, you will be required to write a new report. Please follow the directions below when completing your report. DO NOT just copy and paste information found on the internet.

Format– Your report should consist of 3 complete paragraphs as outlined in the Saint Fact Sheet and be typed size 12 font. It should be double spaced with 1 inch margins.

Be sure to include your FULL Name at the top of the report.

Good websites for research:

www.catholic.org

www.catholic-saints.info

www.catholicsaints.info

Www.franciscanmedia.org/saints.com

DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA

Your Saint Report will be due on or before May 1st at the end of your 9th grade preparation.

Confirmation Saint Report Fact Sheet

Complete this fact sheet Before writing your report. This will help you gather the information and then be able to **write your report in your own words.**

Paragraph One: Introduce your Saint—General Information

1. Name of Saint:
2. Year of Birth:
3. Place of Birth/ Where is he/she from:
4. What is their Feast Day:
5. Is your Saint considered a Patron Saint? Yes/No
6. Patron Saint over what area of life:
7. Date of Death:
8. Date of Canonization:

Paragraph Two: History of the Saint

1. Tell about the life of your saint (family background, education, skills, training, interests)
2. What is your saint best known for? Any accomplishments, charities?
3. Was your saint a martyr? If so, what does that mean?
4. List 2 additional facts about your saint.
5. Explain why your saint was named a saint.

Paragraph Three-Why YOU chose this Saint

1. What do you admire about the saint you have selected as your Confirmation name?
2. What are the reasons you selected this saint as your Confirmation name?
3. Which Gifts of the Holy Spirit ca you identify with your saint?
4. How can you imitate him/her in your life or be more like your saint?
5. What message did he/she leave for the world?
6. Include a short, self-written prayer to your saint asking him/her to pray for you as you journey towards Confirmation. Pray this prayer often to help develop a lasting relationship with this saint.

Letter to the Pastor

Each Confirmation Candidate is required to write a personal letter to the Pastor requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. The letter must include the information below.

- ◆ **Address the letter “Very Reverend Father Dan Bachner”**
- ◆ **Paragraph 1:** Introduce yourself and request the Sacrament of Confirmation for yourself, indicating why you want to be confirmed and what Confirmation means to you.
- ◆ **Paragraph 2:** Describe how you have prepared for the Sacrament. Include specifics: your prayer life, your celebration of other sacraments(going to confession and Mass), your service projects, etc. Include what you find most enjoyable as you prepare and what things have challenged you.
- ◆ **Paragraph 3:** Describe why you chose the Confirmation name that you did.
- ◆ **Paragraph 4:** Relate how you have accepted the responsibility of living a Christian life through service to God and others and how you will continue to serve others in the future. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the faith real and live in the future and how the strengthened gifts of the Holy Spirit will be put to use.
- ◆ Conclude your letter and thank Father.
- ◆ End your letter with *Respectfully submitted* and sign with your complete signature.

Things to remember when writing the letter:

- ◆ Letter should be typed (Times New Roman, 12 font, 1 inch margins)
- ◆ Letter should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.
- ◆ Letter should be signed and dated, be sure to include your printed name below your signature.

LETTER MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN MAY 1ST OF 9TH GRADE!!