

**CONFIRMATION
PARENT/STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2024 – 2025**



**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES
OF
ST. PHILOMENA & ST. MICHAEL**

Confirmation Parent/Student Handbook 2024 - 2025

Roman Catholic Church of St. Philomena/St. Michael

It is the mission of our Parish Family of St. Philomena/St. Michael to spread the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

The two-year Confirmation program of St. Philomena/St. Michael is committed to assist families in their efforts to teach their children the beliefs and practices of our Roman Catholic Faith, as set forth by our Lord Jesus Christ, through His Church.

“Though the influence of peers and of adult catechists is important, catechetical programs are not intended to supplant parents as the primary educators of their children.”⁽¹⁾ St. Philomena/St. Michael recognizes this and seeks to provide a learning environment that will reinforce the Roman Catholic ideals and practices students learn at home.

As role models, we try to create an atmosphere in which we all can:

- * seek to become more Christ-like;
- * grow in knowledge and Faith;
- * bear witness to the truth of the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church, by practicing the Faith

(1) Quotation from Sharing the Light of Faith. National Catechetical Directory for Catholics of the United States. Chapter X – Article 229.

PRIMARY GOAL OF CONFIRMATION

The primary goal of the St. Philomena/St. Michael confirmation program is to increase the student’s realization of God’s infinite love for us and to enhance their response to His love by greater sharing and caring for each other. We strive to achieve this goal by teaching the fundamentals and fostering the understanding of our Roman Catholic faith. This includes study of sacred

Scripture, Church doctrine, values, devotional practices and history.

We emphasize Jesus' life and mission and the blessing received when we imitate Him in our lives. We advocate the use of individual prayer and communal worship, while promoting an on-going, life-long faith development process for every student and above all participation in the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, where Christ gives His own Body and Blood to sustain us in this life.

As the Creed is the story of the church, it is also the faith story of each member. The following themes have been chosen from the Creed as topics for the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation (SIP #102.4) God the Creator, The Ten Commandments, Jesus and the Paschal Mystery, Holy Spirit the Sanctifier, Church as Community of Life, Practice of Virtue, Sacraments and Sacraments of Initiation (History of Confirmation) and Symbols of the Spirit: Rite of Confirmation.

CLASS TIMES

Classes will meet on Sundays from 8:30am to 9:45am. If cancellation of a class should be necessary, it will be announced through a phone tree or e-mail.

ATTENDANCE

Weekly attendance is required. Tardiness disrupts class sessions. We realize that at rare times this cannot be helped so we ask that any student entering the room after class has started to do so in a quiet and orderly manner. Parents are welcome visitors in the classroom.

A parent/guardian of any student missing a class should contact the teacher. During the Confirmation year, the student is not to miss more than two classes per year without prior arrangements such as family emergency or very serious illness. All absences must be excused before class starts by the Teacher. All class work and homework missed must be completed and promptly

turned in. If attendance is not consistent, and proper arrangements have not been made, the Sacrament of Confirmation will most likely be deferred until the student is deemed properly prepared. The decision to repeat or extend the preparation process will come at the recommendation of the DRE, and conclude with the decision of the pastor.

DISCIPLINE

The conduct of students at St. Philomena shall be based on the sound principles of good behavior, with Christ Himself as the universal example. Honor and respect shall be shown to all catechists as an extension of the honor and respect shown to parents. Discipline, especially self-discipline, is necessary in every learning situation and must be fostered at all times. Students need kind, but firm, guidance from adults. Students are expected to respect all church property and the property of others.

Cell phones, text messaging and iPods are a disruption during class and therefore not necessary. The teacher has the right and obligation to remove them from any student. Cell phones, texting and iPods and anything else that becomes a disruption will be returned to the student after class.

A teacher having a student who continuously disrupts a class will report him/her to the parent. The teacher will, if a second offense occurs, contact the parent to pick up the student. A third offense will result in contacting Pastor and having a student return to class with his/her parent in attendance for one class. No student will be allowed back in class without meeting with Pastor. After meeting with Pastor, he will then determine if a student is allowed back in class. It is unfair to the teacher and the rest of the class to tolerate an unruly student. For extreme cases, see Diocesan Policy D-114.

PARENTS COOPERATION AND EXPECTATIONS

It is hoped that parents will always seek to cooperate with the teachers for the welfare of the student. If problems or questions

arise, it is important that the teachers and parents confer. Your helpful comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

Our Confirmation Class is not intended to be the primary education for the student faith development. We help to reinforce the religious ideals and practices that students learn in the home.

FOR OUR CONFIRMATION PROGRAM TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- Be an adult Christian example.
- See that students participate in the celebration of Mass **every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation**. Mass on Sundays and Holy Days are an integral part of the life of a Roman Catholic and is an outward and visible sign of our faith. Therefore, it is a privilege and an obligation for all parents and students to be a part of every Lord's Day Mass and Holy Day. "Remember, keep Holy the Lord's Day."
- Attend the scheduled Confirmation Parent Meeting each year. During this two-year program parents are required to attend all Confirmation Parent meetings.
- Continued involvement at home and in Confirmation related matters.
- Present good role models for student in regard to our Catholic Faith.
- Volunteer your time and talents in Church and in our local community however great or limited.
- Student attends every class, except for very serious reasons and call the teacher.
- Show an interest in what is being taught each week in Confirmation class.
- Phone the teacher for advice, to make comments, or to offer helpful suggestions.

- Be at St. Philomena's Church Hall promptly after Confirmation Class to pick up your student.

STUDENTS

Students should:

- Participate in Mass on the Lord's Day and on Holy Days of Obligation regularly and not leave Mass early.
- Participate regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance.
- Respect themselves and others.
- Answer politely in class.
- Respect St. Philomena's property, as well as their own and that of others.
- Be willing to learn more about the beliefs/practices of our Roman Catholic Faith.
- Devotional practices: Adoration/Benediction, Rosary, Stations of the Cross...

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

GOALS:

- (1) That the students will develop a realization and an appreciation of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- (2) That students will be led to a fuller understanding, acceptance and commitment to Christ's teaching.
- (3) That students may become more aware of his/her responsibility and commitment to live a Christian way of life both personally and in his/her service to the community.
- (4) That parents and the parish community may become involved both spiritually and actively with the Confirmation preparation program.

SERVICE PROJECTS

The purpose is to bring Christ into the world by providing a diverse range of experiences between church and community. We ask that you try to split your service hours between family, friends, community, and church. It is preferred that you get no more than 4 hours from the same type of activity, i.e. no more than 4 hours of free babysitting.

20 Total Service Hours are required of each student
10 Hours will be Due February 23rd, 2025
10 Hours will be Due December 7th, 2025

Service Hours are not to be done all at one time (i.e., during summer). Maturity and formation that occurs within the two years will be better enhanced when following the above schedule.

Some possibilities but not limited to the ones listed: Nursing Home, Food Shelter, Fall Festival, fall clean up in the church yard. Contact teachers for suggestions..

2024 -2025 CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Meet from 8:15am – 9:45am

AUGUST: 25 Parent Meeting 6:30pm

SEPTEMBER: 8, 15, 22, 29

OCTOBER: 6 (Rosary), 20, 27

NOVEMBER: 3, 10, 17

DECEMBER: 8, 15

JANUARY: 12, 19, 26

FEBRUARY: 2 (Saint name due), 9, 23

MARCH: 2(Saint Paper Due), 9, 30

APRIL: 6, 13

MAY: 4 Last Class

Confirmation date and time to be announced by Bishop Tylka

PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

To better help students avoid last minute deadlines the following schedule will help facilitate collecting the required information.

- Parents need to attend all Confirmation Parent Meetings.
- Baptismal Certificate from parish your child was baptized. It's the parent's responsibility to obtain a copy and present it to the teachers by November 17, 2024.
- Attend all classes prior to the reception of Confirmation. During the year the student can miss no more than two classes without prior arrangements.
- Attendance of all Confirmation sponsored events, i.e., fundraising, field trips...
- Know the required prayers.
- Homework must be completed and promptly turned in.
- Pass a Final Confirmation Test TBA in 2026.
- Proposed Selection of a Confirmation Saint Name – February 2, 2025.
- Saint Name Book Report (2 pages double spaced) – March 2, 2025.
- Selection of Confirmation Sponsor – December 15, 2024.
- Confirmation Sponsor Form (with their pastor's signature) – January 26, 2025.
- Turn in a written report on Service Hour projects (supervisor must sign at time work is performed).

- Total of 20 Service Hours (minimum) are not to be done all at one time (i.e., summer)
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat TBA at St. Philomena Church Hall or a location TBA.
- Attend the Confirmation Ceremony. Date and location of Confirmation is at the discretion of Bishop Tylka.
- Attend any service hour field trip planned by teachers or DRE.
- Fulfill all requirements of your classroom teachers.
- Fulfill all requirements of the pastor.
- Fulfill all diocesan requirements as they become available from Bishop Tylka.

Families and candidates are expected to comply with the above requirements. Preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is a commitment which should be taken seriously. If the student is not properly prepared, and fulfilled all the above requirements then the Sacrament of Confirmation may be deferred at the discretion of the pastor.

TEXTBOOK

Ascension Press; Chosen

REQUIRED PRAYERS

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

An Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feeding the hungry, Clothing the Naked, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visiting the Sick, Sheltering the Homeless, Burying the Dead, Visiting the Imprisoned

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Instruct the Ignorant, Counsel the Doubtful, Admonish the Sinner, Bear Wrongs Patiently, Forgive Offenses Willingly, Comfort the Afflicted, Pray for the Living and the Dead

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Knowledge, Piety, Fortitude, Wisdom, Counsel, Fear of the Lord, Understanding

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered

under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

The Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe in Jesus Christ, Your Son, who became man and died for our sins, and who will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us oh Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God, trusting in Your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*at the words that follow, up to and including "and became man," all bow*) and by the

Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his Kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Act of Charity

O my God, I love You above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because You are all-good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our Bishops and of all our associates, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary.

V. And the Word was made flesh

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beg you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ sanctify me; body of Christ save me; blood of Christ inebriate me; water from the side of Christ wash me; passion of Christ strengthen me. O good Jesus hear me; within Your wounds hide me; never permit me to be separated from You; from the evil one protect me, at the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to You That with Your saints I may praise You forever. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host -- by the Divine Power of God -- cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia: For he whom you merited to bear, alleluia, Has risen as he said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant, we beg you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we

may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

V. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us Pray: O God, You have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit; grant us, in the same Spirit, to have a taste for what is right, and to rejoice always in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of Virgins, my mother. To you I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT FORM

Must be signed by the supervisor at the time work is accomplished.
Limit of 3 Hours per Service Project.

MY NAME _____

DATE _____

NAME SERVICE PROJECT _____

NUMBER OF HOURS COMPLETED _____

Service hours must not exceed more than 3 hours per topic or area. Purpose is to provide a diverse range of experiences.

NAME OF SUPERVISOR _____

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR _____

WHAT DOES THIS SERVICE PROJECT REQUIRE? _____

WHY DID I SELECT THIS SERVICE PROJECT? _____

WHAT DID I LEARN FROM THIS SERVICE PROJECT? _____

SELECTION OF A PROPOSED SAINT NAME

Proposed Selection of a Confirmation Saint Name is due on February 2, 2025.

Name of Proposed Confirmation Saint Name: _____

Approved by Pastor: _____

Date _____

Do not begin the book report unless proposed saint name has been approved.

SAINT NAME BOOK REPORT

Requirement: Due on March 2, 2025

The name of your saint must be approved before you begin writing this report. Some saints do not have enough biographical information to write a book report. Information of a saint retrieved off the internet may not be reliable or accurate.

Needs to be 2 pages in length, double spaced and respond to the following questions:

1. When and where was this saint born?
2. What's so special about this saint?
3. Why is he/she a saint?
4. How did this person die?
5. Why did I choose this saint?

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
CONFIRMATION
IN BRIEF

1315

“Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:14-17)

1316

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiations, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

1317

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life.

1318

In the East this sacrament is administered immediately after Baptism and is followed by participation in the Eucharist; this tradition highlights the unity of the three sacraments of Christian initiation. In the Latin Church this sacrament is administered when the age of reason has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to the bishop, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the ecclesial bond.

1319

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in a state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament and be prepared to assume the role of

disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.

1320

The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism (in the East other sense-organs as well), together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words, "Accipe signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti" (Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit) in the "Roman Rite, or "The seal of the gift that is the Holy Spirit" in the Byzantine rite.

1321

When Confirmation is celebrated separately from Baptism, its connection with Baptism is expressed, among other ways, by the renewal of baptismal promises. The celebration of Confirmation during the Eucharist helps underline the unity of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

See the full text of the above on pages 325-333