

St. Agnes Catholic Church
Confirmation Orientation packet
2018/2019



Sunday, May 5, 2019
11:00 AM Mass
Reception to Follow

+
JMJ
Dear Parents,

Here at St. Agnes we deeply thank you for this privilege of preparing your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our purpose in support of you, is to instill in them a strong love and respect for Our Lord.

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at the 11AM Mass. We will have two (2) required retreats. The dates will be announced as soon as possible

In viewing of the service projects, I prefer this to be a relaxed experience. I truly believe Our Lord desires the Heart and Love from your child as they receive the benefits from the Sacrament to be received. I truly want to create a sense of accomplishment without realizing the accomplishment of doing Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The purpose of service should be given as a gift to Our Lord without anxiety. I want our students to be happy in the service of God. Our service projects are classified into three categories: Service Projects, Project Booklet and Confirmation Year Only.

Our Confirmands must attend seven (7) Adoration Hours on the First Saturday of each month. 6th grade through 11th grade are allowed to receive these hours for Adoration. Adoration is on the 1st Saturday of each month throughout the year. In regards for the Church (20) twenty hours, the imprisoned, 6th grade through the 11th grade will be given the opportunity to write a card or letter to those in prison during PSR class or as a homework assignment. This will be counted as part of service for Confirmation, for the family the confirmand will prepare one meal with the family.

There will be a Confirmation Project Booklet to be completed before Confirmation. I would like to begin this in the 9th Grade. This is a fun assignment and is actually enlightening as this project reveals its purpose.

During the Confirmation year our Confirmands will have to complete a Saints Report from the Saint they are choosing to emulate. This will be their Saint Name. They will need to write a letter to our Bishop stating the purpose of why they wish to be confirmed. We will have a day for them to be interviewed by Fr. Charbel and this will take place at one of our retreats.

As for sponsors, they need to prayerfully choose a sponsor who will attend a mini retreat with their confirmand on April 13, 2019. The time will be 8:00AM – 12:00PM. All sponsors must fill out the form provided and have it sealed by the parish they were baptized.

More information will be posted on our website in the days to come at <http://stagnesbr.org/>
The Confirmation Packet will be posted for your convenience.

Thank you for your time as we prepare your child for a life time of service in community in the spirit of Christ. May God bless each of you and guide you in peace and love.

God bless you,
Donna Davis
Religious Education Coordinator

St. Agnes CONFIRMATION DRESS CODE

- MODEST, APPROPRIATE, SUNDAY Church Dress clothing is expected of all candidates. This is a special moment of grace as candidates not only meet Bishop Muench, but also have an encounter of God's grace in the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Mass. Please make your selection of clothing with dignity and modesty in mind.
- For the **female candidates**... modesty and appropriate dress are our greatest concerns. As such, NO sleeveless, backless, strapless, spaghetti straps, transparent, low-cut, or mid-drift revealing dresses or tops are to be worn. **The hemlines must be pass the knees.** They must not have revealing 'slits' or be tight fitting. Sleeves must cover shoulders and upper arms.
- **The dress is to be white or off-white.**
- Shoes: Please be careful with shoe selection, as we will be walking in procession and leaving the pews twice to receive the Sacraments. **Please no sandals.**
- For the **male candidates**... Dress slacks, a long sleeve dress shirt, and a tie. Dress shoes are appropriate...no tennis shoes, please. A blazer or a suit is appropriate and may be worn but is not expected.
- Hair should be off the forehead so that the Bishop can anoint the candidate.

2 Required Retreats

Confirmation Candidates must attend 2 Retreats at St. Agnes

1. October 13, **2018** Time: 7:30AM – 3:30PM
2. April 13, **2019** Candidate & Sponsor Mini Retreat: Time: 7:45AM – 11:00AM
Candidates will need to arrive at 7:30AM - 3:30PM

St. Agnes Confirmation Photo Order Form

8 x 10 Group Picture

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Quantity x \$5.00 = Total _____

Please make checks payable to St. Agnes

Please give to Donna Davis at PSR on Tuesday, April 9, 2019

****Payments must be made in advance.**



Is Now the Time? (Sponsor and Candidate may reflect on these questions.)

Confirmands, please take the time to read these questions and answer the best you can.

Why do you want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Take a few QUIET moments and use these guidelines to help.

1. Have I ever thought about why I want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation?
Why am I?
2. Is this my parents wish or my own? If it is my parents'; am I willing to set that aside and at least explore the possibility as my own?
3. Does my schedule allow me to participate in the way that God is calling me to?
4. Am I doing this just because my friends are?
5. Would it mean more to wait until I'm more adjusted to high school?
6. Have I been actively involved in my faith long enough where I feel that I have a good foundation to be initiated?
7. Have I always thought of Confirmation as the end of having to go to class? Am I ready for a life long journey of faith?
8. Am I willing to be known as a Confirmed Catholic? Am I willing to live as a Confirmed Catholic publicly? Am I willing to be open to what God has in store for my life?

Please know that even after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will not have all the answers. We are called to be open and to learn throughout our life. In our lives, we fall. However, as children of God, we pick ourselves up, reconcile, and strive to try again.

What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church have to say...

“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, 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.”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1316

“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.”

-CCC 1317

“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a livelier familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts, and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.”

-CCC 1309

A Prayer to Help Choose a Sponsor

Holy Spirit, helper and guide, give me wisdom as I choose my Confirmation sponsor. Help me to choose a person of prayer who will teach me also to be a person of prayer who will support me in difficult times, who will guide me to make good choices, and who will challenge me when I do not. Help me to choose someone who will love me and teach me to love Jesus. Thank you for giving me a community of people around me to support and guide me as I take this important step in becoming more fully a member of your Church. Amen.

Why a Sponsor?

From the earliest days of the Church, specific people chosen from the community supported those seeking communion with the Church. At our Baptism those significant people were your parents and godparents (your baptismal sponsors) who promised that you would be raised in faith. They professed their faith because you could not speak for yourself. Your parents accepted the responsibility of training you in the practice of the faith. Your godparents promised to help your parents; you will renew your baptismal promises. Your sponsor is a person who will support you throughout your preparation, and stand with and present you for Confirmation.

Choosing a Sponsor

The Church encourages you to choose, if possible, one of your baptismal godparents to be your sponsor for Confirmation because this expresses more clearly the link between your Baptism and Confirmation, but is not required. It is also a good idea to choose someone that has been close enough to you to have been supportive in your life so far. The sponsor should not be chosen just to give honor to a good friend or relative. Being a sponsor means having a true appreciation of the Catholic Faith and sense of responsibility towards your wellbeing.

A Confirmation Sponsor must:

- Be fully initiated in the church, meaning they are baptized, and have received Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Be a practicing Catholic, meaning they regularly receiving communion and other Sacraments.
- Is at least 16 years of age
- When choosing a sponsor, you may want to ask yourself:
- Is this person someone with whom I feel comfortable?
- Does this person live near enough to me to be able to truly guide and support me? If not, will they be committed to communicate regularly with me despite the distance?
- Will this person be willing and able to be my sponsor – to take an active role in my life?
- Will this person be able to fulfill all or most of the responsibilities of a sponsor? (on next page)
- Fill out the Sponsor Form provided and bring back to the CCD Office.

Sponsor Information

A sponsor must be a practicing confirmed Catholic. He or she may not be the candidate's parent. A godparent is an excellent choice. It is encouraged for the sponsor to live in the area.

A Sponsor's Role is to:

- Pray for and with the candidate
- Share the sponsor's faith story with his or her candidate.
- Spend time getting to know the candidate, possibly taking him or her to a special dinner or having him or her over to the sponsor's home.
- Help the candidate choose a Saint name.
- Present the candidate during the Rite of Confirmation. The Confirmation Liturgy is scheduled for **Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 11:00AM**. Sponsors are asked to arrive at 10:30AM. On Confirmation day please arrive thirty (30) minutes prior to Mass.
- Continue to be there for the candidate and lend spiritual support.

Sponsors and Candidates Mini Retreat

April 13, 2019

8:00AM Holy Mass

8:30AM – 10AM Breakfast in Cafeteria - Questions and Answers (Now is the Time...see above)

10:30 – 11:00 Rehearsal

After the Mini Retreat with the Sponsors the *Candidates* are required to remain to complete their Retreat until 3:30PM

Confirmation Sponsor (Certificate of Eligibility)

Name of Confirmand: _____

(Please carefully read the requirements and qualification of a sponsor before signing)

Canon 874 and 893 of the *Code of Canon Law* lists the requirements and qualification of those who serve as sponsors for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- A sponsor:
1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility
 2. Must have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
 3. Must be no less than 16 years of age
 4. Must believe all that the Catholic Church believes and teaches, and truly make a serious effort to live a good moral life worthy of imitation: and to the religious instruction of his/her family.
 5. Must be an actively practicing Catholic, participation at Mass on Sundays and Holydays, and receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.
 6. Must be canonically free to carry out this office, this means that Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage (not according to Catholic Church Regulations) and those that are co-habiting (living together without marriage) cannot serve as a sponsor.

Being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. To be a sponsor means having a true appreciation of the Catholic faith and a sense of responsibility towards the spiritual well-being of the person being confirmed. Please provide an **updated Baptismal Certificate** from the church you were baptized or brought into full communion with the Catholic Church. The certificate must be signed and must include church seal.

"I declare that I am a registered member of the Parish listed below and that I meet all the requirements (listed above) to be a sponsor."

Sponsor

Name: _____

(Please print)

Sponsor's Church Parish:

Complete Address : _____

Parish of Confirmation/Date: _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

To be completed by your Pastor:

I hereby certify that _____ is a registered member of this parish, is a practicing Catholic, and is eligible to serve as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

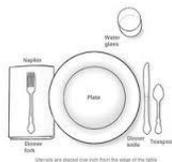
+ Service Project for Confirmation +

Confirmation Service Project for the Family

As part of ***Corporal Works of Mercy*** and a plea from Our Lord to keep families together at meal time, please prepare a complete sit-down meal for your family:

Complete this by: Now until January, 2019

- You will prepare one meal for your family. It can be any meal time such as: Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner.
- You will prepare a menu with the recipe. You will have a 4-course meal – such as: 1. Appetizer (soup or fruit) 2. Entrée (salad) 3. Main Course (meat/fish, vegetable, starch) 4. Dessert Water and Beverage.
- You can prepare: 1. Appetizer (soup or fruit) 2. Entrée (potato chips) 3. Main Course (sandwich) 4. Dessert (cookies or baked) Water and Beverage. (have fun with this and enjoy your family and this service)
- Be creative: You will set the table using a table cloth, flower arrangement, plate, fork, knife, spoon, drinking glass, salad plate, & soup bowl. Please draw a diagram or take a picture of your table setting.
- You will clean up after all are finish with the meal.
- Please fill out the form, in order, to receive credit.



Confirmation Service Project for the Church

As part of Corporal Works of Mercy and a continual plea from Our Lord to keep you in ***HIS HOME***, please do the following:

Complete this by: Now until February, 2019

- Please consider 3 choices from this list. (20 hours)
- Cleaning the cafeteria after the 1st Communion. This entails moving tables/chairs, sweeping / mopping, washing dishes or whatever is asked of you.
- St. Agnes' Catholic Daughters are in need of decorating the Church at Christmas and Easter. This entails whatever is asked for that day. You are to assist in this service: preparing and or removal of decorations for the Church at these Liturgical Feast Days. **Set-up Dates: Christmas: TBA Easter: TBA**
- Cleaning the inside of the Church
- Help with Christmas Play
- Service in the Soup Kitchen
- Volunteering at the Summer Camp with the Missionaries of Charity or a Vacation Bible School.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT FOR ADORATION

As part of Spiritual Works of Mercy and a plea from Our Lord for you to always remember to keep vigil in prayer, please do the following:

Complete this by: Now until March, 2019

6th Grade – Confirmation may begin to complete these Adoration Hours.

- Total of 7 Adoration Hours. This will be in the PSR Adoration Chapel, on the First Saturday's of each month.

Confirmation Service Project for those in Prison

As part of Spiritual Works of Mercy and a plea from Our Lord for you to always remember and to keep extra vigil for those in Purgatory, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Prison and those homebound.

Complete this by: Now until February, 2019

6th Grade – Confirmation may begin this project.

- You can offer silent prayers; however, these silent prayers do not count for this service project but we must all have compassion for all of God's Children. God will see your compassion and your efforts will be extra credit awaiting you in Heaven.
- You will write 3 letters (make a card) for someone in Prison. **Do not** put your return address, your name, the parish you're from nor what you're doing this for. Just simply write that person on the subject of inviting them to know love and serve God. You may tell them a story about something interesting that could help them focus on the Presence of God in their life. Please turn in these letters to the office and I will read them and will mail them. I will get names of those in Prison for you.
- For those in Nursing Homes, Hospitals or homebound; please make 1 visit to them and have your parents sign the form for you. Remember the more you do that does not count towards this service project...that would mean extra credit awaiting you in Heaven.

Confirmation Service Project for the Family

Date: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

What is your complete Meal Menu: (please include recipes – you may write on the back or attach to this page)

Please circle one: Did you prepare: **Breakfast** **Lunch** **Dinner**

Appetizer :

Entrée :

Main Course :

Dessert :

Drink:

Draw a diagram or take a picture or draw a diagram of your complete table setting:

Explain your experience in this service: (If you need more room to write then please attach to this page)

Let your parents & siblings have a turn to explain their experience in your service. (Write something brief)

- Pray the table blessing with each other.

Confirmation

Project Instruction:

1. Make a booklet using the information below. Each person you are interviewing should have their own page.
2. Booklet should have a cover page.
3. Make it interesting and have fun with it.
4. Please do not ask our Priest at St. Agnes nor our Missionaries of Charity Sisters...you may use the internet and do a search for Monasteries or Convents and send an email to them with the questions as well as your friends and family.
5. Do not copy from each other!
6. You may not use the same friends! Be creative and ask someone you don't know very well. A friend could be an adult at Mass or your grandparents.
7. Project due by: **March, 2019** or as soon as you can complete it.
8. This is a simple project. **Suggestions:** send one email to several of those you have selected by using your email BCC with the interviewing questions and wait to hear back. Or you can write to each person with the questions and have them respond back. You be creative in making this happen. The idea behind this project is for your awareness and the purpose of your Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please interview:

3 Priest

3 Nuns

Your Parents

Your godparents

3 friends that received Confirmation last year.

3 friends that received Confirmation a few years ago.

Questions to ask the person you're interviewing:

1. Name of person interviewing.
2. What is your Confirmation name?
3. Why did you choose that name?
4. When did you receive Confirmation? (What grade were you in?)
5. What did/does Confirmation mean to you? (Is it still important to you this day?)

- In the past those that have made their Confirmation said this project had impacted their life with purpose and meaning. It became their favorite requirement for Confirmation.

We are all called to Sainly Holiness with Christ and we are each other's keepers.

☺ 3 More Things to do ☺

2nd Year Confirmation

☺ However why wait since you have the information now ☺

1. Interview

Each candidate is required to have a short interview. – will have sign-up sheet at Parent Meeting

2. Letter to the Bishop – Due NOW until January, 2019

This is a one-page, typed letter addressed to:

Most Reverend Michael Gerard Duca

Mailing address: P. O. Box 2028, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

Physical address: 1800 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-1998

Please enlighten him WHY you are wanting to be confirmed as a Catholic.

Below are just a few suggestions.

Some points you may want to cover in your letter are:

- What has been the highlight of your Confirmation preparation?
- How has your life changed since the beginning of the program?
- In what ways do you see yourself being involved with the parish after receiving Confirmation?
- How do you intend to learn more about the faith after Confirmation?

3. Saint Project – Due NOW until January, 2019

Each candidate has the opportunity to choose a Confirmation name. It is encouraging that they first research their Baptismal name as this can be an excellent connection between the two Sacraments. In addition, each Confirmand may research additional Saints to determine which name they would like to be confirmed under. This is a very personal decision, take the time to discern this name. This is a great activity to share with your sponsor.

Please select a Saint that you can relate too. Below are a few suggestions for your report.

I choose this Saint because...?

What are the heroic virtues that moved you in selecting this particular Saint?

What inspired you about this Saint?

How can I model my life after this Saint for the rest of my life?

BISHOP'S LETTER EXAMPLE

(Date)

Most Rev. Michael Gerard Duca
P. O. Box 2028, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028
1800 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-1998

Dear Bishop Muench:

First Paragraph (3-5 sentences - What are the reasons you want to be confirmed?)

Second Paragraph (3-5 sentences - What part of the preparation process was most helpful to you?)

Third Paragraph (3-5 sentences - When confirmed, what difference will you make? (Personal growth in your relationship to God, service to others, doing God's work in the world, etc.)

Fourth Paragraph (3-5 sentences - Some words of thanks to the Bishop for his time in coming to do the Confirmation at St. Agnes.

Sincerely,

(Use an ink pen to sign your name)

Your name typed and sign above

Writing a Letter to the Bishop

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please type your letters using the name and address enclosed in these instructions. See example.
2. Please sign your letters with your signature in pen, followed by your typewritten name.
3. Please submit this letter to your Confirmation Teacher now or until January, 2019. Please save this letter into our computer. You may need to make some changes.
4. Please turn in your letter **without folding** it and **without placing it in an envelope**. We will send all the letters together in one envelope. Thanks!

In your own words, write a letter requesting Confirmation.

Sign your letter in pen and type your name under the signature.

It's that simple!

You may find SAMPLE LETTERS online as an example.

DO NOT COPY ANY LETTER YOU FIND

Write using your own words requesting confirmation!

Trust in the Holy Spirit to help you compose this letter.

