



September, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Enclosed is the Confirmation Packet for the 2019-2020 school year. Please take some time to sit down and go over the attachments with your child who is seeking to be Confirmed in 2020. Confirmation is an important step in your child's spiritual development. He/she is choosing to complete the Sacraments of Initiation and, as such, is their first step into being considered a young adult in the church. When confirmed, they may choose to engage in adult ministries within the parish, such as lecturing, ushering, being an adult choir member, or serving on various committees. The entire parish is on hand to pray for them this year and welcome them as fully-initiated young adults after Confirmation. All forms are to be submitted to the Religious Education Office.

Please review this packet for the following items:

1. Confirmation Calendar – please note **Parent/Candidate Meetings** and due dates.
2. **Confirmation Form** – due to the RE Office by November 1, 2019
3. **Interview Sheet** – The interviewer will pick some of the questions from this sheet to ask. Your child will be contacted in January for a time to sit down with a member of the pastoral staff or one of the SBPS administrators.
4. Opportunities for **Service Projects** for Confirmation – these are suggestions. Feel free to suggest other service opportunity ideas not on the list (contact Daniel Hughes).
5. Sheet to keep track of **service hours**. Additional sheets available on line or through your child's catechist/teacher.
6. **Sponsor Information Sheet** – please read before choosing a sponsor
7. **Sponsor Interview Sheet** – ask your child to take notes while speaking with the person they have chosen to be their sponsor as, the interview notes must be typed.
8. **Letter to Fr. Kanonik** instructions and “Reflection Notes” sheet – your child will use this sheet to jot down their experiences from Service Projects, Mass attendance, class time, and anywhere else wherein they felt closer to Jesus and/or our parish community. The goal is for your child to write a letter to Fr. Kanonik telling him their feelings about their upcoming Confirmation, what they have learned and/or how they have spiritually grown, telling him why they have chosen to be confirmed, and asking for his recommendation to the confirming bishop. This letter will be a formal, typed letter. Writing from the heart is highly recommended.

Again this year, to help all of our Confirmation students follow more deeply in our Mass celebration, we will be providing a Mass Journal for each student. So often we hear young people say, “I don't get anything out of Mass.” Well, this little “Mass Journal” is a way to take one more minute of thinking and reflecting and helps the teens to really see all that is happening around us during our Mass. Each student for Confirmation is invited to reflect on anything that they see,

observe, feel, encounter, notice, or experience. They can even write during the homily at Mass! At first, their reflections will be pretty basic, like, “The priest was wearing green vestments, he spoke about forgiveness, and my mom and dad were with me at Mass.” As time goes on, though, their weekly reflection gets a little deeper, like, “I am grateful to belong to a community, I feel Jesus’ presence when I receive communion, and I have to learn to forgive my friend at school.” To “get something out of Mass” takes a little work and practice for everyone, children and adults alike! This is your opportunity to walk this year a little more specifically, regularly, and reflectively. After each Mass, the presider will sign the reflection page so please bring a pen. Even if you go to another Mass because of weekends away or Mass times, anyone celebrating the Mass at any Church is used to these autograph sessions.

Confirmation preparation will be done both inside and outside of class time. This packet mostly concerns the outside of class time portion. Follow the calendar and all will be manageable. Please encourage your child to begin to complete service hours **as soon as possible** (so that it’s not a huge task or time drain over break). Catechists/teachers will be asking in December for service hour logs so if your child has completed half (15 hours) or most of the service hours’ requirement, he or she will be in great shape!

Our Confirmation date is Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. Confirmation rehearsal with candidates and sponsors will be on Tuesday, March 24, in the Church at 6:45 p.m. After the Confirmation Mass, there will be a reception and time to take pictures with the bishop.

If your child is not Catholic and will not be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, please inform our Director of Catechesis, Daniel Hughes. A requirement of the parish is that all eighth grade students must complete 30 hours of service.

After reading over the attachments, please feel free to call or e-mail if you have any questions or concerns. Contact information for Daniel Hughes follows: e-mail is dhughes@stbenedict.com and direct line is (773) 509-3830. Please add the important deadlines and attendance dates onto or into your calendars and check the Adult & Child Catechesis page on the St. Benedict website frequently.

Sincerely,

Fr. Steve Kanonik
Pastor

Daniel Hughes
Director of Catechesis

Kim McMillan
Director of Youth Ministry