

Dear Parents,

We would like to invite your child to be a part of the 2017 - 2018 Confirmation Preparation Program. Those registering for the CPP will be prepared to be confirmed next spring, probably in late May (we are still waiting to hear back from the diocese on our official date).

During this coming school year, our focus in confirmation preparation will be on allowing students to encounter Christ in a more personal way, and developing a life of daily discipleship that includes a daily prayer life, regular scripture study, and an ability to hear God working in their day-to-day lives. This confirmation preparation does not replace the student's ongoing religious formation. **We expect each student to also be enrolled in one of our youth ministry programs, or attending Lansing Catholic High School.**

Our preparation program contains 4 major components:

1. **Monthly Meetings:** These 2 hour meetings will be offered on a Tuesday and a Saturday each month to help avoid scheduling conflicts. Students may come to whichever meeting fits their schedules best.
2. **Service:** Students will be required to participate in a minimum of three varied experiences of service or be committed to a regular area of service throughout the year.
3. **Scripture/Faith Sharing:** Each candidate will present a short (3-5 min) presentation in May based on a scripture passage which they will explore through the year. They will be asked to pray with their scripture passage throughout the year both on their own and at monthly sessions, and then be asked to share how this passage impacted their lives or spoke to their hearts.
4. **Make One Retreat:** More details will come during the year, but students to be confirmed are required to attend one retreat during the year (or have attended one during this past summer). We will offer a winter retreat, a day retreat in the spring, as well as various other retreat opportunities. I will give more information on this during the one-on-one registration meeting!

Sponsors

Each candidate must have one, Confirmed and practicing Catholic adult to act as a sponsor. It is preferable for the sponsor to live locally so that they can participate in some of the meetings to which sponsors will be invited. If this is not possible, candidates should also select a mentor (also a confirmed and practicing Catholic) who is local and can participate in the meetings with the candidate.

The choice of a sponsor is very important in the confirmation process. A sponsor should be someone who is wholeheartedly in love with Christ and His Church, and be a mature person of faith.

Neighbors, catechist, teachers, the parents of friends, or grandparents and other relatives can all serve in this role. We have found that older siblings (unless they fit the description above and are much older than the candidate) are not a good choice. Usually, the sibling relationship has not matured enough to allow true faith-sharing to occur. Parents are barred by Canon Law from serving as a sponsor due to the unique relationship they already have with their children. If a family is not able to find a sponsor, we will be happy to assist in setting the candidate up with a sponsor from within the parish.

Registration One-on-One Meeting: I look forward to meeting with each candidate and at least one parent sometime before our first meeting in early October! I'll be ready to answer any questions you have and explain the program in more detail. Please email me with a few times you're available so we can schedule a meeting as soon as possible. One-on-One meetings must be completed by Nov. 7 at the latest. My availability is as follows:

Mondays (Sept 11, 18, 25 / Oct 2, 9, 16 / Nov 6) - 2:30pm to 6:30pm

Tuesdays (Sept 12, 19, 26 / Oct 3, 17 / Nov 7) - 2:30pm to 6:30pm

Wednesdays (Sept 13, 20, 27 / Oct 4, 11, 18) - 2:30pm to 6:30pm

Fridays (Sept 8, 15, 22, 29 / Oct 6, 13, 20) - 2:30pm to 5:30pm

I look forward to meeting all of you, and to beginning this journey towards Confirmation. Please feel free to call me at 517-351-5460 ext. 325 or email me at jhamilton@elcatholics.org with any questions you might have!

Joshua Hamilton
Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation

Please mail/return the following to the parish as soon as possible:

1. Confirmation registration form
2. A copy of baptismal certificate if necessary (if you need more time, send the form in now and we will collect the certificate as soon as you have it available)
3. Sponsor form

Turn in all forms and fees to Dian Silvey, Formation Assistant, in our Catholic Formation Office or Mail to: Attn: Dian, Catholic Formation Office, 955 Alton Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823.