

CONFIRMATION YEAR 2

"Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute 'the sacraments of Christian initiation,' whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of *baptismal grace*. 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 and *Order of Confirmation, Introduction 1* and *Code of Canon Law, canon 879*

The sacrament of confirmation is initiatory, completing Baptism. The goal of our process is to prepare candidates for an encounter with Jesus that becomes the foundation for lifelong discipleship: a relationship rooted in their identity as sons and daughters of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, and equipped for the mission to which God has called them.

St. Luke Church candidates complete a 2-year preparation process, per Diocesan requirements. Candidates typically begin preparing in the seventh grade, first year confirmation. The candidates are invited to celebrate confirmation at the end of the second year. In alignment with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, during the course of their 2-year preparation, candidates will have their knowledge of and commitment to the faith strengthened through an emphasis on the four pillars of our faith: the Creed, the sacraments, the moral life, and prayer.

Requirements

The sacramental preparation process includes self-guided and home formation preparation. Candidates play an active role in their faith journey through personal commitment, inquiry, participation in liturgy, study of the Word, seeking an understanding of doctrine, bearing witness to God through evangelization, and turning to God in an ongoing prayer relationship. Details on all of the following responsibilities and events will be communicated to parents and students throughout the faith formation year. Physical copies of all forms are located in this handbook.

Second year confirmation candidates will:

- Complete any remaining tasks from the first year.
- Choose a confirmation sponsor who will walk with them on their journey with regular interactions and, ideally, present them at the confirmation Mass.
- Write a letter to Bishop Michael Martin sharing their preparation journey and requesting confirmation.
- Live their faith in action by participating in at least 10 hours (no more than 4 hours in any one event/activity) of faith and service-related activities at church or in the community and complete a personal reflection of their experiences.
- Complete a discernment meeting to determine readiness for confirmation.
- Attend a 1-day retreat.
- Attend a required penance service and rehearsal in the spring.



Be the Church: Faith and Service Journal

Why be the Church?

Faith and service are primary elements of Christian life. Faith experiences provide opportunities to realign our priorities, remind us of our baptismal promises, and deepen our relationship with God. By receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit in confirmation, we are entrusted with the responsibility of also bringing Christ to others in service. Confirmation sends us out on mission, calling us to put our faith in action. It is your opportunity to show that you believe in Jesus and what He taught us by your actions and deeds. These service hours are an answer to the Gospel challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. Jesus gave us many examples of loving service and, as His disciples, we want to follow His servant-leader example.

What are church and community service hours?

Service hours are any “free” service you do as an individual or as a group (as part of an event or activity) to help out the community in which we live or our parish of St Luke. They are hours spent sharing your love of Jesus Christ with others who may or may not be as fortunate as you are.

There are many opportunities to give your time to others in service. Some examples might include working with other ministries at St. Luke, volunteering to help at the Fall Festival, working with local food banks, or crafting items for animal shelters or nursing home residents. You are also welcome to complete service activities in the community with other groups such as school organizations, scouts, or sports teams. If you are struggling with ideas for service, a number of resources and ideas can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ServeOpps> We will keep you posted on details for events and opportunities as they arise!

What are faith experiences?

Throughout your preparation time, we want you to participate in as many faith and service experiences as possible. You may choose from a variety of events. As weekly Mass is expected, examples of experiences to help deepen your faith might include ongoing parish involvement such as being a reader, usher, or an attendee at youth ministry events. More individual or personal commitments might include attending Adoration, Advent or Lenten activities, stations of the cross, or other parish sponsored events.

What else should I know?

Make sure your service is completed with a Christian attitude, serving with the loving and selfless hands and feet of Christ. The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life! Parents and family members are encouraged to participate as well wherever possible.

As part of your confirmation preparation, you will keep a log of your faith experiences and service activities. First year confirmation students are asked to complete **at least 10 hours** of faith and/or service experiences. Students cannot record more than 4 hours in a given event/activity. After students have completed their hours, they should respond to the provided prompts in thoughtful reflection. Completed faith and service journals (log and reflection) are **due by April 1**.

When completing the form, time should be written to the nearest quarter of an hour and a signature obtained. Consider making reflective notes after each service activity so you can compile for a larger reflection when it's completed.

Faith Experiences

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Faith Experiences

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Church Event Youth Ministry Meeting Diocesan Event Other

Briefly Describe: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Service to Others

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Service to Others

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Circle: Family Parish Community

Service performed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Bishop Letter Guidelines

Year 2 confirmation candidates are asked to write a letter to the Bishop requesting the sacrament and sharing their journey. The format of this letter should follow this template:

Introduction

A letter addressed to the Bishop should start with: "Your Excellency,"

Paragraph 1: Tell about yourself.

- Write about your family: Do you have siblings? Who lives with you? Where do you come from?
- Share your background: How old are you, what school you go to, your favorite subjects, activities you participate in, hobbies, etc.
- You can include any future plans you might have (a major you might like to pursue at school or a job you might like to have as an adult).

Paragraph 2: Share your faith journey and preparation for the sacrament.

- Tell about your faith journey thus far: What is your relationship with God like right now? How did you come to this relationship? What is your favorite way to pray, or is it a struggle to find prayer time throughout your week? In what areas could you continue to grow in your faith, and how could you better your relationship with God and/or the Catholic community? Feel free to go beyond these questions and share more about your faith journey and relationship with the Lord.
- Tell about the specific parts of becoming prepared for confirmation: your prayer life, celebrating the other sacraments, your relationship and journeying with your sponsor, and your lived faith through service to your community, family, and parish.
- How has your faith grown, especially in the last two years? What questions have you had answered?

Paragraph 3: Explain how you hope to keep your faith alive after confirmation.

- Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. How do you hope to keep learning about your faith? In what ways do you want to get involved in the parish and our ministries?
- What gifts of the Holy Spirit are you most looking forward to receiving? What fruits do you hope will come from your sacrament?

Paragraph 4: Request the sacrament and give your intent.

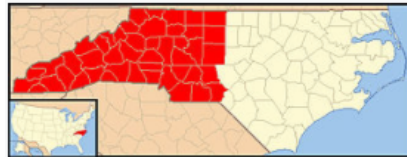
- Tell the Bishop *why* you want to celebrate the sacrament. Give reasons why you would like to be confirmed. You can finish your letter with any prayer requests you might want the Bishop to pray for.

Conclusion

You should end your letter with "Sincerely," or something similarly respectful, and sign your full name.

Letters must be turned into the office in an envelope or emailed to Confirmation@stlukecatholicminthill.org no later than March 4.

Confirmation Letter to the Bishop



This spring Bishop Michael Martin will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with you at St Luke's (in-person or by delegation). **Bishop Martin asks that you write a letter to introduce yourself, share about your growing faith, and request the sacrament of confirmation.**

So you can get to know him a little, below is a brief biography of his!

Bishop Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv., was born on Dec. 2, 1961, in Baltimore, Maryland, the only boy of four children in a Catholic family whose faith was an integral part of their lives.

He attended Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore, where he would later return to work. In 1979, when he was 17, he entered the Conventual Franciscan Friars Novitiate in Ellicott City, Maryland. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Hyacinth College-Seminary (Massachusetts), earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Bonaventure (Rome), and received a master's degree in education from Boston College.

He worked as a religious studies teacher and coach at St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, New York, in 1984-1985, then served as a transitional deacon at St. Adalbert Parish in Elmhurst, New York, in 1988-1989.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1989, by then Auxiliary Bishop John Ricard of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Following ordination, he returned to St. Francis High School to serve as admissions director and as a teacher and coach, from 1989 to 1994. He then served in several positions at his alma mater Archbishop Curley High School from 1994 to 2010 – including president, principal, admissions director, and teacher and basketball coach.

In 2007, he was the recipient of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award from, then, Pope Benedict XVI for his service to the church.

He is no stranger to North Carolina, having served as director of the Duke Catholic Center—the official Catholic community at Duke University in Durham—from 2010 to 2022.

He has also held a number of leadership positions in the Church, particularly in Catholic education. He has served on multiple Catholic school boards including Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, and worked with Partners in Mission, a Boston-based consulting firm that partners with Catholic schools and institutions to advance the mission of Catholic education.

In 2022, his order assigned him to ministry in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, where he served as pastor of St. Philip Benizi Parish in Jonesboro, Georgia, until his episcopal appointment by Pope Francis on April 9, 2024.

On May 29, 2024, he was ordained to the episcopate by the Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., Archbishop of Atlanta, and on May 30, 2024, he was installed as the fifth Bishop of Charlotte, succeeding the Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis.

Discernment Meeting Guide

Throughout their journey, confirmation candidates will have had opportunities to learn from the curriculum and each other, ask questions, and share their hearts. By the time they celebrate confirmation, candidates will have:

- Completed two years for faith formation and sacramental preparation;
- Lived their faith in action through service to family, parish, and community;
- Chosen a Saint to be named after and journey with;
- Invited a faithful person to be their sponsor;
- Written a letter of intent to the Bishop;
- Experienced the healing power of reconciliation at a penance service; and
- Rehearsed and prepared to celebrate the sacrament.

In addition, teens who are in their second year of sacramental preparation will complete their process with a discernment meeting to determine whether they are ready to receive the sacrament of confirmation. Each candidate will set a time to meet individually with Katy/Kristen for their discernment process. In preparation, all families are welcome to use these questions to prompt discussion at home. If teens are not ready right now, it does not mean they cannot be ready later!

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD FAMILIES ASK?

Below is a list of questions to discuss with your teen. Please set aside some time for a meaningful discussion of the following questions, taking time to listen to their answers and maybe even share about your own faith experience. Remind your teen: "Answer honestly and don't give the answers you think we want. Ultimately, the answers you give are between you and God. He knows our every thought. He knows our hearts. He loves us."

If, as a family, you work through these questions and it prompts discussion so that you or your teen have questions, need guidance, or feel this is not the year to celebrate confirmation, please reach out to our St. Luke clergy, Katy, or Kristen.

1. Do you desire to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation?
2. Do you believe and trust in God? Is God in the driver's seat of your life or are you?
3. Briefly explain who Jesus is. Is He God? What did He do for you? What is your friendship with Him like?
4. Do you desire to learn more about and spend more time with Jesus so that you can become more like Him?
5. Do you attend Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation?
6. Do you go to confession at least once a year as prescribed by the church or any time that you've committed a mortal sin?
7. Is the Eucharist just a symbol of Jesus? What happens to the bread and wine at the moment of consecration at Mass?
8. What happens when you receive the sacrament of baptism?
9. Do you desire to be an active member of the Catholic Church and to carry on the mission of Jesus?
10. What is your prayer life like? Do you pray? How often and with whom?
11. Are there any teachings of the Catholic Church that you do not accept? Which ones?
12. Do you desire to grow in holiness? To accept God's mercy through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to turn away from sin and turn towards Jesus Christ, becoming like Him more every day?

CAN YOU SAY "YES" TO EVERYTHING PROFESSED IN THE CREED?

THE NICENE CREED

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, 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.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD CONFIRMANDI KNOW?

It would be great if your teen knew how to incorporate all of the elements in the following study guide into their faith life (prayers, commandments, beatitudes, precepts, sacraments, virtues, gifts and fruits of the Spirit, and works of mercy) but, **the most important thing is their love of the Lord, desire to receive the sacrament, willingness to grow in their faith, and knowledge of where to go to find answers when they have questions.**

If your teen does not feel like they remember parts of our faith, Katy and Kristen are happy to provide additional resources, or teens are welcome to review previous class sessions on Thinkific. Catechists, clergy, and Katy/Kristen are also available to answer any questions and to speak with you about anything related to your faith or confirmation. It is also okay if your teen only knows their prayers in Spanish – God speaks Spanish, too!

Study Guide

This study guide includes some basic information about the faith that all confirmation candidates should know. Use this study guide as a tool to support your confirmation journey, growth in the faith, or discussions about discernment.

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.

Amen.

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 our 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.

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; on 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 there He
will 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.

FATIMA PRAYER

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of Hell and
lead all souls to Heaven,
especially those who are in most
need of Thy mercy.

Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having
offended Thee, and I detest all my sins
because of thy just punishments, but most of
all because they offend Thee, my God, who are
all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly
resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no
more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Amen

The Ten Commandments

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes are the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-10). Jesus teaches us that if we live according to the Beatitudes, we will live a happy Christian life. The Beatitudes fulfill God's promises made to Abraham and his descendants and describe the rewards that will be ours as loyal followers of Christ.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Precepts of the Church

The precepts of the church describe the minimum effort we must make in prayer and in living a moral life. All Catholics are called to move beyond the minimum by growing in love of God and love of neighbor.

1. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
2. Confession of serious sin at least once a year.
3. Reception of holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season.
4. Observance of the days of fast and abstinence.
5. Providing for the needs of the church.
6. Observance of the church's laws on marriage.

The Bible

73 total books = 46 Old Testament + 27 New Testament

Pentateuch (first 5 books)

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

The Seven Sacraments

Baptism
Reconciliation
Eucharist
Confirmation
Matrimony
Holy Orders
Anointing of the Sick

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom
Understanding
Knowledge
Counsel
Fortitude (courage)
Piety (reverence)
Fear of the Lord (wonder and awe)

Theological Virtues

Faith, Hope, Love

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Charity (love)	Joy
Peace	Patience
Kindness	Goodness
Generosity	Gentleness
Faithfulness	Modesty
Self-Control	Chastity

Cardinal Virtues

Prudence (good discernment),
Justice,
Fortitude (courage),
Temperance (moderation)

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Visit the imprisoned
5. Shelter the homeless.
6. Visit the sick.
7. Bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish the sinner.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Counsel the doubtful.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Bear wrongs patiently.
6. Forgive injuries.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.