



St. Francis de Sales Church
2025-26
Confirmation Packet

Dear Parents and Students,

What is Confirmation? The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines Confirmation as a “completion of Baptismal grace through an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal or ‘confirm’ the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church.”

Great—but what does that all mean?

Up to this point, you have likely gathered information and knowledge about who God is and what the Catholic Church teaches. While knowledge of God and His Church is good and important, it does not constitute a relationship with Him.

This year, you will be stretched and challenged in your knowledge of God and the Catholic Church. Our team will ask you straightforward, and sometimes difficult questions. You will have new opportunities to encounter Christ and learn about our faith. You can approach this year in one of two ways:

1. A list of requirements that will culminate in “checking the box,” receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, “graduating” from the faith, and returning to everyday life
2. An opportunity to grow in deeper relationship with God and learn more about Him, our Church, prayer, and how to live our faith daily in the world

How you choose to approach this year is your decision alone, but I pray you will be open to the latter option. God has great things in store for you this year. He constantly pours His grace out upon us in the Sacraments, but as I once heard a Catholic speaker share, “if we hold an umbrella over our heads all the time, it will prevent us from receiving the outpouring of God’s grace.”

Come spring, I pray that you won’t have the definition of Confirmation at the beginning of this letter memorized, but rather, that you will have a flourishing and prayerful relationship with the Holy Trinity. Perhaps, you will experience your first true encounter with Christ over the next few months. If so, allow this encounter to transform your life. I promise you won’t regret it.

Our Confirmation team is here to help you and your family however we can during this year of sacrament preparation and beyond. Know of our continued prayers for you – prayers for openness to the Holy Spirit working in your life, boldness in asking questions about your faith, and a willingness to let down your umbrella and experience the never-ending stream of Christ’s grace, mercy, and love.

Joyfully,

McKinzie Murley, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

913-727-3742

faithformation@stfrancislansing.org

St. Francis de Sales 2025 – 2026 Confirmation Calendar

September

- 7 Parish Mission Week (6-7:30 PM)
- 14 Beginnings: Introduction (with parents and sponsors)
- 21 Seeking: What Is Our Desire? & Reasons: Faith and Reason
- 28 Reveal: Is God Real?

October

- 5 Breath: Does a Relationship with God Matter? & Confirmation Prep Meeting #1
- 12 NO CLASS—Fall Break
- 19 **AT HOME** Brokenhearted: Why Is There Evil and Suffering & Fault: Our Goodness and Fall
- 26 Prodigal: Why Jesus? – Part 1

November

- 2 More: Why Jesus? -Part 2
- 9 New: Why Jesus? – Part 3
- 16 Transformation: Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel Message
- 22 Class Service Day at St. Mary's Food Kitchen (8:30 AM – 2:30 PM)
- 23 VIRTUS – Protecting God's Children
- 30 NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving!

December

- 7 Foundation: Why the Church? & Burn: The Holy Spirit in the Church
- 14 Source: The Mass and the Eucharist & Confirmation Prep Meeting #2
- 21&28 NO CLASS – MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January

- 4 NO CLASS
- 11 **AT HOME** Enter: Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism
- 16-18 Confirmation Retreat
- 25 Signature: Sacraments of Initiation - Confirmation (12-2 PM)

February

- 1 The Rite of Confirmation
- 8 Called: Foundations of Discipleship (12-2 PM)
- 15 NO CLASS – Come and Go Lent Prep (Wed. AM/PM Sun. AM in Parish Hall)
- 22 Power: The Holy Spirit in the Life of Discipleship & Confirmation Prep Meeting #3

March

- 1 **AT HOME** Meaning: Vocation
- 8 **AT HOME** Pathway: Morality & United: Justice
- 15 NO CLASS – First Weekend of Spring Break
- 22 Speak: Witnesses of Faith
- 29 Nations: Evangelization

April

- 5 NO CLASS—HAPPY EASTER!
- 12 Rehearsal & My Purpose: Ongoing Relationship with the Holy Spirit (5-7 PM with parents and sponsors)
- 19 *Confirmation with Archbishop McKnight @ 2:00 PM*
- 26 Youth Group Celebration

Sacrament Preparation for Confirmation

Important Dates and Details

- **Student Classes:** Meet from 5-7 PM on Sundays unless otherwise noted on the calendar
- **Sacrament Preparation Sessions (mandatory attendance for parents and sponsors)**
 - First Session: **Sunday, October 5, 2025**
 - Second Session: **Sunday, December 14, 2025**
 - Third Session: **Sunday, February 22, 2026**
 - All meetings are from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Church Basement.
- **Confirmation Retreat Appeal:** November 15 & 16
- **Retreat:** January 16-18, 2026 at Prairie Star Ranch
- **February:** Confirmation Interviews
- **Confirmation Rehearsal (mandatory attendance for parents and sponsors):**
 - April 12 from 5-7 PM
- **Confirmation Mass:** April 19, 2026 at 2:00 PM at St. Francis de Sales Church

Due Dates

- October 5—Sponsor Affidavit Due
- November 2—Baptismal Certificate with Notations Due and Saint Presentations Begin
- February 1—Draft Letter to Father Bala Due
- February 22—Service Hours and Letter to Father Bala Due

Attendance Policy—Mass + Class

- Students must bring a priest's signature with them to each class, confirming their Mass attendance.
 - Signatures should be provided by the parish priest if attending another parish or Father Bala if attending SFDS
 - No Mass = Missed Class (see missed class policies below)
- Students are permitted to miss three Confirmation classes September through April.
- Absences due to illness or family situations are not counted towards the permitted three absences.
- When students miss a class, they must
 - Notify their Confirmation catechists and McKinzie, the Confirmation coordinator
 - Make up the missed lesson with their sponsor and provide a written summary of the lesson. Summaries are due within two weeks of the missed lesson.
- If students miss more than three classes, students and parents will be invited to meet with McKinzie, the Confirmation coordinator, to discuss special circumstances or attendance barriers.

Saint Presentation

Taking on a new name has Biblical roots. Several individuals in Scripture were given a new name by God to indicate that they had undergone an important transformation: Abraham (formerly Abram) in the Old Testament or Saint Peter (formerly Simon) in the New.

We are made to be soldiers for Christ, and soldiers need heroes to follow. In our earthly journey, we are not meant to walk alone. We need inspiration to guide us and friends to accompany us. Our patron saints are meant to be our spiritual heroes and our heavenly friends. Taking a Confirmation saint encourages us to develop or deepen a relationship with them.

But where to begin? In a Church that is more than 2,000 years old, there are thousands of Saints to choose from. Consider the following questions as you begin your research:

- Am I already named after a Saint? If so, am I familiar with their life story?
- What have been my most significant life circumstances?
- What are my strengths, interests, hobbies, or passions?
- What do I feel that God is calling me to do in my life?
- What sins or temptations plague me most?
- Is there a Saint whose life I deeply admire? Is there a Saint who seems to have chosen me?

After selecting the Saint you want to be named after (and who will continue to pray for and intercede for you), prepare a presentation about the Saint's life (5-10 minutes long).

Saint Presentation Guidelines

- Who is the Saint? (When and where did he or she live, family life, job, etc.) What is their patronage? (Patron Saint of soccer players, hiking, authors, etc.)
- What have you learned about this Saint through your research? What inspired you to choose this Saint?
- How will you strive to develop a relationship with your Confirmation Saint? In what ways can you ask for their intercession in your life?
- Confirmation is about evangelization. How will you share your Saint with others?
- Consider bringing items or handouts for your talk.
- Videos about your Saint cannot be used during your presentation. We want to learn about your Saint from you!

Presentations will begin no later than **Sunday, November 2, 2025.**

*Wording taken from *Ascension Press's* "How To Choose A Confirmation Saint" Article

A Letter to Father Bala

All Confirmation candidates are required to write a handwritten letter to Father Bala explaining what Confirmation means to them personally and why they wish to be confirmed. The purpose of this letter is to help clarify what is happening in the candidate's faith life and what it means for them to be confirmed. Since the Sacrament of Confirmation is very much a spiritual and internal journey, this letter will help express the changes experienced in the candidate's interior life.

Confirmation Letter Guidelines

Please include the following in your Confirmation letter:

- The salutation (Dear Father Bala)
- Name of the Church where you will be Confirmed, and the date of Confirmation
- Why you want to be confirmed
- What you have done to prepare yourself for Confirmation
- Who your Saint is and why you chose them
- Who your sponsor is and why you chose them
- Any other relevant information
- Sign your letter with your handwritten signature
- Try to keep your letter to no more than one page

First draft of letter is due on: **February 1st, 2026** (typed letters are acceptable for the draft)

Final Handwritten Letters are due: **February 22nd, 2026**

Sponsor Interview

The role of the Confirmation sponsor is rooted in the 2,000 year history of the Church. The Second Vatican Council and the renewal of the sacraments have made the role of the sponsor a vital part of the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

All candidates must select and interview a sponsor for Confirmation. The interview is intended to help the candidate learn more about their sponsor and why they have continued to practice their Catholic faith. Sponsors will serve as mentors and role models to their candidates during this year of preparation and beyond.

Please complete the interview form below and return it with the Affidavit no later than October 5, 2025.

Sponsor Interview Form

Candidate Name _____ Sponsor Name _____

Interview Questions

Were you raised Catholic or did you convert to the faith? _____

Who was your Confirmation Saint and why did you choose him/her? _____

Can you share a moment when you felt God's presence? _____

What does your prayer life look like? _____

How do you share your Catholic faith with others? _____

What is your favorite Sacrament and why? _____

Service Hours

The purpose of completing service hours is to show that the Confirmation candidate is ready to live out his or her baptismal role of priest, prophet, and king.

The role of king is one of service to God and His people.

All candidates are required to complete **15 hours of service**.

Time frame that service hours can be completed:

June 1, 2025 – February 22, 2026

Please return the service hours form no later than February 22, 2026.

Examples of Service Opportunities:

1. Group Service Activity

- This can be completed with the Confirmation Class. Opportunities will be announced as they become available.

2. Service within St. Francis de Sales Parish

- Any service activity done in conjunction with or benefitting SFDS Church and its parishioners.
- Any volunteer activity you read about in the bulletin can count as a Parish Activity. Some examples are: Altar serving for Mass, St. Mary's Food Kitchen (Kansas City), Hospitality for Donut Sundays, Basement Sale, Parish Mission Week, Parish Picnic, etc.

3. Other Service Activity

- This can be similar to one of the other types of service or something completely different depending on your connections. Examples: Catholic Charities, Scouts, opportunities at your school, etc.

Service Stipulations:

1. Please vary your service activities. All service hours should not come from one opportunity (ex. Humane Society, Altar Serving, etc.).
2. Non-parent signatures must be obtained for each service activity.
3. Students must complete at least two hours of service with their chosen sponsor or a parent or sibling proxy if the sponsor lives out of town.

Affidavit of Eligibility for the Ministry of Confirmation Sponsor

I, _____
(Please print complete name)

Swear to Almighty God that (please initial by each statement):

_____ I am a baptized member of the Catholic Church

_____ I am at least 16 years old

_____ I have made my First Holy Communion and received the Sacrament of Confirmation

_____ I am not married outside of the Catholic Church (married by a non-Catholic minister), nor am I cohabiting (living with someone outside the bounds of marriage)

_____ I attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) at least once a year, and go to Holy Communion at least once a year in the Easter season.

_____ I understand the responsibilities which I undertake as a sponsor for this person. I will assist his/her parents in their Christian duty. I will help this person through words and actions to live as a faithful Christian in communion with and according to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church.

Signature of Sponsor

Date

REFERENCE:

Name of person to be Confirmed

The fore-signed person is a member of _____ parish and has sworn that he/she fulfills the canonical requirements to be a sponsor for Confirmation.

Signature of Pastor/Delegate

Date

Parish Location

PARISH SEAL

Please return this affidavit by Sunday, October 5, 2025 to:
St. Francis de Sales Church / Attn. McKinzie Murley
900 Ida Street
Lansing, KS 66043

WHAT IS A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?

Sponsors are:

WITNESSES – Share your faith

To know someone who lives what he or she says they believe is a powerful witness for all of us. This knowledge is especially helpful for the young person who has chosen you as a guide in faith. As a witness, you might ask yourself, “Is this young man or woman I am sponsoring growing in their faith?” Then perhaps ask yourself, “What can I do to help this young person’s understanding of God and continued growth as a Catholic?”

COMPANIONS – Be available and “in the picture”

Being a sponsor means that you serve as a companion or guide. If you live close enough, you can be an integral part of this young person’s life. If you live far away, you can keep in touch with a phone call or note of reassurance regarding your willingness to help whenever there is a need. Your job is to be an adult mentor.

ROLE MODELS – Live an authentic and integrated Catholic life

Before you begin to feel overwhelmed by such responsibility, remember you do not have to be perfect, no one is. Simply challenge yourself to be open to your own faith growth and put into practice what a life committed to faith requires. Being sponsor is a journey you and this special young person make together. So, your faith growth is important. You can do this by attending Liturgies and Prayer Services together, attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation together, and discussing the impact of the Sacraments on you and your life.

PRAYER WARRIORS – Cultivate a personal prayer life and intercede for others

Acting as a sponsor means humbly admitting that God can use you to touch the heart and shape the life and faith development of this young person. Prayer will remind you that you are not doing this alone. Prayer will keep you open to the very real movement of the Holy Spirit in everyday life. Pray for your candidate daily!

SPONSORS REQUIREMENTS:

- Older than 16 years of age
- Not a parent of the candidate
- One who has received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation
- One who attends Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation
- An active member of his/her parish
- Someone living in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church

Confirmation Community Service Hours

Due: February 22, 2026

Candidate's Name: _____

Type and Location of Service: _____

Printed Name of Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Date Worked: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Type and Location of Service: _____

Printed Name of Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Date Worked: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Type and Location of Service: _____

Printed Name of Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Date Worked: _____ Number of Hours: _____

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Due: February 22, 2026

Candidate's Name: _____

Type and Location of Service: _____

Printed Name of Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Date Worked: _____ Number of Hours: _____

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Date Worked: _____ Number of Hours: _____

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