



**St. Stephen the Martyr**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Encounter, Know, Proclaim*

August 1, 2021

Hello, Parents of Confirmation Candidates!

As I look toward a new school year, I am overcome with excitement for what lies ahead and feel blessed to be in this ministry. One of my favorite things to do is to help youth to fall in love with Christ and our faith as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

I am sure you have loads of questions and concerns regarding Confirmation preparation. I want to assure you that I am here for you and confident that we can work together to make sure that this journey towards Confirmation is full of joy, centered on Christ, and *not a stressful venture*.

We will be hosting a **Parent Information meeting on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the SSM Dining Room**. During this meeting we will walk through the Confirmation preparation process for this year and have time to answer questions.

In the meantime, here is a quick overview of the Need to Knows and Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Baptismal Certificate:** The Religious Education Office must have a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate! If your child was not baptized here at St. Stephen the Martyr parish, please send a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate to the office or bring in the original and we can copy it for you. If you no longer have your child's Baptismal Certificate, you can contact the parish where they were baptized and request that it be faxed to 402-861-4590, Attn: Laura Bogue. Please have Baptismal Certificates turned in by Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Journey of Faith Form:** Your child will need to choose someone to be their sponsor for Confirmation, as well as a patron Saint (which the kids often refer to as their "Saint name"). Once their sponsor and Saint name have been chosen, the Confirmation Candidate (the youth, not the parent!) should fill out the on-line [Journey of Faith](#) form with the information on who they have chosen and why. Journey of Faith forms are due by Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. *More information on choosing a sponsor and Saint name will be shared during our meeting.*
- **Stewardship Hours:** Service work is an excellent way of living out our faith while learning more about the gifts and talents that God has blessed us with. We ask that your child complete 10 stewardship hours from a variety of opportunities: 5 hours due by Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and 5 due by Wednesday, March 16, 2022. These hours can be done for the benefit of our parish or for the greater community, **and oftentimes can be earned from home**. While we will have several events or opportunities organized through our youth service ministry, Hearts Open Wide, Confirmation Candidates are encouraged to be creative and are challenged to see how they may already be doing acts of service in their daily lives. Youth can keep track of their Stewardship hours by completing the on-line [Stewardship Reflection](#) form. It is important that the Confirmation Candidate/youth completes this form, and not a parent. *More information on Stewardship Hours will be shared during our meeting.*

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*St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.*

- **Save the Date! Confirmation Retreat:** The retreat experience is a valuable tool to help us connect with Jesus and build excitement for Confirmation and for our faith! We are thrilled that this year we will be able to offer an all-new retreat experience for our Confirmation candidates, with NET Ministries coming to lead our retreats on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM-2:30 PM. (Candidates will be assigned a day to attend retreat).
- **Dates of Confirmation:** Confirmation dates are determined by Archbishop George Lucas. The Chancery is expected to give us our dates in September. Dates of Confirmation Mass and rehearsals will be shared with you as soon as we have them.

It brings me great joy to walk alongside you and your child on this journey towards Confirmation and living life as a faithful Catholic afterward! Please feel free to reach out at any time with questions or concerns, as I am happy to help.

Peace and Blessings!



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