



Confirmation Parent Meeting

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

September 21, 2026

Staff Intros

Sandy Kimmey– Director of Religious Education

Christie Hinton -- SSM Confirmation Coordinator

St. Stephen's Confirmation Teachers/Catechists

SSM School 8th Grade Religion Teacher: Shelisa Mabeus

RE Catechist (8BW4): Laura Bogue & Kristin Nolan

RE Catechist (8AT4): Erin Hanafan & Kim Johnson

RE Catechist (8CW4): Michaela Pearson

RE Catechist (8BT4): Ann Reece & Joyce Snowden

RE Catechist (8AW5): Julie Shaner & Andrea Turner

RE Catechist (8AW4): Rebecca Witt & Lisa Moffett

RE Catechist (8AW7): Jen Rohrbach & Jennifer Meyer

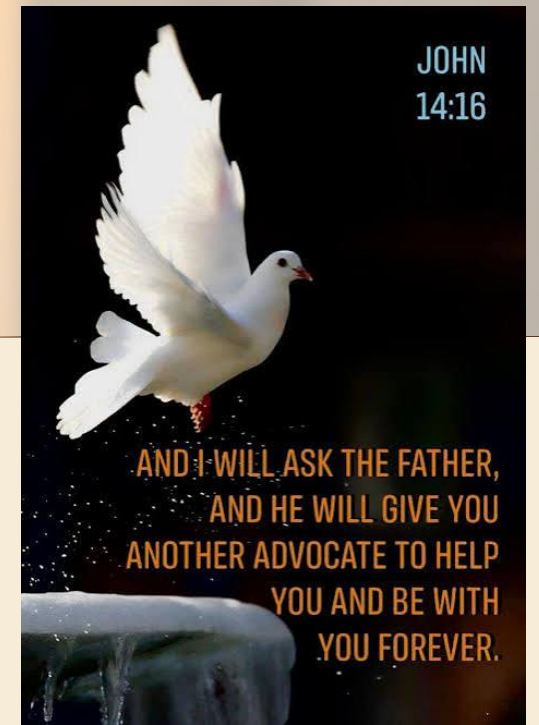
Opening Prayer & Welcome

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

John 14:16-17

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26-27



“For ‘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.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1284

“Confirmation in the Catholic Church is a sacrament of initiation that signifies the strengthening of faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. During Confirmation, the individual receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the imposition of hands and anointing with oils by the bishop, sealing them with the Holy Spirit. This sacrament reaffirms the individual's commitment to living out their faith and completes the process of becoming a full member of the Catholic Church. ”

On May 11-13, 2027, 8th grade students will be standing in front of the altar at the foot of the cross before the Archbishop. At that moment, students will verify their commitment to live out their faith in front of their Parish family.

But how do we get to that very special moment?

All of us will play a very significant role in bringing our students there!

- The **students** themselves will commit to thoroughly completing the requirements on time with an open prayerful heart.
- The **sponsors** of these students will commit themselves to serving as a mentor and guiding light for the student's journey.
- The **teachers, catechists, and administrators of Religious Education** at Saint Stephen the Martyr will commit themselves to sharing their knowledge, faith experience, and love of God with these students to provide thoughtful instruction and guidance.
- And the **parents** will commit themselves to serve as the journey navigators to ensure that the right path remains illuminated in providing directional assistance as needed and appropriate.



Baptismal Certificate

Baptismal Certificates must
be received by October 21st.

- Whether your child was baptized at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish or at another parish, **you DO need to submit a Baptismal Certificate!** Please bring/send your child's Baptismal Certificate to the **Religious Education Office**, and we will make a copy, or scan and email to Christie Hinton at cahinton@stephen.org
- If your child was baptized at St Stephen the Martyr, and you cannot find their Baptismal Certificate, contact the parish office at 402-896-9675 or email Melissa Payne at mdpayne@stephen.org
- If you do not have a certificate from your child's baptism at another parish, you may contact the church where the sacrament was received and ask them to send the Baptismal Certificate to: Christie Hinton at cahinton@stephen.org



Confirmation Sponsor

Requirements for the Confirmation Sponsor:

- ❖ Must be at least 16 years of age.
- ❖ May not be a parent or stepparent.
- ❖ Must be a Confirmed member of the Catholic Church.
- ❖ Must be a practicing Catholic who attends mass.

When choosing a Sponsor, consider whether he/she is:

- A faithful witness to the Catholic faith
- A person of prayer
- Someone who serves others
- A person of integrity who is willing to speak up and stand up for what is right even in the face of opposition.
- A person who will **continue** to walk with and support the Candidate on their ongoing faith journey after Confirmation.

Students need to fill out
and submit an online form:

Confirmation Sponsor Form

found on our parish website at

<https://stephen.org/confirmation>

This online form should be filled out **by the student**,
not the parent and submitted by **October 7, 2026!**



Confirmation Sponsor Encounter

Friday, November 13, 2026 *from* 6:30-8:00pm

-OR-

Saturday, November 14, 2026 *from* 10-11:30am

Confirmation students and sponsors are invited to spend time together during this encounter with God and with one another.

- If a sponsor is unable to attend, the student may invite another adult to accompany them.
- **Please note that this encounter does NOT replace the mandatory Confirmation Retreat which will be held in the spring.**
- This opportunity will be offered twice; choose which time best fits your schedule!



Choosing a Confirmation Saint

❖ RESEARCH:

Each student must do some research **outside of class** and choose a Confirmation Saint. Students will take on the Saint's name for Confirmation. A great resource on saints may be found at <https://lifeteen.com/find-your-saint>.

❖ COMPLETE ONLINE FORM:

After researching, students (not parents) will need to fill out an online **Confirmation Saint form** (outside of class) found on the parish website at <https://stephen.org/confirmation>

The Online Saint Form is Due by November 18, 2026!

❖ PRAY:

Students should pray with their Confirmation Saint. The saints are wonderful friends and advocates as they live with our Father in Heaven!

Students need to fill out
and submit the online form:

Confirmation Saint Form

found on our parish website at

<https://stephen.org/confirmation>

This online form should be filled out **by the student**, not the parent, and submitted by
November 18, 2026!



Service Hours Form

- Confirmation Students must complete a **minimum of 10 hours of community service by April 14th, 2027.**
- Students must **fill out a new *Service Hours* online form EVERY TIME** they complete a service project!

(Do not wait until April to submit all hours completed throughout the year!)

- Service opportunities exist within the Parish as well as within the community. Examples include:

- Volunteering to help at St. Stephen the Martyr parish events.
(Pancake Breakfast Oct 18th; sign up online: www.KofC10160.org)
- Visiting the homebound or a senior center.
- Participating in “Walk-a-thons” or other fundraisers in the community.
- Volunteering at the Heartland Food Bank, Open Door Mission, or other local charities.

Watch for emails sent throughout the year for information service opportunities.

God calls us to serve others! Help students learn about the many opportunities to do so. While the minimum is ten hours, students are encouraged to do more!

Students need to fill out and submit the online form:

Confirmation Service Hours Form

found on our parish website at

<https://stephen.org/confirmation>

For EACH service activity!

This online form should be filled out **by the student**, not the parent, and submitted by **April 14th, 2027!**

Confirmation Retreat

Friday, March 19th (8:00am-2:30pm) - *for all SSM School students*

-OR-

Saturday, March 20st (8:00am-2:30pm) - *for all SSM RE students*



- ❖ The retreat will be led by One Heart One Fire Ministries, a ministry based in Omaha.
- ❖ Friday's retreat will be held at Pro-Sanctity Retreat Center in Elkhorn; (bussing will be available from St. Stephen the Martyr.) Saturday's retreat will be held at our Parish. Both retreats are identical and led by the same retreat team leadership.
- ❖ Many parents, sponsors and/or teenage family members are needed to volunteer at these retreats. Please prayerfully consider helping out at your student's retreat! We will need a minimum of 15 adults AND 15 high school or college students. A sign-up sheet will be made available in January.
- ❖ If your child cannot attend a SSM student retreat, you must reach out to other Catholic churches in the area and ask if your child may attend their Confirmation retreat. Please notify the Rel Ed office once you have found an alternate retreat.

Each candidate is required to attend a Confirmation Retreat!



Letter to the Archbishop

During the second semester, each student must personally write a letter to our Archbishop requesting to be confirmed. By then, the student should have gained a better understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation and express a desire to accept this great gift from God.

The letter should clearly express:

1. That receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is your wish and your decision.
2. That you have prepared for the sacrament through study, service, and prayer.
3. That with the help of the Holy Spirit received in Confirmation, you will commit to being “a true witness of Christ,” and to live and spread “the faith by word and deed.”

Students must type and print out a copy of their letter, add a hand-written signature, and turn into their teacher or the Rel Ed office.

Letters are due by March 31, 2027. **(Wait to begin this until 2nd semester.)**

Family Preparation

- ❖ Talk about God as a family
- ❖ Pray, Pray, Pray--for and with your child
- ❖ Prioritize weekly Mass attendance
- ❖ Communicate often about Confirmation requirements
- ❖ Discuss Religion lessons from class





The Practical Stuff

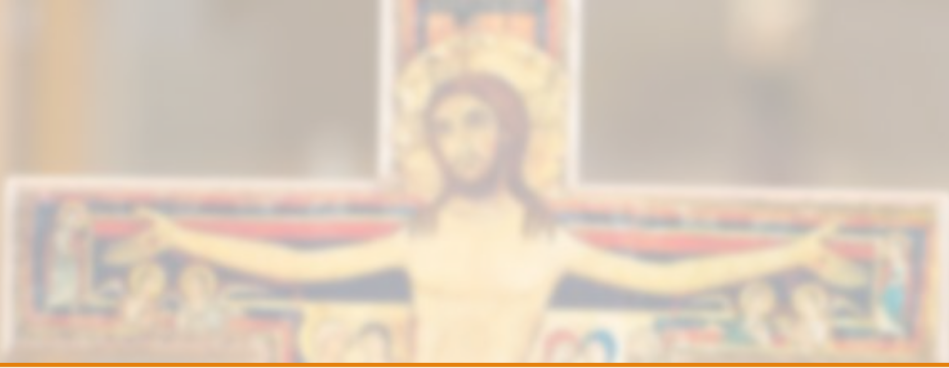


What to Wear

All candidates should wear their "**Sunday Best Attire**" to the church for Confirmation. For the Mass itself, each candidate will be given an alb (white robe) to wear over their dress clothes. We ask all students to arrive to church dressed according to the following guidelines:

- **Dress for Girls:** Modest, "Sunday Best Attire." No super short skirts please. Bare shoulders should be covered with a cardigan. No bare midriffs. Please do not wear flip flops.
- **Dress for Boys:** A collared shirt and nice pants. A tie and coat is not required. Please wear dress shoes (or nice tennis shoes that are clean and appropriate.)

Dates



- **October 7, 2026: Online Sponsor Form submission deadline**
- **October 21, 2026: Baptismal Certificate submission deadline**
- **November 13 or 14, 2026: Confirmation Sponsor Experience**
- **November 18, 2026: Online Saint selection form deadline**
- **March 31, 2027: Letter to Archbishop submission deadline** (Turn in typed and signed copy to the teacher or RE office.)
- **April 14, 2027: Service Hours deadline** (Online form must be completed for EACH service activity.)
- **March 19 or 20, 2027: Confirmation Retreat** (mandatory)
- **May 6 or 7, 2027: Confirmation Rehearsals** (required--assigned by class)
- **May 11, 12, 13, 2027: Confirmation Dates** (assigned by class)

Class Assignments

Tuesday Confirmation Mass: May 11th at 6:30pm

Required Rehearsal on
Thursday, May 6th at 6:00 pm

School: 8A (Harvey)

Rel Ed: 8AT4 (Hanafan/Johnson),
8BT4 (Reece/Snowden), &
8AW5 (Shaner/Turner)

Wednesday Confirmation Mass: May 12th at 6:30 pm

Required Rehearsal on
Thursday, May 6th at 7:30 pm

School: 8B (Koubsky)

Rel Ed: 8AW4 (Witt/Moffett) &
8BW4 (Bogue/Nolan)

Thursday Confirmation Mass: May 13th at 6:30 pm

Required Rehearsal on
Friday, May 7th at 6:00 pm

School: 8C (Codina)

Rel Ed: 8CW4 (Pearson) &
8AW7 (Rohrbach/Meyer)

Mandatory Rehearsals:

All students and sponsors are asked to attend their assigned Rehearsal date to prepare for their assigned Confirmation Mass. If a sponsor is unable to attend the rehearsal, a parent should accompany their child at rehearsal and relay instructions to sponsor.

At the rehearsal, we will provide seating assignments, practice the procession, and rehearse with the Sponsor on how to accompany the Candidate up to the altar. Rehearsals take place in the church. (*Dress is casual for Rehearsal.*)

Mass Seating:

Confirmation **candidates and their sponsors** are assigned seat in the diagonal pews facing the altar. Families of Candidates will not be assigned to a specific pew but may fill in as desired on both sides of the worship space.

Confirmation Mass Attire:

All should dress in modest, "Sunday Best" attire for Confirmation Masses. Upon arrival, each candidate will be given an alb (white robe) to wear over their dress clothes.

Thank You!

Please help rearrange Cafeteria!

1. TAKE DOWN: 16 Tables
2. STACK UP: 154 Chairs
3. Arrange remaining 39 Tables like image:
4. With a chair at every X

(Final layout: 39 tables and 168 chairs)

THANK YOU!!!!

