2022 Confirmation Letter of Invitation

Dear Confirmation Candidates and families,

You are invited to begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation!

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church. We begin our journey when we receive baptism, and enter into "new life;" participate more fully when we receive the Eucharist and finally receive the Holy Spirit more completely in Confirmation, as a fully initiated member of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church founded by Jesus Christ.

What happens at Confirmation? In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Apostles and the Bishops, who are their successors, hand on to the baptized the special gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ the Lord and poured out upon the Apostles at Pentecost. The *initiation* in the Christian life is then completed so that believers are strengthened by power from Heaven, made true witnesses of Christ in word and deed, and bound more closely to the Church." Decree of Pope Paul VI, 8/22/71 *The rites, Rite of Confirmation p. 289*

Jesus promised his followers that they would receive the strength to overcome their doubts and fears and change the whole world. It is a big promise. The same promise is given to you. All those Confirmed receive this same power from the Holy Spirit to change the world. Sharing Jesus today can be controversial. It was also controversial in the first century. Eleven of the apostles were martyred (killed) for sharing Jesus. They were given the strength to surrender to torture and death, all for Jesus. Every person who is Confirmed today is given this *same power*, but many do not even begin to use it. Imagine someone leaving a new Lamborghini in their back yard to rust, or using a gold bar as a door stop. Clearly they don't understand the power of the Lamborghini, or the value of the gold bar. That is like being Confirmed and never sharing Jesus with others.

You have free will. It is critical that you *choose* to be Confirmed, and that you are not receiving this Sacrament for the wrong reason. Parents, if your child does not want to be Confirmed, you have the authority to have them complete the preparation program. However, in the end, the student must *choose to be Confirmed.*

Students, it is important to know that you *do NOT have to do this*. Remember that God gives us free will, and this choice is a critical one**.** Confirmation is not the 'last box to check' on the Religious Education journey, or something you need to get done before you get married. **Confirmation is something you *get to do.* Confirmation is a powerful gift of grace given to those who make a vow before God that they will follow Jesus for the rest of their lives. It is not just a symbol, but a direct action of God that changes your soul forever.**

"..you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

To begin the process please complete the appropriate forms and schedule your initial interview. Thank you and may God Bless your families!

God Bless,
~ Deb Mlsna
Director of Religious Education

Confirmation 2022
Initial interview & Kickoff brunch

Dear Students,

Congratulations on your decision to take the first step to be Confirmed! Our preparation program begins with an initial interview and a kick-off brunch.

Initial interview:
This is an informal meeting in which we will discuss prayer and your desire to be Confirmed. You will receive a bible and a catechism. All forms need to be turned in during your interview. Candidates will also be asked about their daily prayer plan, and offered strategies for prayer time. Parents or sponsors are welcomed to attend with the candidate, but the questions are directed towards the student and the student (alone) is expected to respond. Please allow for an hour. The initial interview will be with Deb. All interviews must be completed by August 18, 2021. A sign up is available for interview times, and that link has been emailed.

What to bring to your initial interview (5 items):
The following is required for the interview and should be brought with you:

- **Candidate Information Form**
  This is to ensure we have the most current contact information.
- **Baptismal Record**
  A copy of your baptismal certificate is needed *only* if you did not celebrate First Holy Communion at Christ the King.
- **Confirmation Prep Agreement**
  Please make sure this is signed by the student and a parent.
- **Sponsor Contact Form**
  This indicates who your sponsor is and how to contact them, they are involved in each step
- **Confirmation Program Fee** ($20, this fee is separate from/in addition to Religious Ed tuition)
  The additional fee is to help to cover the cost of additional materials and activities/retreat.

Kickoff brunch on August 29, 2021:
We will have our kickoff brunch on Sunday, August 29, 2021 from 11am - 12:30pm in the church basement.
It is required for the student, their sponsor and a parent to attend the kickoff brunch.

Finally, please remember that this preparation process is designed to help you grow in faith as you choose to follow Christ. You are not expected to be perfect, none of us are, but we need to keep growing and learning to draw closer to Jesus. It is a journey and Jesus is with us to ultimately lead us to heaven.

Let me know if you have any questions, I look forward to meeting with you!

God Bless,
~Deb Mlsna

Candidate Information Form

Student Full Name_____

Gender M / F **Date of Birth**_____ **Academic Grade Level** _____

Student Email _____

Student Home Address _____

Father's name _____ **Mother's Name**_____
Father's Home/Cell Phone _____ **Mother's Home/Cell Phone**_____
Father's Work Phone __**Mother's Work Phone** _____
Best time(s) to call?_____

I will be using Flocknote to send reminders and updates about Confirmation preparation, it can send emails or texts, but I primarily email. Please circle the best contact method and provide the cell number or email. If you want multiple people to receive the messages, please include up to three below.
** Email must be selected for at least one choice ** Please clearly print the number or email address and who's number/address you are providing.

Email: _____

(Circle one) Email, Text _____ optional

(Circle one) Email, Text _____ optional

Do you have any concerns? (academic, allergies, other?)

_____

Is there anything else we should know to best help this student grow in faith?

_____

_____

Do you grant permission to use photos of the candidate for commercial purposes? For example, in the bulletin, on the FaceBook page, on promotional flyers or on the website.
(circle one) Yes No
If Yes, Candidate Initials _____ Parent Initials _____ Date_____

With this form, please include the Confirmation Program fee of $20. Checks may be made out to Christ the King Parish. Cash is also accepted.

Deb Mlsna, Director of Religious Education
Christ the King Parish
306 S. LaSalle St
Spencer, WI 54479
DRE@ctkspencer.net
715-613-4480 ext 3

This form is due with the initial interview which must be scheduled on or before August 18, 2021.

Baptismal Record Form

IMPORTANT—If the candidate <u>did not</u> celebrate either Baptism or First Holy Communion at Christ the King parish, please send this form along with a copy of your baptismal certificate.

Candidate Name:

_____

First name *M.I.* *Last Name*

Mother's Name:

_____

First name ***Maiden Name*** *Last Name*

Candidate Date of Baptism _____ / _____ / _____

Candidate Parish of Baptism _____

Candidate City of Baptism _____

Candidate Birthdate _____ / _____ / _____

This form is due with the initial interview which must be scheduled on or before August 18, 2021.

Confirmation Preparation
Agreement

To prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation each candidate will do the following:

- Attend Mass on **all** Sundays **and** Holy Days of Obligation
- Take homily notes as assigned
- Follow the 10 Commandments … *do you know them?*
- Complete this Confirmation preparation with diligence

- **Pray Daily** - I commit to the following plan for my daily prayer (15 min/day):

_____

_____

_____

_____

*** If you cannot come up with a prayer plan, we will work on it during your initial interview ***

Candidate:

I, _____ , agree to do the above mentioned items in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. You will be asked about these during your interviews.

Parents:

We, _____, and _____ , agree to help our child to do the above mentioned items so that they will be ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and follow Jesus as his disciple the rest of their life.

NOTES:

This form is due with the initial interview which must be scheduled on or before August 18, 2021.

Sponsor Contact Form

THE ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, seek the spiritual help of a ***sponsor***. Like parents and godparents, sponsors share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them. Because our life on earth is "a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart" (Pope John Paul II, *The Trinity's Embrace*), the **sponsor should be** a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith. A sponsor should spend time in daily prayer and frequently encounter Jesus in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor's heart should reflect the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic in good standing, who is older than 16 years of age and has been Confirmed. They may not be the parent of the candidate or married outside the Catholic Church. If you have questions about the requirements for a sponsor, please contact Deb.

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Phone: _____

Sponsor's Email: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

_____

** Your sponsor must attend the kick off brunch with you on August 29, 2021 **

This form is due with the initial interview which must be scheduled on or before August 18, 2021.