

Confirmation Preparation Parent Handbook



*Saint Katharine Drexel Church
Office of Faith Formation*

“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 #1285

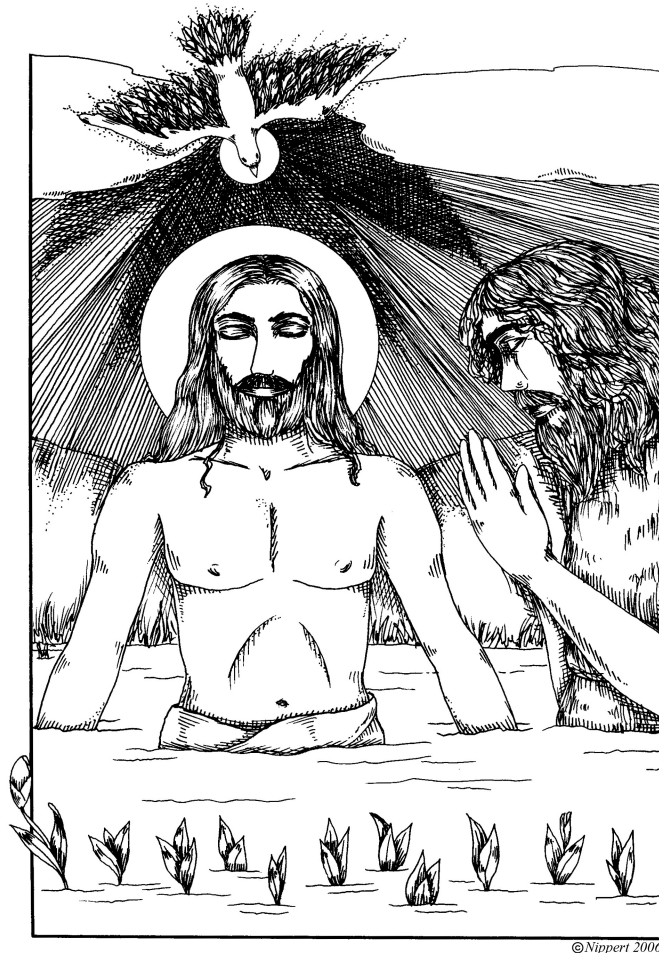


Table of Contents

Saint Katharine Drexel Church Contact Information	4
Effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation	5
The Components of the Confirmation Preparation Program	6
Component #1 – Mass Attendance	6
Component #2 – Classes	7
<i>Religious Education Attendance</i>	7
<i>Full Year Attendance</i>	8
<i>Late Arrival/Early Dismissal</i>	8
<i>Behavior</i>	9
<i>Please Discuss with Your Children</i>	9
Component #3 – Prayer and Devotion (Spiritual Exercises)	9
Component #4 – Service	10
Component #5 – Retreat	10
Component #6 – Written Assignments.....	10
<i>Written Assignment Standards</i>	10
Component #7 – Confirmation Interview.....	13
Choosing a Confirmation Name	13
The Confirmation Sponsor	15
The Sponsor Certificate	17
Confirmation Sponsor Certificate – SAMPLE!!!.....	18
Confirmation Preparation Fee	19
Tips for Parents	19
Requirements for students who attend Catholic School	20
7 th Grade Requirements	20
Confirmation Sponsor Certificate	21

Saint Katharine Drexel Church Contact Information

Father Kenneth G. Smith, Pastor

ksmith@skdparish.com

717-697-8716

Office of Faith Formation

Scott A. Root – Coordinator of Religious Education (Grades 6-8)

rootscott@skdparish.com

Address:

Saint Katharine Drexel Church

Office of Faith Formation

1 Peter Drive

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050



©Nippert 2008

Effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation

- The recipient of the Sacrament of Confirmation receives the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as He was once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. (Note: One receives the Holy Spirit along with the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism)
- Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace
- Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation roots one more deeply in participation in the life of the Trinity
- The recipient is united more firmly to Christ
- The sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit (which one receives at Baptism) are increased within the recipient
- Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation renders one's bond with the Catholic Church more perfect
- Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation gives one special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross
- Upon reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, one is imprinted with an *indelible spiritual mark* (character) which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of His Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be His witness
- The Confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and officially

The Components of the Confirmation Preparation Program

We are blessed to live in a time when the knowledge of the Sacrament of Confirmation is growing by leaps and bounds among the Catholic Faithful and we are pleased to be able to share in the work of preparing your children for reception of this Sacrament.

Indeed, the reception of each of the Sacraments is a momentous event. The graces given to us by God, under simple signs, produce supernatural fruit. In other words, the Sacraments give us something that cannot be earned or produced by human powers. Through the Sacraments God gives us a share in His own divine life, a treasure more valuable than anything else we can have.

That is why we, in conjunction with our Diocese, take preparation for this Sacrament very seriously. By the Sacrament of Confirmation, one receives "a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross." (CCC #1303) In order for one to live out the Sacramental strength that is received in Confirmation, to be a witness of Jesus Christ, one needs to have a solid understanding of the truths that God has revealed to us through His Holy Church – and that is what we are doing at Confirmation Preparation.

All student's who are to be confirmed must provide the Faith Formation Office with a copy of your Baptismal Certificate.

Component #1 – Mass Attendance

Except in extreme circumstances or in case of illness, **Confirmation Preparation students must attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation.** Children are expected to attend Mass in addition to their Religious Education classes. This is particularly important to remember when your children attend Religious Education classes on Sunday mornings. Students may attend Mass at any Catholic Church, so if the Mass schedule at Saint Katharine Drexel Church does not suit your weekend plans, you may have your child attend Mass elsewhere. There are Sunday evening Masses in Harrisburg and Carlisle that you can attend if you cannot get to Mass on Saturday evening or on Sunday morning.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The first precept [of the Church] (You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation) requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord [Sunday]." (CCC 2042)

Class attendance does not take the place of Sunday (or Saturday vigil) Mass at any time.

If it is regularly a hardship for you to get your children to Mass in addition to their Religious Education classes, please call the Religious Education Office and we will try to assist you in contacting the parents of other children in the program to set up a carpool.

Component #2 – Classes

Classes provide our students with a solid review of the basic doctrines of the Catholic Faith that they have been studying since they were small children. In class our students get the facts about Who God is and how they must believe and live in order to spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

Most of our students attend classes in the context of CCD. If your child attends Saint Joseph School, he or she will attend classes at school.

Faith Formation Attendance

Our Confirmation Preparation students who are enrolled in Faith Formation will receive their Confirmation Preparation within the context of their regularly scheduled Faith Formation Class. Aside from the items listed in the next paragraph, there are no additional Confirmation Preparation classes aside from your child's regularly scheduled Faith Formation classes.

In addition to their 8th Grade/Confirmation Preparation class, students are required to attend the Confirmation retreat and Confirmation rehearsal.

In order to remain eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, the student must attend all Faith Formation classes for the year. Make-up work is required for any missed classes, as well as any late arrival or early dismissal. The catechists and parents will coordinate the make-up work. All make-up work is due the next session.

- **If you have a special situation that will require your child to have multiply absences, call the CRE to make arrangements.** Alternative arrangements for eighth grade Confirmation Preparation classes can be made in serious situations. Conflicts with family travel or sports schedules are not considered serious situations.

- The Diocese requires that the Confirmation Preparation process take place over two years. If your child did not attend or did not complete 7th Grade Faith Formation last year, he or she will need to do so this year and plan to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year.

Full Year Attendance

Regardless of the date of Confirmation, all 8th Grade students are expected to attend Faith Formation for the full 8th Grade year. Please plan to have your child attend classes through the last scheduled class date in May.

Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

Students are expected to arrive for class several minutes before class is scheduled to begin. Opening exercises begin promptly at the time published for class to begin and students are to be in class prior to that time. Students who arrive once we have begun will be marked "Late".

Students who arrive late need to report directly to the Faith Formation Resource Room before going to class so we can make a note of arrival on the attendance records. ***** We have had many cases where students have arrived late, not checked in, and have not received credit for attending classes! Please have your child check in if he or she arrives late.**

Students are expected to remain in class until the scheduled dismissal time. **An early dismissal** will be recorded in the way that a "Late" is recorded. **Make-up work will be assigned for students that arrive late or are dismissed early.**

**** Please note that if you must pull your child out of class before the regular dismissal time, you need to make arrangements with the CRE prior to class. Our new policy is to have all doors leading to the Faith Formation area locked during class. Please let us know in advance when to expect you to arrive early to pick your child up. Teachers have been instructed not to allow students to leave class unless the CRE comes to the room to get a particular child. Parents are not to enter classrooms on your own to pull your children out of class.** We appreciate your understanding of this very important child safety policy.

Behavior

All students on Parish grounds are to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful and reverent toward Our Lord, our Pastor, their teachers, and the children around them.

In classrooms, children are to follow the directions of their teachers, listen attentively, and avoid class disruptions.

At all times, students are to conduct themselves according to the moral teachings of the Church. **Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the Parish Faith Formation program.**

Please Discuss with Your Children

All people are created in the Image and Likeness of God and are always to be treated with respect. Teasing other children or embarrassing them in any way is not permitted regardless of gender, ability or disability, or physical appearance.

If any parents or children become aware of a situation where a child is not being treated with due respect by anyone, please let Mr. Root know immediately so that the situation can be rectified.

Component #3 – Prayer and Devotion (Spiritual Exercises)

In order to be Catholics in good standing with the Church, we need to live according to the Precepts of the Church (Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation once each year, etc.) and to remain in the state of grace, but there is more to becoming holy than just doing the bare minimum. The goal of our lives is to become saints. Learning to pray in ways that go above and beyond what is required of us puts us on that path to sainthood. Moreover, your child's relationship with Jesus will continue for the rest of his or her life – and into the next. So, all of us have the responsibility to practice our Faith actively.

Spiritual Exercise/Devotional Logs are online. Please refer to the parish website for further information.

Component #4 – Service

Just as those in the Communion of Saints pray for and help us, we are called to help others here on earth. We are called particularly to help those who are in need. Jesus, himself, in Matthew's Gospel, tells us how to serve others in the **Corporal Works of Mercy. Through the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy, we serve God through meeting the needs of others.** That is why our students are to complete **20 hours of service.** These twenty hours can be completed during 7th and 8th grade. This project is not to make them “put in time” or to give them “busy work.” All Confirmation Candidates should seek out a non-profit, pro-life organization, or an individual who is in need. Service to the Church and to the community at large does not stop when one is Confirmed – this is only the beginning. **The maximum hours permitted for one particular service is 10 hours.**

A copy of the instructions for the required Service Hours is included in the Appendices of this Handbook. Reporting of completed hours will be done on a Google Form, which can be accessed on the parish website.

Component #5 – Retreat

All students to be confirmed at Saint Katharine Drexel are to attend a Confirmation Retreat. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** The retreat is scheduled due by the date provided on the Confirmation Dates document. The retreat will be presented by NET ministries. The retreat will end with the class attending the 4:30 Mass together.

For more information on NET ministries, visit their website:
<http://www.netusa.org/mission/>

Component #6 – Written Assignments

In addition to the Spiritual Exercises Log and the Service Hour Log, there are several written assignments that each student must complete and turn in throughout the eighth-grade year. These assignments help your child focus more on Confirmation preparation and assist us in evaluating your child's progress throughout the process.

Written Assignment Standards

All written assignments should be completed by students according to the specific instructions provided. Written items turned in that are not completed according to the instructions will be turned back for revisions. Items that are returned for revisions must be revised according to the instructions given and turned in at the class following the time when they are handed back.

- Please make sure that in all of his or her writing, your child capitalizes "God", "Jesus", "Our Lord", "Catholic Church", or "Father", "Son", and "Holy Spirit" when referring to God.

This is a sign of respect toward the name of our Lord and all things that are holy. Any items turned in without correct capitalization when referring to God must be revised.

- Please make sure that your child completes assignments in the first person, singular. Example "I will be changed by God's grace" not "they" or "we".
- Please make sure that your child's work is legible.

Written Assignment Collection and Return

Assignments that are not available online will be collected in the classroom. There is a set of bins in each of our 7th and 8th Grade classrooms that are clearly marked with your child's Session number. Your child should turn all Confirmation Assignments directly into those bins to ensure that they are collected by the Faith Formation Office and logged.

All assignments will be checked by the Faith Formation Office. Items that are approved will be kept on file until the end of the 8th Grade year.

Revision of Assignments

Any assignments that contain mistakes, blank lines (except where indicated that blanks are acceptable), or work that has not been completed according to the printed instructions will be returned to your child for revision. All items returned for revision will have clear notations of what needs to be fixed before the assignment can be accepted.

Your child should complete all revisions by the next session and return the original paper to the bin in his or her classroom once the paper has been corrected.

Please understand that assignments are not returned to punish the children, nor to be nitpicky. The assignments are a vehicle through which your child's knowledge of the Faith is being reinforced and broadened. It is important to us that each child learn correct facts about the Catholic Faith. The assignments are returned so that your child can see where he or she was in error and to give him or her the opportunity to study the correct information.

Saint Projects

We are not alone in our journey to Heaven. Those who have lived before us and now see God face to face in Heaven love us and want us to join them there in eternal participation in the life of God. All in the Communion of Saints are our brothers and sisters. They pray for us, and their lives serve as an example of how to live as Christ wants us to live. By choosing a Patron Saint and studying a bit about his or her life and the lives of other saints, we are given solid examples of how to cooperate with the graces that are given to us through the Sacraments.

The Saint Projects that your child has completed, and will complete, give him or her the opportunity to come to know some of these great men and women and to foster devotion to them.

There will be three Saint projects to be completed prior to Confirmation. The First Project will be on St. Patrick, who is the patron Saint of our Diocese. The second project will be on St. Katharine Drexel, who is the patron of our parish. The third and final project will be on the name of the Saint chosen as the Confirmation Saint.

Letters

In preparation for Confirmation, the students will be required to write four letters.

The first letter will be completed in the Fall semester. The letter will be written to Father Smith. This letter will petition Father to request permission to be confirmed at Saint Katharine Drexel. This letter will be written at home and is due by the date provided on the Confirmation Dates document. In addition, parents are asked to write Father Smith a letter to petition for their child to be a candidate for Confirmation. This letter is due with the student letter.

The second and third letter will be written during the retreat. The second letter will be written to the Confirmation Sponsor to formally ask them to be the student's sponsor. The third letter will be written to the parents to thank them for the gift of faith.

Bishop Gainer requests personal correspondence from the students who will be confirmed.

These letters will be written at home and are due by the date provided on the Confirmation Dates document. Once we have all the letters they will be mailed to the Office of the Bishop. The letter should be the student's own thoughts and ideas. As a matter of fact, here is the instructions from the Office of the Bishop regarding the letter:

"These communications should be personal and not part of a form letter provided to the students. In their own words and style, the young people are encouraged to introduce themselves to their Bishop, speak of the importance the Catholic Christian Faith in their lives, and explain their preparedness for the reception of this final Sacrament of Initiation. They may speak of their patron saint or their time of service."

All letters are to be handwritten in ink and signed by the student.

Component #7 – Confirmation

Interview

Jesus Christ gave the Church the responsibility to teach the truths that God has revealed to us to all – especially to the baptized. At the interview, we take some time to make sure that we have done this for our students. We encourage the Candidates not to think of it as a “test” that they might “pass” or “fail” but as their chance to show us that they are, indeed, prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Students have been working on memorization of answers to questions about basic Catholic doctrine throughout the last several years, and they will study additional material in the 8th Grade. The answers to these questions will serve as the basis for the questions that the interviewers will ask during the Confirmation interviews. Please see the enclosed set of Confirmation Interview questions.

Your child's interviewer will be chosen by lot and assigned. In fairness to those who accept their assignments, the interviewer cannot be changed by request.

Confirmation Interviews will be scheduled using Signup Genesis. An email will be sent with a link to the sign up closer to the date. Interviews will occur due by the date provided on the Confirmation Dates document. A copy of the material that your child must memorize in order to prepare for the interview is included in the Appendices of this Handbook.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Each Candidate is to choose a Confirmation name. This name must be the name of a canonized Saint or someone who has been beatified (Such as Stanley Francis Rother who was beatified 9/23/18) or a name of Christian significance, such as Faith, Hope or Charity. Students will be learning about different Saints through their classes and Saint Projects that will be completed in Confirmation Preparation.

Candidates may choose their own baptismal name as the Confirmation name but are permitted to choose the name of another Saint. If the Candidate's first name is not that of a canonized Saint, he must choose a different name for his Confirmation name.

A few guidelines:

- The names of the Archangels - Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, may be chosen.
- Saint names cannot be modified according to personal preference unless the Saint was actually known by that modification.

For example, "Therese" for Saint Therese of Lisieux cannot be changed to "Theresa".

But, "Brigid" for Saint Brigid of Ireland can be changed to "Bridget" because she was also known as Saint Bridget of Ireland.

In an instance where a modification is presented, the student has the responsibility to provide documentation of the fact that the saint was known by that modification.

- Saint names cannot be modified according to gender. For instance, "Michael" for Saint Michael the Archangel cannot be changed to "Michaela" or "Michelle".
- Ladies may choose male Saints as their patrons and gentlemen may choose female Saints. In that case, the candidate is to use the name in its official form. This is not a popular practice, but it is done with some regularity.
- Names for Saints about whom a lot is not known may be chosen. There may be some alterations to the Candidate's Final Saint Project in these cases, but candidates are not to be discouraged from choosing the name of any canonized person simply because there is not a lot of information available to report on for that Saint.
- The last name of a Saint may be used. For example: "Damian" may be used for Saint Peter Damian.
- A student may choose his or her own first name as the Confirmation name, even if his or her name is not the name of a Saint or a name of Christian significance, as long as the name is not in conflict with Catholic teaching in any way. For example, a child named "Tracey" could use that as his or her Confirmation name even though there is no Saint Tracey. A child named "Scandal" could not.

Students who chose such a first name as the Confirmation name must still choose a Saint as a patron and complete the Final Saint Project.

We encourage Candidates to learn about many Saints throughout the process of choosing a Confirmation name. Beginning to learn about a particular Saint because

you like his or her name is fine, but we caution all Candidates not to limit themselves to learning about Saints whose names are attractive to them.

The Confirmation Sponsor

Each Confirmation Candidate must have a sponsor to assist them in their preparation and to stand with them at the Confirmation ceremony. It is very important that parents guide the Candidate in choosing a sponsor who is:

- **A confirmed Catholic in good standing with the Church (has received all the Sacraments of Initiation, is in a valid marriage)**
- **At least 16 years of age**
- **Is an active and practicing Catholic regularly attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation**

Parents may not serve as sponsors, but siblings and other relatives may.

Canon Law does not allow for us to make exceptions to any of the above requirements for any reason. Even the Bishop has not been given the authority to give dispensation from any of these stipulations.

The Church recommends that the candidate choose one of his or her Godparents as a sponsor since through Confirmation the work of the Holy Spirit begun in Baptism is completed. (Note: if your child's Godparent is no longer a Catholic in good standing, your child needs to choose someone else to be his or her sponsor)

If the sponsor cannot be present at Confirmation, a proxy may be designated. Please note, however, that **a parent cannot be a proxy**, the proxy must meet all of the requirements of a sponsor (listed above), and you must have a Sponsor Certificate on file in the Religious Education Office for a proxy no later than one week before Confirmation. In case of an emergency requiring a proxy closer to the time of Confirmation, please call the Faith Formation Office. A proxy should be designated as an exception, not as the rule.

The sponsor should be a person that the Candidate can easily have contact with – even if by telephone or email.

Sponsors – Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Can a non-Catholic who is a very strong Christian serve as a sponsor?*

No. Only an active and practicing Catholic can serve as Confirmation sponsor.

2. *Can my child have two sponsors?*

No. There is some confusion about this because a child has two Godparents when baptized. But for Confirmation, only one sponsor is permitted per Candidate.

3. *Can two children have the same sponsor?*

Yes. If that is going to be the case, please let us know so we can work out the particular details for seating and such.

4. *What if my child's sponsor can't make it to Confirmation?*

A proxy can be appointed. See the information in the above section for details.

5. *If the person my child wants as sponsor is 15 now, but will turn 16 by Confirmation, can that person be my child's sponsor?*

Yes. The sponsor must be 16 on the day of Confirmation. It is OK if he or she is not yet 16 throughout your child's entire Confirmation preparation process

6. *If the person my child wants as sponsor will turn 16 the day after Confirmation, can that person be my child's sponsor?*

No. The sponsor must be 16 on the day of Confirmation. We have no authority to make exceptions to this rule.

7. *If the parish that my child's sponsor belongs to wants to submit their own sponsor certificate instead of the one provided by Saint Katharine Drexel, is that acceptable?*

As long as all of the information provided is the same, this is fine. If the other certificate is more general, however, your child's sponsor will need to fill out the one that we have provided and get it signed. It is best to check with us if this happens.

The Sponsor Certificate

In order to verify that the sponsor that your child has chosen meets the criteria set forth by the Church for sponsors, you will need to give a copy of the **Sponsor Certificate** to your child's sponsor.

Your child's sponsor is to fill out the top part of this certificate completely. **Important Note: If the person that your child has chosen to be his or her sponsor is not in a marriage recognized as licit by the Catholic Church, or if he or she does not attend Mass regularly, or is not a Catholic in good standing, your child will need to choose another person to be his or her sponsor. Please look over your child's sponsor certificate before turning it in to us to make sure the chosen person is actually eligible to be your child's sponsor!**

After the top part is filled out, your child's sponsor will need to give the certificate to the Pastor of the parish where the sponsor is a registered parishioner. **This is true even if the sponsor is a member of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish.**

If your child's sponsor is a member of any other Catholic parish, have the sponsor give the certificate to his or her own Pastor to verify and sign. Please note that the parish seal is needed on the certificate along with the Pastor's signature. (This is true of sponsors from Saint Katharine Drexel parish as well.)

Also, for sponsors who are members of other parishes – once the Pastor's signature and parish seal are obtained, it is the responsibility of the sponsor to make sure that we receive the certificate. Our address is printed on the top of the certificate and the certificates can be mailed in. Sometimes certificates that get passed from sponsor to parent to student to teacher to volunteer to the Faith Formation Office do not end up in our possession!

Confirmation Sponsor Certificate – SAMPLE!!!

Saint Katharine Drexel Church, Office of Faith Formation, 1 Peter Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

The Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who sponsor Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation be active and practicing Catholics who are in good standing with the Church. Sponsors are witnesses to Christ as dedicated, faithful, and serious members of the Church that Jesus Christ instituted.

Sponsor – Please fill out the following: (Print Clearly!)

I have been asked to be Confirmation sponsor for Mary Beth Doe

Sponsor Name (Print): Jane Anna Doe

I am a registered member of Saint Ann's Church/Parish in the town/city of Hampton in the state of New Jersey.

I am at least sixteen years old. ☒ Yes ☐ No

I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. ☒ Yes ☐ No

I believe in all of the teachings of the Catholic Church. ☒ Yes ☐ No

I attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation unless I miss for illness or other serious reason. ☒ Yes ☐ No

I receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist at least once each year. ☒ Yes ☐ No

If married – My present marriage was witnessed by a Catholic Priest or Deacon, or, I was validly married with written permission of the Diocesan Bishop by another Christian clergy person. ☒ Yes (my marriage is valid) ☐ No (my marriage is not valid) ☐ I am not married

Initial: _____ I am not the parent of the Confirmation Candidate named above.

I attest to the fact that I answered all of the above statements truthfully.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

~~~~~  
**After filling out the above portion completely, please submit this certificate to your Pastor for verification.**

As a Catholic Priest, I certify that the person whose signature appears above is a Catholic in good standing and is eligible to act as sponsor for Confirmation

Pastor Name: Father John Smith

Pastor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Registered in the parish: 2000

(Parish Seal)

## Confirmation Preparation Fee

In addition to the regular materials that we provide for all of our Faith Formation students, our Confirmation Candidates are provided supplemental materials, and a robe rental for Confirmation. In addition, we provide items for the Confirmation Mass such as programs, and reception items. In order to cover the cost of these materials, there is a \$40.00 fee for Sacramental Preparation. This fee is due at the time of registration for Faith Formation.

If payment of the fee presents a hardship to your family, please call the Faith Formation Office to discuss financial assistance.

## Tips for Parents

Sometimes the Confirmation Preparation process can seem a bit overwhelming and so we try to make it as simple as possible for you to be as informed as possible throughout the process. The following tips might help to make the year go more smoothly:

- Keep this handbook in a safe, accessible place. The answers to many of the questions that come up throughout the year can be found in this book. If you are confused about anything, we encourage you to look through this book to see if the issue is addressed.
- Please check for emails from me frequently. This is my best form of communication.
- Make copies of important items that your child turns in (sponsor certificates, service hour logs – items that require others signatures, etc).
- Call or email me if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for our Confirmation Preparation program.
- Pray for our Candidates. The grace of God is the most precious and powerful gift that our Candidates can receive throughout this process and throughout their lives.

## Requirements for students who attend Catholic School

In Catholic Schools, the faith is taught daily. As part of that curriculum much of the much of the course work and assignments that are required are covered in class. We require that Catholic School Students who are in preparation for Confirmation to meet the following requirements:

- Provide the office with a copy of your Baptismal Certificate
- Provide the office with Sponsor Certificate
- The Confirmation Retreat
- The Confirmation Interview
- The writing of letters to Bishop Gainer, Father Smith, Sponsor and their parents
- The submission of their Confirmation Saint project that was turned into their school
- Completion and recording of service hours

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Requirements

Seventh grade is part of the Sacramental, Confirmation preparation. The curriculum taught in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will include topics specifically related to Confirmation. During the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year, students will complete the following requirements:

- Begin working on Service Hours
- Begin working on Spiritual Hours
- The first Saint projects on St. Patrick

## Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

**Saint Katharine Drexel Church, Office of Faith Formation, 1 Peter Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**

The Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who sponsor Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation be active and practicing Catholics who are in good standing with the Church. Sponsors are witnesses to Christ as dedicated, faithful, and serious members of the Church that Jesus Christ instituted.

**Sponsor – Please fill out the following: (Print Clearly!)**

I have been asked to be Confirmation sponsor for \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

I am a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Parish in the town/city of \_\_\_\_\_ in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

I am at least sixteen years old. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

I believe in all of the teachings of the Catholic Church. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

I attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation unless I miss for illness or other serious reason. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

I receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist at least once each year. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**If married** – My present marriage was witnessed by a Catholic Priest or Deacon, or, I was validly married with written permission of the Diocesan Bishop by another Christian clergy person. \_\_\_\_ Yes (my marriage is valid) \_\_\_\_ No (my marriage is not valid) \_\_\_\_ I am not married

Initial: \_\_\_\_ I am not the parent of the Confirmation Candidate named above.

**I attest to the fact that I answered all of the above statements truthfully.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~  
After filling out the above portion completely, please submit this certificate to your Pastor for verification.

As a Catholic Priest, I certify that the person whose signature appears above is a Catholic in good standing and is eligible to act as sponsor for Confirmation

Pastor Name: _____

Pastor Signature: _____

Year Registered in the parish: _____

(Parish Seal)