

St. Bernard Parish: 2018 Confirmation Preparation

Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

We are excited to be journeying with you to the Sacrament of Confirmation! At times, the Sacrament of Confirmation can be viewed as a graduation from religious education. However, Confirmation is not that; the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the gifts of the Holy Spirit given at Baptism and gives candidates a mission to go forth and live a life worthy to enter Heaven and be a soldier for Christ.

Since this is an important time in a candidate's faith life, the Diocese of Green Bay and Bishop David Ricken asks parishes to dedicate a separate process and time period, outside of religious education classes, specifically for Confirmation preparation. This process is fairly new to the parish but we saw great results from it last year!

For immediate Confirmation prep, we will be offering a 6-week process from April to Mid-May of 2018 for 11th grade students in both public school and Catholic school. Candidates will go through the process in the spring of 2018 with anticipation to receive the Sacrament in the October of 2018—senior year.

The requirements to receive Confirmation at St. Bernard Parish are as follows:

1. **Sacraments of Initiation**: Candidates must have already received the two Sacraments of Initiation prior to Confirmation preparation: Baptism and Eucharist. Proof of reception of both Sacraments is required upon registering for Confirmation preparation. If students haven't received these 2 Sacraments, we will help students towards this.
2. **Religious Ed Background**: Beginning after the candidate's 1st Communion year, students are asked to take Wednesday Night R.E. Classes at St. Bernard Parish every year in order to follow the requirements set out by the Diocese: to be educated and ready to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation.
 - a. Public school students are asked to take Wednesday night religion classes at St. Bernard Parish from September to March, prior to Confirmation preparation classes.
 - b. Notre Dame Academy students receive religion classes through their school and are not required to attend Wednesday night R.E. prior to Confirmation preparation classes.
3. **Mass Attendance**: Candidates are to attend Mass every Sunday. Mass is where we get the spiritual nourishment we need to have a relationship with God. It is so important in our faith that we have included Mass in all of our preparation classes. Students are asked to attend Mass with the class, unless they attend a previous time with their family. This attendance needs to be communicated by the parents to the coordinator.
4. **Class Attendance**: Candidates will need to complete the entire 6-week preparation process. Attendance is mandatory, including Mass, and will be taken into consideration prior to the reception of the Sacrament. If there are scheduling conflicts with the class dates, please contact the Parish Office to arrange for a different form of preparation.
5. **Sponsors**: Candidates will be asked to choose a Sponsor that will guide them in this journey. Sponsors, by Canon Law, cannot be parents. Sponsors need to be practicing Catholics, having received Confirmation, attending Mass every Sunday and believing in the full teachings of the Catholic Church. Sponsors are asked to play a HUGE role in forming their candidate, particularly over the summer months. Candidates are asked to pick a sponsor who they look up to in the faith.
6. **Saint Name**: The process of Confirmation allows candidates to be transformed by the Holy Spirit—to become a new creation. To signify this, candidates are asked to choose a Saint they admire. This Saint's name will become their Confirmation name and will be presented to the Bishop.
7. **Bishop's Letter**: Before receiving the Sacrament, the Bishop asks all students to submit a letter of intention to receive the Sacrament. More details will be provided as the 6-week process is completed.
8. **Final Interview**: Candidates will be asked to participate in a final interview with the pastor and/or a member of the parish staff. The interviews allow our staff to assess each student and determine their readiness and seriousness of receiving the Sacrament.

This list isn't meant to intimidate or turn away candidates—we want to work with every student to build them up as Disciples of Christ. We encourage open communication. These guidelines are in place as general requirements to assure that students receive the right formation to grow deeper as a disciple. As people continue to turn away from faith, our Catholic presence in the world is more important than ever. A relationship with the Holy Spirit, strengthened through the Sacrament of Confirmation, allows candidates to enter the world of darkness as a bright beacon of hope.

Our classes are based on the Charismatic Renewal's "Life in the Spirit Seminar." However, the classes have been tweaked to include Bishop David Ricken's Confirmation requirements. Each week builds off of the week prior, and since we have a limited number of meetings, attending every class is EXTREMELY important. These classes will be less of a classroom-style teaching and more of personal witness stories, lessons, and small group sharing. Alongside the coordinator, we will have a team of young adults leading the students in the lessons.

We will begin and end the preparation process with retreat-style formation days. This allows us to step away from our busy lives for a time specifically focused on growing closer to God. Below is the calendar for the preparation classes—for Wednesday Night R.E., please view the other document which lists a separate calendar.

- **Sunday, April 8th** – *Opening Retreat* – 10 AM to 4 PM. Location: Bishop Hall
Focus: The Basics Assignment: Start researching saint names and sponsors
- **Sunday, April 15th** – *Class 1* – 4:30-6:30 with Mass at 6:30 PM. Location: Bishop Hall
Focus: Salvation
- **Sunday, April 22nd** – *Class 2* – 4:30-6:30 with Mass at 6:30 PM. Location: Bishop Hall
Focus: New and Abundant Life
- **Sunday, April 29th** – *Class 3* – 4:30-6:30 with Mass at 6:30 PM. Location: Bishop Hall
Focus: Receiving God's Gifts
- **Sunday, May 6th** – *Class 4* – 4:30-6:30 with Mass at 6:30 PM. Location: Bishop Hall
Focus: Release of the Holy Spirit Prayer Experience
- **Sunday, May 20th** – *Commissioning Retreat* – 10 AM to 2:30 PM. Location: Bishop Hall
Focus: On-Going Conversion/Growth Due: Saint name & Sponsor

To register for Wednesday Night R.E., Confirmation preparation or both, please fill out a registration form. Tuition for the 6-week Confirmation preparation is \$40 per student, and \$110 for Wednesday night classes.

You can stay up to date on information, including Sponsor information, by visiting our website:
www.stbernardconfirmation.weebly.com

Please contact me with any questions or comments you may have—I am here to serve you and your Confirmation candidate. I am looking forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit moves in the upcoming year!

Sincerely in Christ,

Callie Kowalski
Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry
920-468-4811, ext. 117
callie@stbernardcong.org

Confirmation Calendar

The following is the calendar for 11th grade students who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in the Fall of 2018. Public school students are expected to attend the Wednesday night religious education classes--**6:30 – 7:45pm unless otherwise stated**. Both public and Catholic school students must attend the Sunday evening sessions starting in April.

Wednesday Nights (Public school students only) Religious Education Classes

August 2017

30th—Parent Meeting (1) 6pm in Main Church, No Class

September 2017

6th—Welcoming Mass with Fr. Mark at 6pm
13th—Class
20th—Class
27th—Class

October 2017

4th—Class
11th— Parent Meeting (2) 6pm in Main Church, No Class
18th—Class
25th—Class

November 2017

1st—Holy Day Mass: All Saints Day at 5:30pm
No class but families are encouraged to attend Mass
8th—Class
15th—Class
22nd—No Class (Happy Thanksgiving!)
29th—Class

December 2017

6th—Class
13th—Class
20th— Parent Meeting (3) 6pm in Main Church, No Class
27th—No Class (Merry Christmas!)

January 2018

3rd—Class
10th—Class
17th—No Class
24th—Class
31st—Class

February 2018

7th— Parent Meeting (4) 6pm in Main Church, No Class, Confirmation parents are asked to come at 5:30pm
14th—Ash Wednesday Mass at 5:30pm
No class but families are encouraged to attend Mass
21st—Class
28th—Class

March 2018

7th—Class
14th—Class
21st—No Class
28th—No Class

April 2018

4th—Class: *last Wednesday class for Juniors*
8th—Confirmation Retreat 10am–4pm
15th—Confirmation Session 4:30–6:30 + Mass
22nd—Confirmation Session 4:30–6:30 + Mass
29th—Confirmation Session 4:30–6:30 + Mass

May 2018

6th—Confirmation Session 4:30 – 6:30 + Mass
14th—No Confirmation Session, Mother's Day
20th—Confirmation Retreat 10am–2:30pm

Child's Last Name: _____

St. Bernard Parish - Religious Education Registration Form 2017-2018

Parents/Guardian

Father's Full Name: _____ Religion _____

Father's Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____ Religion _____

Mother's Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Correspondence mailed to both addresses? Yes _____ No _____
If no, which address should we use?

Parish Affiliation if *not* St. Bernard _____

I would be interested in teaching: Yes _____ No _____ (Discounted \$50.00 fee for catechists)

What grade and time would you be interested in teaching?

Please choose a time for Religious Education that best suits your family to enroll your child/ren in the Religious Education Program.

Wednesday Grades 1 – 7 **5:00-6:15**
Wednesday Grades 1 – High School **6:30-7:45**
Confirmation Prep (certain Sundays) **4:30-6:30 + Mass**

Child's Name	Gender	Date of Birth	Grade	Class time
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

For office use only. Tuition Paid \$ _____ Check Number _____ Cash \$ _____

Date: _____ Initials: _____

Tuition Information: \$110.00/child (Prior to August 1st)
 \$120.00/child (August 1-31st)
 \$130.00/child (September 1st and later)
 \$50 Sacramental Fee for Second Grade
 (First Reconciliation and First Communion)
 \$40 Sacramental Fee for 11th Grade Confirmation
 (\$50 reduction if you are a catechist)

Amount of Tuition enclosed: \$ _____

No family is denied Religious Education due to lack of financial resources. Please contact the Religious Education office if you are in need of Tuition Assistance.

Please check the Sacraments your child/ren has received:
 (for Confirmation students, please provide certificate for Baptism and Eucharist)

Name of Child	Baptism	Reconciliation	Eucharist
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	

Special Education Needs: Child's Name _____

_____ Vision _____ Hearing _____ Physical Disability _____ Learning Disability

_____ ADD/ADHD _____ Cognitive Disability _____ Allergies (please list)

Emergency Contact Information (Other than parents)

1. _____ Phone: _____

2. _____ Phone: _____

Name of Schools Child/ren Are Attending:

Signature: _____ **Date Completed:** _____

Please return your Religious Education Registration Form to the following address:
 St. Bernard Religious Education Department
 2040 Hillside Lane, Green Bay, WI 54302



Diocese of
Green Bay

Sample Outline using Confirmation Curriculum

Quotes taken from the Sacrament of Confirmation Guidelines for the Diocese of Green Bay. This is not an exhaustive formation outline, but proves to be an outline for information that should be covered in the Confirmation preparation.

Remote High School Confirmation Preparation: 6 Semesters

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6
Freshman	Freshman	Sophomore	Sophomore	Junior	Junior
15-17 hours					

Immediate Confirmation
Preparation



Separate Classes for Immediate Confirmation Preparation – A minimum of 12 hours. These 12 hours must be separate from their regular junior year classes.

Confirmation Day Long (Minimum of 6 hours) or overnight retreat