

Information for 8th Grade

**The date for Confirmation will be announced when received from the Bishop.

Candidate Requirements

According to Sacramental Norms of the Diocese of Memphis and guidelines of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the following are required of Candidates for Confirmation:

- **Grade Requirement** - Be in eighth grade or 14 years of age (or above) and express a desire for Confirmation.

- **Registration**
 - Complete Registration Form requesting Confirmation
 - Certificate of Baptism - A copy of the child's baptism certificate is required with registration (even if your child was baptized at St. Francis).
 - SFA Parish Registration Required - If a family is not registered in St. Francis of Assisi Parish, but are registered members of another parish, you must provide a letter from your pastor stating that your child has permission to be Confirmed with St. Francis of Assisi Parish.
 - Administrative Fee - \$40 payable at Registration

- **Religious Education Classes** - Child must be attending a Catholic school or be enrolled in Parish Religious Education classes for at least the year prior to the sacramental year.

- **Mass Attendance** - We expect all children and young adults to attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis in order to connect religious education, sacramental preparation and prayer, to the Liturgy of the Mass. **NOTE:** Competitive sports leagues require many of our students to be out of town on the weekend. It is not acceptable for any student to omit Mass attendance due to a ball game. (Coaches should be informed of this issue well in advance.) It is the responsibility of parents to check www.masstimes.org or call (410)676-6000 for churches and Mass times when traveling. Please make God part of your travel plans.

- **Confirmation Retreat** - A Confirmation retreat is required by the Diocese of Memphis for those who wish to be Confirmed. Our retreat is held on a Saturday at St. Francis Church and includes 5pm Mass during which our Confirmandi are recognized and commissioned. (See calendar for date)

Important Note: *This Retreat is absolutely mandatory. Should a candidate for Confirmation not attend the Retreat, he/she cannot be Confirmed. Young adults in competitive sports leagues may experience a conflict between an out of town trip and the Retreat. The family should find this out as soon as possible and notify Terry Harvey, Director of Religious Education, at the Church office at 901-756-1213, so arrangements can be made to attend a Confirmation Retreat. Also, the student must be present for the entire Retreat and Mass. Partial attendance will not fulfill the Diocesan requirements.*

- **Eucharistic Adoration Hours** - Students are encouraged to participate in at least 8 hours of Eucharistic Adoration during the year. This may be done anywhere that Eucharistic Adoration is held or in front of the Tabernacle in any Catholic church or chapel. A form will be provided by their Religion Teacher to keep track of the hours and due dates. *NOTE: First Friday Adoration is held every month at St. Francis of Assisi Church in the Chapel following 8:15 a.m. Mass, with Benediction at 5:30 p.m.*
- **Letter to the Bishop** - Confirmandi must write a letter to Bishop Terry Steib requesting Confirmation. This letter is to be the work of the Confirmandi, always in their own words, about their spiritual relationship with God. The due date will be given by their Religion Teacher.
- **Parent Meetings** - The Diocese of Memphis requires parents to attend two parent Confirmation meetings. All meetings are held at St. Francis Church in Room 108 of the Parish Life Center and parents have a choice of meeting dates. (See calendar for dates) Child care is provided for all parent meetings.
- **Reconciliation** - Confirmandi are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, preferably with their families, especially during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.
- **Sponsors and Confirmation Names** - Information on Sponsors and Confirmation names will be given during the eighth grade year of preparation by their Religion Teacher, including the due dates for each.
- **Service Hours** - Students are required to perform 20 hours of service. A form will be provided by their Religion Teacher to keep track of the hours and due dates.
- **Attire for Confirmandi at Confirmation:**
 - Girls:**
 - Simple white dress must be at or near the knee or no longer than at the ankle in length. Low necklines are not appropriate. Dresses that are halter, sleeveless or have spaghetti straps must have a white jacket or sweater worn over them.
 - Appropriate white dress shoes
 - Boys:**
 - Dark Suit or Dark Sport Coat
 - Tan/khaki pants
 - White shirt
 - Tie
 - Dark socks and appropriate dress shoes

If you have any difficulties fulfilling requirements please contact TERRY HARVEY, D. R. E., as soon as possible, at the Church Office 901-756-1213 to discuss the situation.