St. Giles Confirmation 2020

February Reminders & Notes

Dear Parents & Guardians –

Below is a summary of the important reminders and guidelines related to our upcoming Celebration of Confirmation here at St. Giles. Most are a repeat of previous communications, but given the sheer number of details, I thought it best to have it all in one place for you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Peace,

Marrey C. Picciotti - Parish Life & Formation Director
confirmation@stgilesparish.org / 708.383.3430 x 408

Friday, Feb. 21, 2020 – Required Items from Parents and Sponsors

1) **Letters to Candidates** - At some point during the afternoon portion of the Confirmation Retreat on Feb. 29th, the Candidates will be given some quiet time and space and will be presented with a collection of notes and letters written to them individually by people in their lives.

Please pass the information below along to sponsors, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, family friends, teachers, catechists, etc. so that EVERY candidate has a package of encouraging letters on the day of the retreat.

**Letter Guidelines:**

Ask those writing letters to just write from the heart about the importance of their Catholic/Christian faith, and to encourage the confirmation candidate to continue growing in their faith journey.

- Memories of when the confirmation candidate was a baby or small child.
- Writing about all of the candidate’s fine qualities and how they have grown over the years to this point.
- Include challenges they have already overcome or are working very hard on.
- Something about the patron saint they have chosen and how that fits in with their own life or faith journey.
- Reminder that they should ask God to help them for all that is before them in the years ahead.
- Add a special bible verse that you think would be helpful to the candidate or a verse that is a family favorite.
- A few pictures are nice too if you have the time to include them - BUT PLEASE, NOT TOO MANY AS WE PRINT THOSE THAT ARE EMAILED

**All letters are due by Friday, February 21, 2020.**

Late submissions are **not** guaranteed to be received by the Candidate at the Retreat and should instead be sent directly to the Candidate’s family.

**By email:** Send to confirmation@stgilesparish.org / Subject Line: Confirmation Letter for {Name of Candidate}

**By mail:** Attn: Marrey Picciotti, St. Giles Parish, 1025 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302
2) **Letter of Recommendation - From Sponsors:** Candidates are responsible for requesting from their Sponsors the letter of recommendation that the Sponsor must address to Fr. Carl. It can be found here and on the parish website. **This letter is due by Friday, February 21, 2020.**

**By Friday, Feb. 21st,** please write a letter to our pastor, Rev. Carl Morello, recommending your candidate for reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. You will find suggestions for the points in this letter, along with instructions on how to send this email to Fr. Carl's attention:

**Please address the letter to:** Fr. Carl Morello or Rev. Carl Morello

Be sure to refer to the candidate by first and last name. In the letter, refer to the following:

- How you have seen your candidate grow in faith in the last year or two?
- In what ways do you feel he/she has prepared well for Confirmation?
- What special qualities or talents do you appreciate and commend them for?

You can send this letter in one of 2 ways:

By email: Send to confirmation@stgilesparish.org - Subject line: Sponsor Letter {Candidate Name}

By mail: Attn: Marrey Picciotti, St. Giles Parish, 1025 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302

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**All letters to Fr. Carl are due by Friday, February 21, 2020**
Saturday, Feb. 29th – Confirmation Retreat - 10am to 2:00pm – CANDIDATES ONLY

1) For Candidates Only – Parents and Sponsors do NOT attend the retreat. Casual clothes, pizza lunch provided*, letter to Bishop, formation projects

*Domo’s pizza, healthy snacks – if a Candidate has a food allergy/intolerance, they are welcome to bring their own lunch to be stored in the McDonough Hall kitchen

2) Letter to Bishop Hicks - These are written by the candidates themselves and will be due on the day of the retreat. The Bishop reads each of these and they will be hand delivered to him the following Monday.

3) My Faith Journey – This is the culminating formation project that has been discussed at every Small Faith Group gathering throughout the year. Every Candidate must present this at the Retreat.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION & REHEARSAL –

Thursday, March 5th & Saturday, March 7th

Thursday, Mar. 5th – Evening of Prayer & Practice – Church: 7 to 8:00 pm

For all Candidates, Parents & Sponsors (if possible) – At least one parent needs to attend with candidate. If out of town sponsor unable to attend, parent can pass information along

Saturday, Mar. 7th - Confirmation Mass – 10am

1) What to wear - Just as with the celebration of 1st Communion, this is an extremely important day in your student's life. Here are a few guidelines for the candidates as they choose what to wear for the big event:

- Sleevd shirts or dresses; if choosing something with a halter or non-sleeve top, wear a suit jacket or sweater (shrug ok);
- Long pants or midi length skirt - does not need to cover knee, but no mini skirts;
- Suits and/or ties optional; no t-shirts;
- Candidate - Ask yourself, do I feel comfortable standing before my family, Fr. Carl and Bishop Hicks in the front of the church in what I'm wearing?

2) Length of Mass - The Masses have been about 2 to 2 1/2 hours in length in the past. When making post-Mass celebration plans, give yourself some wiggle room.

3) Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers Needed - Because this is not a normal Sunday Mass, we need to schedule EMs and Altar Servers separately. At least (3) altar servers will be needed for the Mass. If your candidate has younger or older siblings who are trained altar servers and who would like to serve please contact me immediately. Additionally, if sponsors or other relatives are trained Eucharistic Ministers (here or at another parish) and would like to serve, also contact me immediately.