

ST. DOMINIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
775 Harrison Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70124
(504) 486-9731

TO: Students interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as juniors in Spring 2021

FROM: John Smestad, Jr., Youth Minister/Director of Religious Education

RE: Registration Information for the Sacrament of Confirmation 2021

Thank you for your interest in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as a high school junior in Spring 2021. Receiving the sacrament completes the initiation into the Church. It is not a rite of passage, but a gift of strengthening where the graces of the Holy Spirit help a person to grow and be a witness to their Catholic faith. The process for preparation at St. Dominic follows the requirements of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

REGISTRATION: Bring completed registration form, sponsor testimonial, copy of Baptismal certificate, and program fee to Aquinas Hall between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM on one of the following dates: Wednesday, September 23, September 30, or October 7, 2020.

PARENT & SPONSOR MANDATORY MEETING:

- Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 7:00 PM in the church; students do not attend

SPONSOR SELECTION:

- The sponsor is selected by the candidate and must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic
- The sponsor may NOT be the candidate's parent (natural or adoptive)
- Choosing a Godparent is encouraged
- Sponsors must provide the signed Sponsor Testimonial Form; the signature of a priest is not required

CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

- Classes covering a total of 12 instructional hours, per archdiocesan policy, will be held from 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM on four Sunday evenings from late January through March, 2021, in the St. Dominic Gym. Exact dates will be announced in December. Students may bring a bagged meal/snack to have during class. For families familiar with class schedules from past years, the archdiocese last year increased the minimum number of instructional hours from 8 to 12 for all parishes. We have chosen to add one hour to each of the four sessions we have usually scheduled, rather than adding two more entire nights. The classes are a mixture of lecture, small group work, and video, to ensure a variety throughout the evening.

RITE OF WELCOME:

- Sunday, January 10, 2021, at 5:30 PM (CYO) Mass at St. Dominic Church
 - (mandatory for candidates and sponsors)

RITE OF AFFIRMATION:

- Sunday, March 14, 2021, at 5:30 PM (CYO) Mass at St. Dominic Church
 - (mandatory for candidates and sponsors)

SAINT REFLECTION: Instructions will be given at your first class

SERVICE HOURS: Six service hours, done in support of those in serious need and/or the Church community, are required, and all six must be completed through service opportunities sponsored by St. Dominic Parish/CYO or approved in advance by the Youth Minister. Due to Covid-19 restrictions at many charitable agencies, alternative options for safe service hours are being developed and will be communicated at the parent/sponsor meeting in November.

INTERVIEW: A short interview to assess readiness for the sacrament may be required for each candidate in February or March per a schedule to be announced. Candidates who are active members of St. Dominic CYO (monthly participation and/or active on a leadership group such as Youth Board or Peer Ministry Team) may have the interview accomplished during CYO participation.

RETREAT INFORMATION:

- See the attached Retreat for Confirmation explanation. A retreat from among these choices is mandatory. Per archdiocesan policy, a school-based retreat is not accepted as part of Confirmation preparation.
- Further instructions and permission/medical forms will be sent approximately one month advance of your chosen retreat.

CONFIRMATION DRESS CODE:

- Boys: Dress shirt & tie, dress jacket, long pants and dress shoes & socks
- Girls: Dresses, skirts & blouses (shoulders covered) and dress shoes or sandals

REHEARSAL:

- Monday, April 26, 2021, at 7:00 PM in St. Dominic Church

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

- Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 7:00 PM, with Bishop Fernand Cheri, OFM

COORDINATOR: John Smestad, Jr. at 504-813-3003 or info@stdominiccyo.org ; Laurie Neely at 504-486-9731

This is a very special time on your faith journey. We know we can count on your cooperation and support as we help everyone prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. To receive this sacrament is a serious undertaking. Students are called to affirm their faith and make a deeper commitment to living Gospel values through the strengthening grace of the sacrament.

ST. DOMINIC PARISH
RETREAT FOR CONFIRMATION 2021
Please read carefully

Each student preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation must participate in a retreat experience. Such an experience will include witness talks about the Catholic faith, time for reflection, and an opportunity to be with peers for further discussion and community-building as the Body of Christ. The retreat experience is important also because it takes time away from daily routines and responsibilities and allows for a better focus on one's faith journey. The Archdiocese of New Orleans Confirmation policy requires a retreat experience that is done through the parish during formation. Retreats done through school are not accepted per archdiocesan policy.

Candidates should choose ONE of the following options. Please read each carefully and make an informed choice based on which retreat best fits in your schedule. We have confidence that if you're open to the retreat experience and fully participate, you will receive many graces in return. Please note that lack of a retreat may result in your not being able to receive the sacrament on time.

OPTION #1

St. Dominic CYO Winter Retreat on Sunday, December 27, 2020 – Tuesday, December 29, 2020. This is a **2 night/2 ½ days** retreat experience facilitated by the CYO Peer Ministry Team and adult advisors. It includes faith witness talks by older teens and adults, small group discussion and activities, recreation time, Reconciliation, and Mass. It is held at Camp Abbey Retreat Center near Covington. Other CYO members besides Confirmation candidates will be at this retreat. Lodging, meals, and bus transportation are included.

OPTION #2

St. Dominic CYO Spring Retreat on Saturday, March 27 – Sunday, March 28, 2021. This is a **1 night/2 day** retreat experience facilitated by the CYO Peer Ministry Team and adult advisors. It includes faith witness talks by older teens and adults, small group discussion and activities, recreation time, Reconciliation, and Mass. It is held at Camp Abbey Retreat Center near Covington. Other CYO members besides Confirmation candidates will be at this retreat. Lodging, meals, and bus transportation are included.

The process for selecting/confirming your retreat choice is as follows:

- 1) Check your calendar and select your retreat choice on the Confirmation 2021 Registration Form
- 2) A instruction memo with instructions about arrival/departure, transportation, what to pack, and permission/medical consent forms will be e-mailed or mailed to you approximately one month prior to the retreat
- 3) Submit the necessary permission/medical consent form to the St. Dominic Church Office by the deadline provided (approximately one week prior to the retreat)
- 4) There is **NO additional fee** to pay as the retreat was included in your overall Confirmation program registration.
- 5) Juniors on the St. Dominic CYO Peer Ministry Team who will be at both CYO Winter Retreat and CYO Spring Retreat will have their Confirmation retreat fee applied to the Winter Retreat. If a Peer Ministry Team member will only be at Spring Retreat, please indicate that on the form.
- 6) St. Dominic Parish reserves the right to change retreat plans if the situation of Covid-19 and governmental guidelines require adjustments.

St. Dominic Religious Education Confirmation 2021 – Registration

Name as shown on
Baptismal Certificate _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

Candidate Cell Phone _____ Home Landline Phone _____

Candidate E-Mail _____

High School Attending _____ 2020-2021 Grade Level _____

Family Information

Father _____
First Middle Last Religion

Address (if Different) _____

Father Cell _____ Father E-Mail _____

Mother Maiden Name _____
First Maiden Last Religion

Address (if Different) _____

Mother Cell _____ Mother E-Mail _____

With whom does student live? _____

Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name _____
First Middle Last

Address _____

Sponsor Cell _____ Sponsor E-Mail _____

Church Parish _____ *Must have signed Sponsor Testimonial Form*

A Sponsor:

- Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
- Must have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must be a practicing Catholic
- Must not be the father or mother, natural or adoptive, of the one confirmed.

Mandatory Documentation

Baptism (Certificate Required) _____
Church _____ Date _____

Church Address _____

1st Eucharist _____
Church _____ Date _____

Instruction Choices and Obligations

Confirmation/Saint Name _____

Sacramental Instructional Classes Initial to acknowledge the mandatory classes: _____

Four or Five Sunday evenings from late January through March 2021; exact dates will be announced by December once more is known about Saints play-off chances, Mardi Gras calendar, etc.

ALL MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RETREATS Retreat Choice: _____

Option 1 - CYO Winter Retreat – December 27-29, 2020 TWO NIGHT RETREAT

Option 2 - CYO Spring Retreat – March 27-28, 2021 TWO DAY/ONE NIGHT RETREAT

Parish Member Yes No St. Dominic Parish Envelope # _____

If you are not a parishioner of St. Dominic Parish (meaning not living within the parish boundaries nor registered as a parishioner,) a letter of permission from your parish pastor will be needed prior to acceptance in program.

Program Fee: \$175.00 (Includes the chosen retreat, class materials, and liturgy supplies. Due with registration in September. Installments available; please contact Laurie Neely at 504-486-9731 to make arrangements.)

For Office Use Only

Paid _____ Check/Cash _____ Recv'd by _____ Date _____

Baptism Certificate Rec'd _____ First Eucharist Date/Documentation _____



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

Sponsor Testimonial for Confirmation

Date: _____

Name of Person to be Confirmed: _____

Proposed Date of Confirmation: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Criteria to Serve as Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism/Confirmation

1. The Godparent/Sponsor must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has been Confirmed and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith;
2. The Godparent/Sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age;
3. If married, the Godparent/Sponsor must be in a marriage recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Person may not be cohabiting (living together without marriage);
4. If not previously attended, the Godparent/Sponsor will attend appropriate preparation for fulfilling this role.

Statement of Sponsor

"I meet the above-stated criteria to serve as a Sponsor, and I will do all in my power to assist the parents of this child to raise their child in the Catholic faith, or - if an adult - to assist him/her in living faithfully as a Catholic Christian."

By signing below, the proposed Sponsor solemnly swears that he or she has read the above criteria, and that the statement above is a true and correct indication of his/her intentions.

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Name Printed: _____