

Confirmation Year 2: 10th Grade



**Braintree Catholic Collaborative
St. Francis of Assisi & St. Clare
Confirmation Calendar 2023-2024**

Dear Parent/Guardian & Confirmation Student,

Peace of Christ! We welcome you to the Braintree Catholic Collaborative Confirmation program. This is the second of a **two-year** program designed to prepare you to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 2024 [Dates to be announced as soon as we have them from the Archdiocese]. We have redesigned our program from last year with you in mind. We realize that our young people are in a classroom 30+ hours each week, so we wanted to design a Confirmation program that isn't solely classroom based while still enabling you to live the 3E's: **Encounter** with Jesus Christ, **Engage** in learning your Catholic Faith and, heed the Gospel call to **Evangelize**, i.e. live your faith and tell others about it.

Our goal is for our teens to develop a friendship with Jesus that helps them form their moral compass for the decisions they will have to make throughout their lives. We plan to accomplish this by giving the teens the tools they need to embrace, appreciate and live out their Catholic faith post-Confirmation. Frequent participation at Sunday Mass will help our teens gain a deeper appreciation for their Catholic faith and the Sacramental Life of the Church. **So, what do we expect of you as you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation late next spring?**

- 1. Participation in Sunday Religious Education Class and the 6 pm Mass:** The schedule below will detail the classes for the year. Teens should begin arriving to the lower church at St. Clare around 4:45pm to check in and be able to chat with each other before the 5 pm Opening Prayer and that week's lesson & discussion. Following class, students are strongly encouraged to attend the 6 pm Mass, as we are seeking to gear it toward youth. [We understand if there is a younger child in the family who attends morning Religious Education class and you attend the 10:15am Mass beforehand as a family. We are not asking the teens to attend a separate Mass from their families.] Since everything we are as Catholic Christians begins and leads back to the Eucharist, its importance cannot be stressed enough. To that end, students will be given "tickets" for each Sunday of the Religious Education year. Whatever Mass you attend in the Braintree Catholic Collaborative, please bring your ticket and hand it to Father **after** Mass when you shake his hand. If you are traveling during vacation periods, or have to attend another parish, we ask you bring that parish bulletin to class/Mass the following week.
- 2. Christian Service:** Following Jesus commandment to "love one another as I have loved you", Christian service is a great responsibility entrusted to us by the Lord. We ask that Confirmation candidates complete a minimum of **ten** hours of service, with at least **three** hours of service being at the Braintree Catholic Collaborative (St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare Parishes). The remaining seven hours should be in the community at large, and may be combined with service hours done as a requirement at your high school. A Service Log is included in this packet.
- 3. Super Saturday:** Recognizing that several of our Confirmation students work, play sports, have band/school competitions over the weekends, it is very difficult to schedule a full weekend for a Confirmation retreat. So we have decided to offer two "Super Saturday Mini-Retreats," one in the fall and one in the spring. Sophomores should plan on attending **one of**



- them.** (The Spring Option will be the same schedule as the Fall) You can choose which one works best for your calendar and the format of the Super Saturday will be discussed as it gets closer.
- Reflections/Letter:** As you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will be asking someone to be your sponsor and you are able to choose the name of a Saint who holds a particular significance to you as your Confirmation name. Once you have decided on these, we ask you to submit to Fr. Kevin and Fr. Bob a one page reflection on your sponsor, your confirmation Saint and why you want to be confirmed, the most meaningful service event you participated in and, lastly, a letter to Fr. Bob and Fr. Kevin explaining what was most meaningful to you during this confirmation program, what you really enjoyed, topics you wish we had presented and how you plan to live your faith after Confirmation. (I.e. There will be 3 one page reflections and 1 letter.)
 - Confirmation Conversations:** Our Pastor Fr. Bob Blaney and our Parochial Vicar Fr. Kevin Leaver are deeply committed to helping the youth of our parishes become involved in the life of the Church. During the school year there will be opportunities to sign up with either of our priests for a 15-20 minute conversation around confirmation, your faith journey, etc. These conversations not only help our priests to know you better, but also let you get to know them better so they aren't "just the guy up on the altar at Mass." **Your letter to Fr. Bob/Fr. Kevin should be brought to this conversation.**
 - Pasta with the Pastor:** Who doesn't love food? This is a bit of a misnomer as it is really sharing a meal, *not necessarily pasta* with our Pastor Fr. Bob, our Parochial Vicar Fr. Kevin and one or two of the Confirmation Catechists. There will be a few different evenings when Fr. Bob and Fr. Kevin will host supper in the rectory with a small group of Confirmation Candidates (8-10). Each student will sign-up in advance with something they will bring to share at the pot-luck supper. This is another great opportunity to gather with you priests and catechists so that we can get to know you better, and you can get to know us better!
 - At all events,** the understanding is that students will be 1) Prepared; 2) Respectful; 3) Willing Participants and; 4) Reverent Mass Attendees.

What can you expect from us? The teens can expect from the priests, the Catechists/Small Group Leaders and guest speakers that we will be: 1) Prepared; 2) Respectful; 3) Confidential; 4) Safe and; 5) Faithful.

How can Parents/Guardians help their teen live this Confirmation program? By: 1) Attending Mass with their teen(s); 2) Praying **with** and **for** their teen(s) during this process and; 3) Engage their teen(s) in discussions regarding the topics of each class. Parents and Guardians are always welcome to sit in on the presentations, but we respectfully ask they not participate in the Small Group Discussions.

Attendance/absence Policy:

The goal of our Confirmation Preparation program is for you to **Encounter** Jesus, **Engage** with your Catholic faith and be prepared to **Evangelize** others both before **and** after Confirmation. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in the program (Lesson 5-5:45 and the Mass) is essential. But, life happens and we understand that.

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Whenever an absence is *foreseen*, please let Fr. Kevin know (KLeaver@sfab.org) the date of and the reason for the absence **ASAP** so he can mark it in his records. As in school there will be a distinction between **excused** and **unexcused** absences. **Any class a student misses will need to be made up.** Make-up sessions will be offered on Saturday morning from 9am-12 noon, **date and location to be determined based on priest's schedules.**



Statement of Understanding **[Due by 10/22/23]**

Fr. Kevin and Fr. Bob,

I, _____, a sophomore/junior (circle one) in the Braintree Catholic Collaborative Confirmation Program understand what is expected of me this year as I prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 2024.

I recognize that Fr. Kevin, Fr. Bob, and the Catechists give generously of their time to be there to help me in my walk with Jesus and that they are available to help me grow deeper in my Catholic faith.

It is my intent to live up to these expectations to the best of my ability as I seek to become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church. My parent/guardian and I have discussed these expectations and understand what is being asked of me.

Student Signature & Printed Name

Parent/ Guardian Signature & Printed Name



CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE 2023-2024

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Combined [1]	9/24/23	Orientation: Parents/Teens. UPSTAIRS at St. Clare
9 [2]	10/1/23	Presentation 1: Who am I? Identity and Worth from a Catholic Perspective
10 [2]	10/8/23	Presentation 1: Who am I? Identity and Worth from a Catholic Perspective
9 [3]	10/15/23	Discussion 1: Created by love, for love. (Small Group Session w/Discussion Questions)
10 [3]	10/22/23	Discussion 1: Created by love, for love. (Small Group Session w/Discussion Questions)
Combined [4]	10/29/23	Presentation 2: Called to Holiness: Saints Hall of Fame
9 [5]	11/5/23	Presentation 3: The God question
10 [5]	11/12/23	Presentation 3: The God question (Confirmation Saint Reflection due)
Super Saturday Option 1 (10th)	11/18/23	11am-5pm. [Sophomores who choose option 1 are exempted from class on 12/3]— Workshop Choices sheet due 10/22
9 [6]	11/19/23	Discussion 2: The God question (SGS w/DQs)
Combined [7/6]	11/26/23 End of Thanksgiving Weekend	Family Faith Event Grades 1-10 after 10:15 am Mass at St. Clare (Advent). No evening meeting.
10 [7]	12/3/23	Discussion 2: The God question (SGS w/DQs)
Combined [8]	12/10/23	Presentation 4: The Jesus Question
Combined [9]	12/17/23	Presentation 5: Life In Christ- Healing and Reconciliation
9 [10]	1/7/24	<i>Issue Night: Stress & Anxiety before exams(??)</i>
10 [10]	1/21/24	<i>Issue Night: TBD</i>
Combined [11]	1/28/24	Family Faith Event Grades 1-10 after 10:15 am Mass at St. Clare (Lent). No evening meeting.
9 [12]	2/4/24	Presentation 6/Discussion 3: Who is the Holy Spirit? How do I “listen” to Him?
10 [12]	2/11/24	Presentation 6/Discussion 3: Who is the Holy Spirit? How do I “listen” to Him?
9 [13]	3/3/24	Presentation 7: The Body of Christ
**	3/10/24	In conversation with Guest Speaker. Details TBD.
10 [13]	3/10/24	Presentation 7: The Body of Christ
Combined [14]	3/17/24	Presentation 8: The Liturgical Life of the Church (Part 1)
Combined [15]	3/24/24	Presentation 8: The Liturgical Life of the Church—Entering into Holy Week (Part 2)
	3/31/24	Easter Sunday. No evening meeting, NO 6 pm Mass.
Combined [16]	4/7/24	Presentation 9: Making Moral Decisions
Super Saturday Option2 (10th)	4/27/24	11 am-5pm Workshop Choices sheet due 4/7
9 [17]	4/28/24	Presentation 10: Called, Chosen, Sent
10 [17]	5/4/24	Presentation 10: Called, Chosen, Sent

Grade 9 classes are NOT highlighted. Grade 10 in Blue. Combined in Green.



CHOOSING A NAMESAKE REFLECTION

DUE NOVEMBER 12, 2023

The confirmand *may* choose to take a saint as a namesake at Confirmation. This is **not** a requirement of Confirmation. There are many, many saints that have been canonized by the Catholic Church. We encourage you to look up the patron saint of something you are interested in and learn more about why this Saint is the particular patron of that area. **The saint must be officially canonized by the Catholic Church.**

We encouraged to take time to research about, and pray with the saints Sites like catholic.org have lists of the saints, and are helpful for beginning the process.

Write a one page reflection (Times New Roman size 12) on why you have decided to choose this particular saint. If you are not choosing a namesake, please write the reflection on a saint who you find interesting and whom you wish to develop a friendship with.

CHOOSING A SPONSOR REFLECTION

DUE JANUARY 28, 2024

Each confirmand will need to choose a sponsor. As you decide who to ask, keep in mind that the Law of the Church **requires** a Confirmation sponsor to be: a Confirmed Catholic in good standing, above the age of 16 and **not** one of the confirmand's parents.

If you are unsure if the person you want to ask meets the requirements, talk with Fr. Kevin

Write a one page reflection (Times New Roman size 12) on who you have decided to ask to be your Sponsor. Why did you choose this person? How has their faith live inspired you in your own walk with Jesus? How regularly do you and your sponsor pray together?

CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION

DUE APRIL 7, 2024

Of the ten hours of Christian Service, a minimum of three are to be done within the Parishes of St. Francis and St. Clare. It is possible you will have done all three hours at once, or in separate service events.

Write a one page reflection (Times New Roman size 12) on which **Christian Service** project was the most meaningful to you. What was about this event that impacted your faith? How was Jesus present in the person/people you served? What type of service events to you want to continue after your Confirmation?

MY 'WHY' LETTER TO PRIEST

DUE DAY OF CONVERSATION

Addressed to Fr. Kevin & Fr. Bob, this is your statement of preparedness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. During this year, how have you grown closer to Jesus? What lessons/discussions touched you the most? How do you see yourself being involved in the life of the Church during your remaining years of high school and beyond? How can the Braintree Catholic Collaborative continue helping you grow in your faith after this year? Any other thoughts, comments, or topics you'd like to address to the priest?

