

# St. Andrew Catholic Church

## Confirmation Preparation Overview (tentative)

**Text:** *Rite of Confirmation*, copyright 1999, Life Teen International, **New American Bible—Catholic Youth Edition, Catechism of the Catholic Church**

### Schedule:

Date	Time	Session	Event Title
Sep. 19	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	1	<i>Are You Ready to Become a Disciple?</i> [parents must attend]**
Sept. 26	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	2	<i>In The Beginning (Candidate Covenant Due)</i>
Oct. 3	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	3	<i>The Greatest Story Ever Told</i>
Oct. 10	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	4	<i>Crashing Into Your World</i>
Oct. 17	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	5	<i>One Holy Communion – The Saints</i>
Oct. 21	5:30 PM Mass		Confirmation Blessing Rite (at Teen Mass)
Oct. 24	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	6	<i>Extreme Presence- The Mass</i>
Nov. 7	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	7	<i>Reality Check! – Death and Dying (Confirmation Name AND Saint Report Due)</i>
Nov. 14	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	8	<i>Small Group Home Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Journal Checkup)</i>
Nov. 28	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	9	<i>You Gotta Believe! (the Creed)</i>
Dec. 5	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	10	<i>Our Blessed Mother (First Progress Letter sent)</i>
Dec. 12	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	11	<i>God is Calling You! [Sponsors must attend]**</i>
Dec. 19	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	12	<i>Spiritual Passages: Prayer (Confirmation Information Form Due)</i>
Jan. 9	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	13	<i>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</i>
Jan. 16	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	14	<i>Respect LIFE! (2<sup>nd</sup> journal checkup)</i>
Jan. 25-27	All weekend		<i>Confirmation Retreat – Bethany House (DeWitt, MI)</i>
Jan. 30	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	15	<i>Moral Decision Making - Black and White in a World of Gray</i>
Feb. 6	<b>7:00 PM – 9:30 PM*</b>	16	<i>Purity and Chastity 1 – Pitfalls to avoid</i>
Feb. 13	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	17	<i>Purity and Chastity 2 – Celebrating the Gift! (Second Progress Letter sent)</i>
Feb. 20	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	18	<i>You Don't Need to Apologize – Catholic Apologetics (Sponsor Letter Due)</i>
Feb. 27	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	19	<i>The Universal Church (Letters to the Bishop Due)</i>
Mar. 5	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	20	<i>Small Group Home Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> journal checkup)</i>
Mar. 12	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	21	<i>Soldiers of Christ</i>
Mar. 26	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	22	<i>Review Session (bad weather makeup if needed)</i>
Apr. 9	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM		<i>Confirmation Evaluation (Last Progress Letter sent)</i>
Apr. 16	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM		<i>Confirmation Interviews</i>
Apr. 23	7:00 PM – 8:30 PM		Confirmation Rehearsal [Sponsors must attend]**
Apr. 30	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM		<b>CONFIRMATION MASS</b> (followed by a reception)
May 7	7:00 PM – 9:15 PM	23	<i>Go Rock Your World! – Confirmation Send-Off</i>

There will also be opportunities for our candidates to participate in various experiences of prayer and service at our parish and at other local parishes.

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### Confirmation Preparation Process

*Confirmation is not “religious education”. It is not a time when young adults are dropped off into a cold, gray room for boring teachings that you have to sit through because they told you so. Instead, it is a time of **investigation, reflection, and formation**. The Church calls this “discipleship”. To this end, all candidates for Confirmation will be given the opportunity to actively live out their life of faith as they journey toward Confirmation. This will take the form of several practical things that candidates need to do to complete this process of discipleship. In the final analysis, Confirmation is a CHOICE. All candidates are asked to walk on this journey of Confirmation preparation and decide for themselves if they wish to be Confirmed. At no time can candidates be forced or coerced into the Sacrament—one’s response to God’s call must be free.*

#### Confirmation Preparation Requirements:

1. **Belief** – Candidate must profess belief and have basic understanding of God, the Trinity, the Eucharist, and the teachings of the Catholic Church professed in the Creed.
2. **Attendance** – Regular attendance at Confirmation preparation sessions, Sunday Mass, Wednesday Mass, and Holy Days of Obligation are mandatory. No more than three (3) absences will be allowed. Missed Confirmation meetings will require a written makeup assignment completed by the following week. The written assignments are not an alternate for Wednesday preparation classes and should be used only in emergencies. It is strongly suggested that all candidates participate in St. Andrew Youth Program (LIFE meetings on Sunday evenings).
3. **Journaling** – Confirmation candidates will be asked to keep a journal during the Confirmation process. Journals will be evaluated by candidates and small group leaders from time to time. Keeping a good journal will help prepare for the evaluation at the end of the preparation period.
4. **Saint Report** – Each candidate is asked to write a 1-2 page report on the saint they chose for their Confirmation name. The report should include a brief history about the saint and the reason why that saint was chosen.
5. **Interview/Evaluation** – Each candidate will have the opportunity to participate in a personal interview by a member of the parish staff and each candidate will complete a written assessment based on the journal questions and content covered throughout the year.
6. **Reconciliation** – All Confirmation candidates are encouraged to renew their faith by participating in the Sacrament of reconciliation during the Confirmation preparation process. This will be facilitated by a discussion of the Sacrament and its practice, as well as making special times available to participate in the Sacrament. All candidates must celebrate the Sacrament of reconciliation at least once during the course of Confirmation preparation.
7. **Willingness to put others first** – Each Confirmation candidate is asked to participate in seven (7) service projects of their choice, as a way to put into practice the role of a disciple on the journey of Confirmation. The service projects should be split between service for family, parish, and the community. We ask that each candidate do at least one project in each category. Each service project must be concluded by completing a Service Project Evaluation form.
8. **Retreat** – Candidates must have at least one “retreat experience” during the course of the Confirmation preparation process. St. Andrew offers a Confirmation retreat that all candidates are required to attend. If there is a serious scheduling conflict, permission may be obtained from the Confirmation Director to count the Fall or Spring retreats offered by St. Andrew as their “retreat experience”. Permission must be granted in writing one month in advance of the retreat.
9. **Respect** – Candidates must assume personal responsibility for their bodies and others as temples of the Holy Spirit. This includes respect for all candidates and adult leaders as well as appropriate dress for Confirmation, Mass, and retreats (no short shorts/skirts, hats, sagging pants revealing boxers, spaghetti straps, midriffs exposed, etc).
10. **Forms/Letters** – Each candidate is required to complete a **Candidate Covenant**, a **Confirmation Information Form** (with a copy of Baptismal Certificate), a **letter to the Bishop**, and fifteen **Service Project Evaluation** forms.

*“I came so that they might have life and have it abundantly...” (Jn 10:10)*