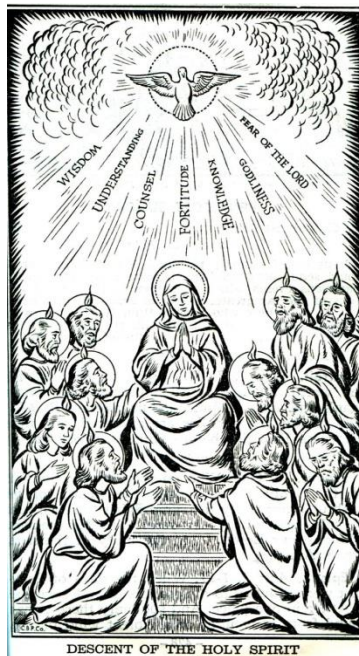


Confirmation 2020



St. Michael Parish
Religious Education – Sacramental Preparation
989.967.3520
8929 50th Ave Remus, MI 49340
faithformation@stmikes.us

Dear Parents,

We are sending you this handbook so that you can be sure to mark your calendars with all the pertinent information as we prepare, with your family, for your child's Confirmation.

Thank You for all that you do. Being a parent is incredibly hard work with a lot of self-sacrifice. Most of what parents do is found in the daily grind and in tedious details. On behalf of St. Michael's – and Holy Mother Catholic Church--thank you. Because of the choices you make **-and only because of you--**your child has an opportunity to grow up in a Catholic household – a Domestic Church.

In times past, parents often **believed that it was the job of the parish or school** to "teach religion" especially the preparation of the Sacraments. And it still is a very special and unique time that The Church must assist you and your family. But we also now know that parents are the single most important factor in religious formation and the faith life of a child. Our job as your Parish is to help you with the "what's" and "how's" to pass the faith along to your child, growing your Domestic Church.

Undoubtedly, we recognize that **you have many things going in your life** as a family.

Running a household, a job to keep up with, parents and family to keep track of, not to mention keeping groceries in the house, maintenance projects, and finally, squeezing in family and relax time is a juggle. So when the parish requires that you take part in your child's program, we understand that it could tend to get treated like another item on a 'to-do' list.

And yet - **this is a time of tremendous faith growth as a family**, a chance to re-organize the priorities and shift the focus from 'right now' towards Eternity. Think of this as a real chance to grow together. Most of all, this time will bring you and your child closer to God. In obvious ways, through the reception of the Holy Eucharist, but also in other, less obvious spiritual ways that will reap benefits down the road and set the sure foundation for a lifetime. **Don't skip this process or cut it short** because you're too busy now.

Your role in the faith formation of your child is central. **No one can replace you, not even the best parish program.** The Parish is here to reinforce what you do at home. If you are engaged with your faith, chances are that your child will be, too.

Thank you for your commitment to your family and St. Michael's parish through your child's sacramental preparation. We look forward to the journey.

Please Print

The information provided below is considered CONFIDENTIAL and is used only for communication purposes.

CHILD INFORMATION: PLEASE DO NOT USE NICKNAMES- THIS IS RECORDED IN THE SACRAMENTAL RECORD BOOKS

Child Name:	_____	_____	_____
	Last	First	Middle
Male:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address:	_____	City/Zip:	_____
Date of Birth:	_____	City of Birth:	_____
Parent Email Address:	_____		
Phone:	_____	Texting OK	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Mother's Maiden Name:	_____	Mother's full name:	_____
Religion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Marital Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced
Father's Full Name:	_____		
Religion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Marital Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced
Child lives with:	<input type="checkbox"/> Both Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Mother		

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS *(please check where appropriate)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Registered in Parish
<input type="checkbox"/> Is in 7 th Grade(or Higher)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family involved in parish organizations, ministries, and youth activities – Please list: _____

FAITH FORMATION EXPERIENCES

<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Sunday Mass Regularly (at least 3x/mo)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Activities:
<input type="checkbox"/> Baptism <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharist
Church: _____
** Please note: If you have been Baptized in a Catholic Church other than St. Michaels , you MUST have a recent (within the past 6 months) Baptismal Certificate brought to the St. Michael's Parish office by February 1 st . Without this, your child will not receive First Holy Communion

**THIS IS A TWO-SIDED FORM :: PLEASE COMPLETE ENTIRELY
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Along with this completed form:

- Course material fee:
 - \$50 St. Michael's Parishioner
 - \$100 (out of parish)
(Checks may be made out to St. Michaels/Sacramental Prep)
- **Note:** *No child will be denied sacramental preparation due to finances. Please see Kris Beers with any questions.*
- Copy of Baptismal Certificate

**Office use:
Date Received:**

- Baptism Verified**
- Amount paid:**
- Ck #**
- Cash**

- I understand that Parent Sessions are an integral part of my child's formation and I will attend.
- I agree to make sure my student attends all classes in their entirety.
- I acknowledge and give permission to St. Michael's Parish to post on social media photos of my family for the purposes of Parish programming.

Signature

Date

[If your child was not baptized at St. Michaels, Remus, you MUST request a recent copy (6 months or less) from the parish your son/daughter was baptized in. You can have it mailed to the address on the front of this packet.]

Confirmation Program

Our program this year is a lengthy approach with solid Catholic teaching on the road to Confirmation. In spite of our fast-paced lives, we all recognize the longing for something 'more' and that MORE is Christ! We are eager to share this love of Christ with our teens, but often wonder how, exactly, to communicate the teachings of the Church in a way that kids can hear and understand in our post-Christian society.

Especially as we recoil from the horrors of scandal and abuse within the hierarchy of the Church, She who is meant to lead and instruct us, it is only with strong instruction and knowledge can we trudge forward. It is man who is weak while the Church stands strong. **We are the ones** who must go through the work of faithfulness, fortitude, and fidelity to His Church. **Our hearts and minds are made to know God and it is up to you, mom and dad, to lead your child through this formative time.**

I am eager to begin our process – I know these sessions are important, fun, and full of love for Jesus Christ, setting the kids on a solid footing for life in the Church. I encourage you to join us at any and all sessions for the students, but most of all, **make the time for their homework and cultivate a prayer life for both your child and your household.** We spend our hours and days forming kids in sports, academics, and skills....yet, nourishing the mind in Christ and forming souls for Eternity is what we promised

we would do for our children at their Baptism before God and His people. What a challenge!

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions, should any arise between now and our Parent Session. I look forward to working with your family!

**Due to our current restrictions regarding classes, we will be having virtual sessions at this time. Note that this may or may not be the case as we enter the autumn/winter season and continue to receive guidance from both the State Health Department and The Diocese of Grand Rapids. You may contact me at any time faithformation@stmikes.us
989-309-0020

Confirmation Checklist

- Mark your calendars for virtual classes –

Class times are TBD – we will begin online sessions in October

- Obtain a copy of your child's baptismal certificate *{ONLY if he/she was not baptized here at St. Michael's}* Turn this in as soon as possible; no later than February 1st
 - Send in registration to Parish Office as soon as possible; no later than
-

Confirmation Date TBD

****Due to current restrictions Confirmation Mass may possibly be done in the local Churches**

- ALL families arrive at the Cathedral **NO LATER** than 30 min prior to Mass
- Confirmation date is designated by the Diocese of Grand Rapids. All parishes will be notified sometime in the late Winter the date and time of the Confirmation Mass. We will let you know as soon as possible when the date is chosen.
- Confirmandi and their Sponsor will sit together in designated areas. Parents and guests may sit anywhere in the church except designated areas. It is strongly urged that families arrive at least 1 hr prior.

Sponsors

Candidates are asked to think about what qualities he admires in the person he chooses as his sponsor. Candidates should think about these questions in prayer and discernment when deciding who to ask when it comes to Sponsors:

- Will she be able to turn to this person for advice and support specifically within the Catholic faith?
- Will he be challenged to continue to grow in his Catholic faith?
- Will the sponsor be around at both the major life events (graduation, birthday's, reunions) as well as the mundane in everyday life?

The person chosen to be a sponsor may be a relative or friend of the family. ***It may not*** be a stepparent and we strongly urge to not choose a sibling. Both of these positions play an important role in a life and the role of Sponsor should be unique unto itself. It can also be a respected mentor of the Parish. While choosing a favorite aunt might seem like a nice gesture, choosing someone who is actively living out the Faith is vital to this role.

Requirements for Sponsors:

All candidates are required to have a sponsor. This person can absolutely be their Baptismal Godparent and is quite appropriate. There are special criteria, however, which allow someone to qualify as a sponsor:

- Sponsor must be at least 18 years of age and mature enough to guide and aid the candidate in fulfilling his/her baptismal promises.
- Sponsor must be Confirmed and in the fullness of the Church.
- Sponsor must be a Catholic in Good Standing; ie: live a life in harmony with the Church – not married outside the Church, attending Mass weekly, not co-habiting, etc. If you have any questions regarding this point, please feel free to contact me for a personal meeting.

St. Michael's Parish

Confirmation Guidelines

Please remember to fill out, neatly, the registration form included in this packet. For those not baptized here at St. Michael's, don't forget to have a recent (6 months or less) copy sent to the parish office by the due date. Simply contact the church of baptism and request one to be sent to St. Michael's [8929 50th Ave, Remus 49340]

The Confirmation and Sponsor attire is Modest Sunday Best. Ladies dresses should be at knee length or below. A shawl or sweater must be worn over a sleeveless dresses or spaghetti straps the entirety of Mass. Gentlemen should have dress slacks and a dress shirt, preferably with a collar and buttons. Suit jacket and tie not required, but most appropriate. **Sneakers, t-shirts, jeans, and above the knee skirts/dresses are unacceptable.** Please remember we are celebrating a Sacrament in our Diocesan Cathedral with the Bishop– Holy Spirit and the Mass is the priority.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is very special and sacred. Because of the sacredness of this Sacrament, **we strongly urge family to be active participants during the Mass and take photos afterwards.** Please refrain from any flash photography during Mass. Those taking photos during Mass must stay behind the front pews off to the perimeter of the Church – **NO photographers in the aisle.** Cathedral staff will assist with locations for discreet photography.

Your child and Sponsor will have a designated pew for this special Mass. The parents and guests will sit with the congregation. Confirmandi with their Sponsor will come forward in a procession line to be Confirmed by the Bishop. **Parents and family, please remain in your pew** with one or two persons designated for photography.

The Mass will be around 2-2.5hrs and is very lovely. Please let us know prior if there should be any handicap arrangements.



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

MEDIA RELATIONS/PROMOTIONS RELEASE FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip

PHONE: _____

RELEASE

IF PERSON BEING USED IN THE MATERIAL IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST SIGN THIS FORM.

I/we give my/our permission to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan, (the Diocese) and all entities, representatives, employees, and agents operating under its authority to use, without prior notice, my name or my minor child's name, city and state, and/or audio, video(s), photo(s), and/or any other likeness and to use statements made by or attributed to me or my child relating to the Diocese, without compensation, for web, social media, publicity or similar promotions for the Diocese. I waive my right to inspect or approve such publications, including any written copy that may be created in connection therewith. *I/we agree that my/our signature(s) below releases any and all claims against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, or its associated entities related to or arising out of the Diocese's use of the stated items as media relations/promotional material(s).*

Yes, I grant permission for release

No, I do not grant permission for release

Signature of Individual (if 18 or older): _____

Date: _____
.....

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (print): _____
(if individual is under 18 years old)

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Date: _____

If individual referenced above is under 18, please indicate your relationship to that person: _____

*Once completed, please return this form to your parish/school administration office