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LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

CONFIRMATION YEAR

Junior and Senior Year

2023—2024

High School Religious Education

Family and Student Handbook

MISSION:

To provide every high school student in our parishes the opportunity to experience a personal relationship with our Lord, and in that relationship with Him, to discover the richness of our Catholic faith and learn to live as His disciples.

HOW TO REGISTER:

Register online at bit.ly/HSRE23-24 (case-sensitive)

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Staff and Contact Information



CAITLIN RAETHER

Youth Minister
715-851-4564
craether@strobert.org

Holy Family Parish Office: 4825 N Wildwood Ave; Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

St. Robert Parish Office: 4019 N Farwell Ave; Shorewood, WI 53211

ONLINE RESOURCES

Website:



www.hsreligioused.weebly.com

Facebook:



www.facebook.com/SRHFRE

Youtube:



*St. Robert/Holy Family
Religious Education*

Instagram:



@SRHFreligioused

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

Students who **don't attend a Catholic High School** or receive Home School Catholic Formation **must enroll** in Holy Family/St. Robert Religious Ed for the 9th and 10th grades to prepare for Confirmation in the 11th grade. Students who attend a Catholic High School or Home School Catholic Formation in the 9th and 10th grade are always welcome and encouraged to join us.

Any student who wants to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** in our parishes **must enroll** in 11th grade Confirmation that year.

A list of requirements have been put in place by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for students who wish to be Confirmed. These include attending regular classes, at least 10 service hours, and a Confirmation retreat. These requirements are detailed later in this document as our "Confirmation Checklist".

CLASSES

All students will gather at classes on Sunday evenings twice a month from 7—8:30 pm. These will typically begin in a large group setting with the introduction to a lesson. Students will then split up into their pre-assigned small groups, led by two volunteer leaders, to finish the remainder of the lesson and participate in discussion. Your student will receive a journal at the first class, we expect them to bring it to each of the following classes!

Our goal is to create a space where students are comfortable asking questions about their faith and how to incorporate it into their daily lives.

Classes during the first semester (September—December) will be held at St. Robert, and classes during the second semester (January—May) will be held at Holy Family.

ATTENDANCE

We expect students to attend every class. However, we understand that certain things come up that hinder the opportunity to attend. If this happens, please notify Caitlin as soon as possible, so our small group leaders can prepare for the absence. We are allowing up to **three absences** for the year. If more than three are missed, we will have a discussion on the consideration in moving forward towards the Sacrament.

Any absence **MUST** be made up by attending one of the Youth Ministry "Renew" nights (p.9) and writing a short reflection on the lesson missed. All materials and instructions will be provided. If you are unsure of what evenings you have missed, please contact Caitlin and she will check the attendance record.

Our hope is that students' Catholic faith is a priority in their busy lives, as they equip themselves in God's truth to live as their authentic selves.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Safety and health is a top priority for all our students and volunteers. If your student is not feeling well, please keep them home to rest!

If any issues or injuries come up throughout the year, please communicate them to Caitlin so we can accommodate you!

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

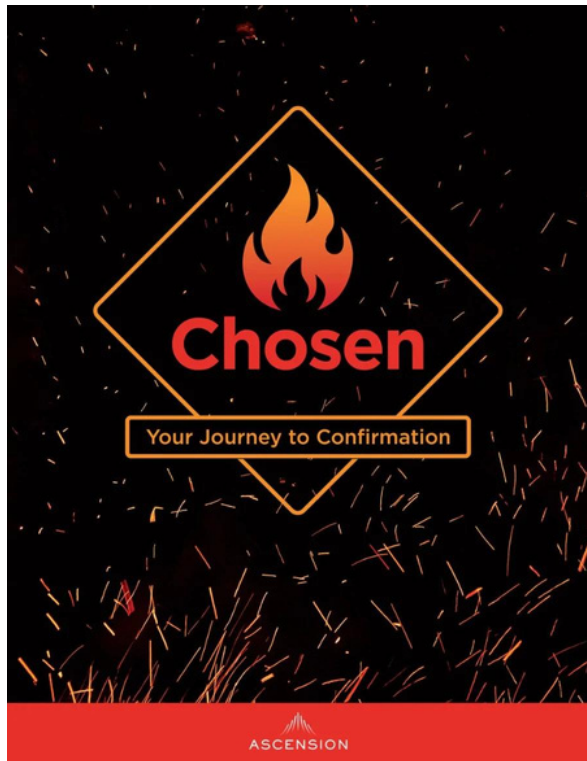
Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation

by Chris Stefanick, Ron Bolster, and Colin & Aimee Maclver

Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation has been used by thousands of parishes to present the Catholic Faith to teens in a way that keeps their attention as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Filmed in over fifty locations in the United States and around the world, *Chosen* features fourteen of the top youth experts in the Church today.

Chosen provides an exciting and comprehensive journey through the Catholic faith and offers a complete system of evangelization—progressively calling young people to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Chosen Lessons



1. Introduction
2. God/Happiness
3. Salvation History
4. Divine Revelation
5. Jesus Christ
6. The Church
7. The Four Last Things
8. Sacramental Life
9. Baptism
10. Confession
11. Anointing of the Sick/Redemptive Suffering
12. The Holy Spirit
13. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
14. Confirmation
15. The Mass/ Eucharist
16. Holy Matrimony
17. The Priesthood/ Vocational Discernment
18. Prayer
19. Mary and the Saints
20. The Beatitudes
21. Virtue
22. Christian Sexuality
23. Mission
24. Discipleship

We will be using *Chosen* as a backbone for our catechesis during Confirmation Prep and Confirmation Year, with supplemental learning as well. We will no longer be using the *Chosen* textbook, but you are welcome to purchase one to follow along!

For more information on the *Chosen* program, please visit:

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/chosen-your-journey-toward-confirmation>

CIRCLE OF GRACE

The *Circle of Grace* program is a new Safe Environment curriculum created by the Archdiocese of Omaha. Our Archdiocese of Milwaukee is requiring these lesson for all Religious Education grades K-12. Please read below more information directly from the *Circle of Grace* creators.

Out of concern for all God's people and in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, we have a program for the safe environment education of children and young people supported and mandated by

"Diocese/eparchies will establish 'safe environment' programs. They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. Dioceses/eparchies will make clear to clergy and members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to sexual abuse."

Article 12 – Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

This program is called *Circle of Grace*. It is meant to supplement and be integrated into the excellent programs and curricula for the formation of children and young people in our schools and religious education programs. Circle of Grace aims to equip our children and young people by arming them with essential knowledge and skills grounded in the richness of our faith. This program helps children and young people to understand their own (and other's) dignity in mind, body, and spirit.

What is a Circle of Grace?

The Catholic Church teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created "male and female in God's image" and that God saw this as "very good." In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God.

Adults assist children/young people to recognize God's love by helping them to understand that each of us lives and moves in a Circle of Grace. You can imagine your own Circle of Grace by putting your arms above your head then circle down in front of your body including side to side. This circle, front to back, holds who you are in your body and through your senses. It holds your very essence in mind, heart, soul, and sexuality.

Why is it important to help our children/young people understand the Circle of Grace?

God intends our relationships in life to be experiences of divine love. Respectful, nurturing, loving relationships increase our understanding of our own value and help us to love others. It is never too early to help children/young people understand how very special they are and how relationships in life are called to be sacred. Understanding this can help them to protect the special person they are and to be respectful of others.

Adults, as they strive to provide a safe and protective environment, hold the responsibility to help children/young people understand and respect their own dignity and that of others. A truly safe and protective environment is one where children/young people recognize when they are safe or unsafe and know how to bring their concerns, fears, and uncertainties to the trusted adults in their lives.

How is the Circle of Grace Program different from other protection programs?

Many protection programs focus on "stranger danger," however, up to ninety percent of the time the perpetrator is a relative, family friend or other person known to the child/young person. Circle of Grace goes beyond just protection by helping children/young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults.

CONFIRMATION CHECKLIST

Attend Mass every Sunday.

Participate in all Confirmation Classes, and make up any classes missed.

Serve at least 10 hours, including at least **5 hours serving your parish**.

Participate in **Confirmation Retreat** (November 3-5, 2023) Our permission slips and paperwork due October 1st, 2023.

Choose a Confirmation Name and complete the Name Certificate

Due December 17th, 2023

Choose a Sponsor under the conditions of the Sponsor Guidelines and submit the Sponsor Form Due December 17th, 2023.

If you were not baptized at OR did not receive your First Communion at Holy Family or St. Robert, submit a copy of your Baptismal Certificate to us.

Due by December 17th, 2023.

Complete your Candidate Questionnaire to the Confirming Bishop

Due January 21st, 2024.

Attend Sponsor Night March 3, 2024. Students and their sponsors (or a proxy) should plan to be in attendance for this evening.

Complete Confirmation Faith Sharing Interview with Youth Minister, Caitlin, and your small group leaders. Interview scheduling will begin in February.

Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal Saturday, May 4th at 9:00 AM. This year, the rehearsal and the celebration will take place at Holy Family Parish. Students and their sponsor (or proxy) must be in attendance for rehearsal.

Plan to attend our **Confirmation Mass: Sunday, May 5th at 2:00 PM** at Holy Family Parish. Confirmands and their sponsors should plan to arrive early beginning at 1:30pm to prepare and line up for procession. If you cannot attend our Confirmation, you must arrange, before April 1st, to participate in another parish's Confirmation. Please inform us when and where your teen will be attending.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT

Why do we serve? Jesus was pretty clear on this one:

...the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many... (Mark 10:45) and ...love one another as I have loved you... (John 13:35)

A minimum of **10 hours of service is required** for Confirmation. This can be completed through serving your parish and serving your community. **At least 5 of your 10 service hours MUST be “serve your parish”.** This can include a variety of activities that focus on giving back to your parish community of either Holy Family or St. Robert. The remaining 5 hours can be completed by serving your community, school, or the parish. We hope that you develop a lifelong commitment to serving others through volunteerism.

SERVE YOUR PARISH

Help with Grade School Religious Ed Contact Mary Oates at oatesm@hfparish.org

Serve as an Usher, Lector/Reader, or Altar Server/Acolyte for Masses

HF: Larry Theiss at theissl@hfparish.org or 414-332-9220 x140

SR: Debe Dannecker at ddannecker@strobert.org or 414-332-1164

Share your musical gifts with our community by being a cantor or singing with a choir at Mass

HF: Contact Larry at theissl@hfparish.org or 414-332-9220

SR: Contact Mari at msanchez@strobert.org or (414) 332-1164 ext. 3043

Help in Parish Schools

HF: Contact Kris Brienza at brienzak@hfparishschool.org

SR: Contact Natalya Summers at nsummers@strobert.school

Look for sign ups in the weekly email:

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Holy Family Fish Fry

Youth Ministry Pancake Breakfasts

Human Concerns Missions

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Find Your Own Community Service Opportunities There are as many ways to serve our community as there are people. Find your flavor. In the past, some teens have enjoyed serving at the Humane Society, the Urban Ecology Center, the Catholic Home or other local nursing home, Hunger Task Force, St. Ben’s Meal Program or other food pantry or meal program, after school programs, The Pregnancy Help Center, or much, much more.

Local Service Events Local Catholic ministries and non-profit organizations may request that we post their service event. If we approve it, we will send out info in the weekly email. As these organizations/ministries are not associated with Holy Family / St. Robert, we do not do more than list their events. It is up to each teen & parent to determine the appropriateness of the service and organization and to schedule their time of service.

TRACKING YOUR PROGRESS

Confirmation ID Numbers & Preparedness Progress Reports

To help track your Confirmation preparedness, you will be assigned a Confirmation ID number at the time of registration. This number will be given to you with your journal on the first night of class. Through this ID number, we can track and verify any forms, service hours, etc. that were submitted to our records. We will share a “Monthly Record” file on our website where this can be viewed.

To find this: select the “Confirmation Year” tab and scroll down until the section titled, “Meetings Records, Forms & Handbook.”

At two points in the year we will distribute Confirmation Preparedness progress reports to teens at their small group sessions, once on December 17th, 2023 and again on March 17th, 2024. These will ensure that you are on track towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation per Archdiocese guidelines.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Our Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for **November 3 - 5, 2023**
at **YMCA Camp Minikani in Hubertus, WI.**

Permission slips and any additional paperwork will be handed out at our Family Info Meeting (September 10) and are **due** back to us with the **\$90 fee by October 1st, 2023.**

For those who have never been on an overnight retreat, the Confirmation Retreat requires a commitment of time and effort. Those who have had a positive retreat experience know what an awesome opportunity this is to deepen your relationship with Jesus and others who share your faith.

Confirmation Retreats specifically relate to preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Most Confirmation Retreats have standard activities including, but not limited to, building community with those receiving the Sacrament, Confession, Adoration, and Mass. All Confirmation Retreat activities are designed to prepare the teen for the Sacrament.

The Confirmation Retreat is required by the Milwaukee Archdiocese and must be completed through Holy Family/St. Robert's Confirmation program, or through another parish's Confirmation program. The Archdiocese will defer to the Director of Youth Ministries at the local parish to determine if the retreat requirement may be waived for an individual candidate with extenuating circumstances such as health or family circumstances. The Director of Youth Ministries at Holy Family/St. Robert will only remove the retreat requirement in the case of medical condition/emergency or family funeral, though a make-up retreat will be requested when possible.

If you cannot attend our retreat you must arrange another retreat by December 1st. If you are looking elsewhere for a Confirmation Retreat and do sign up to attend an alternate, please let us know when and where your teen will be attending. A list for alternate retreats will be shared as soon as possible.

If you have a Friday night sport commitment, please coordinate with Caitlin on how to join the retreat when you are finished.

Kairos or another Catholic high school retreat **cannot** count toward the Confirmation Retreat requirement.

Confirmation Retreats specifically relate to preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation whereas Kairos and other Catholic retreats have a different focus. Confirmation Retreats have standard activities including, but not limited to, building community with those receiving the sacrament, Confession, Adoration, & Stations of the Cross.

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Outside of Religious Education classes, our Youth Ministry program is providing other opportunities for growth in faith and community. These events will regularly take place on Sunday evenings that do not have Religious Education classes scheduled from 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

These evenings are **not required** for your student to attend. **They are open to all High School students from any parish, high school, and faith background.** A regular evening will include 30 minutes of gathering time for students to eat snacks, play games, and catch up with each other. This will be followed by an hour of the specific activity we have planned for the evening.

RENEW 2nd Sunday of the Month 7 - 8:30 PM

Being a high school student can be exhausting: keeping up with classes, extra-curriculars, social events, work, family, and more. We understand that our students are in need of a time and space to just *be*. We know how important rest is for physical and emotional health. It is just as vital for spiritual health, too!

Our Renew evenings will help us to do just that - renew ourselves in prayer before the Lord. We will offer and teach a variety of prayer methods that students can utilize. However, our main focus will be Eucharistic Adoration: praying before the exposed Blessed Sacrament with praise and adoration.

Our Renew events will take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month during the school year. There is an exception for the month of April where the Renew night will be on the first Sunday (April 7) since many students may be returning from Spring Break.

The location for Renew will likely travel more than any other program. We will be collaborating with other parishes. Please look to the calendar or announcements for the specific location by date.

COMMUNITY 4th Sunday of the Month 7 - 8:30 PM

Jesus himself built a community with his disciples. We are following his example and giving our students the time and space to build their own community within our parishes. Our community nights will be fun, activity-based evenings or service opportunities. Expect games, sports, movies, crafts, and more! There will definitely be some classic Nintendo Wii *Just Dance* competitions (if that's still considered cool).

The location for Community nights will correlate to which parish location we are currently at for our Religious Ed classes (1st Semester: St. Robert, 2nd Semester: Holy Family), unless otherwise stated. There may be some off-site activities.

We also want to offer a few service opportunities that would take the place of our Community nights. These may need to be scheduled for a different day of the week. Please watch the calendar and announcements for any changes.