

Dear Parents of Incoming Seventh Graders,

During seventh and eighth grade, our Catholic Students receive an important sacrament: Confirmation. Because parents often have questions, we are providing information early. All students in the school learn about these sacraments.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati requires parish-wide sacramental preparation, beyond the school day, including a retreat. As your child's primary educator, your life's example and faith-sharing is critical in your child's faith journey, thus we invite parents to help us in some of the activities.

There is a close relationship between the sacraments of **Baptism** and Confirmation. While Confirmation is a distinct and complete sacrament in its own right, its purpose is to perfect in us that which was begun in Baptism. We might say—in a sense—that we are baptized in order to be confirmed.

We tend to be preoccupied with the needs of our own soul, with the effort to “be good.” We cannot be wholly self-centered, of course—not if we understand what it means to be a member of Christ's Mystical Body.

In Confirmation, we receive a special grace by which our faith is deepened and strengthened, so that it will be strong enough not only for our own needs but for the needs of **others** with whom we shall try to share it.

Just as the “mark” or character of Baptism made us sharers with Christ in His role of priest, giving us the power to participate with Him in divine worship, so also the character of Confirmation makes us sharers with Christ in His role of **prophet** or teacher. We now participate with Him in the task of extending His kingdom, of adding new souls to His Mystical Body. Our words and our works are directed not merely to our own sanctification but also to the purpose of making Christ's truths alive and real for those around us.

The Confirmation Mass is usually celebrated in May.

- Monthly meetings are focused on a program called Decision Point by Matthew Kelly.
- A service project is required and completed in the summer.
- Two retreats are held, one at the beginning in the 7th grade and the other nearer the completion of the process in the 8th grade.
- A saint project is due to highlight the saint each candidate chooses for his patron saint.
- A sponsor is chosen to share their faith journey (a confirmed person 16 or older and not a parent).

Thank you for taking the time to help your child become closer to Christ.

Sincerely,
Becky Ready
Director of Religious Education

Deacon Bob Brazier
Coordinator of Religious Education

Who Receives the Catholic Sacraments?

- **Catholics in the school are expected to receive these sacraments.**
- Catholic sacraments can only be received by Catholics, in part because receiving them indicates full belief in our faith and full assent to Christ's teachings as communicated through the Catholic Church. Baptism permanently marks one's soul with God's seal, whether or not we choose to live accordingly.
- The parish office must have a copy of his/her **Baptism Certificate** from a Catholic Church that is in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.
- **Catholic Families must also register with the parish** - or let the parish know at which Catholic church you are registered.
- To register as a parishioner at St. Thomas More, one adult family member must be a baptized Catholic. If you have any questions about registering as a parishioner, contact Donna Buchheit at dbuchheit@sttm.org. To submit your registration to the parish office, complete the information at this link on the parish website: <https://sttm.org/About/Home/Parish-Registration-Form>
- If you are uncertain about your child's baptismal status or would like your child to be baptized, contact Kate Roelker at kroelker@sttm.org.
- If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith to understand what your child will learn, contact Deacon Bob Brazier at bbrazier@sttm.org (Coordinator of Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation).
- If you are considering becoming Catholic, please contact Becky Ready, Director of Religious Education and Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) at bready@sttm.org.