

St. Mary Catholic Church | Williamston, Michigan

2008 – 2009 Confirmation Calendar

Due to the solemnity of the sacrament of Confirmation, students are required to attend all classes, including the Confirmation Retreat. Students must complete required service project hours, take part in faith experiences, and complete assigned homework. The program is designed so that students will both enjoy their period of formation as well as be fully prepared to receive the grace of Confirmation. Students being taught through the home schooling program must work closely with the Department of Religious Education to make sure all assignments and exercises are being completed on time. Home schooled students must take part in the retreat.

Classes are subject to change to accommodate for interviewing. Classes in February and March will be scheduled when we have a date for the Confirmation Mass from the diocese.

Date	Class Subject	Assignment Due
September 7	Class 1 – Salvation History and Sacramental Overview	None
	Students will review the 7 Sacraments of the Catholic Church and begin studying salvation history with an overview of the content they will learn this year. The program begins with a biblical narrative and adoration in the Eucharistic chapel.	
September 14	Class 2 – Salvation History I – Creation and Noah	Reading
	Students review the class calendar, handbook, and requirements for the year. An in-depth study of salvation history in the creation and Noahic covenants takes place. Students begin their search for a Confirmation name.	
September 21	Class 3 – Salvation History II – Abraham and Moses	Baptism Record
	Students are introduced to the Liturgy of the Hours as the prayer of the Church. The Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants are taught as part of the Salvation History curriculum. They begin to learn about the role of the sponsor and how to find one.	
September 28	Class 4 – Confirmation Book I – The Early Church	Confirmation Name
	Students continue to learn about the Liturgy of the Hours and other forms of prayer in the Church. They begin their formal instruction for the sacrament of Confirmation with a look at Confirmation in the Early Church.	
October 5	Class 5 – Confirmation Book II – Confirmation	Faith/Service Project
	Students are introduced to a novena as a form of prayer and encouraged to pray one. Class opens with the Liturgy of the Word. Students study the theology of the sacrament of Confirmation.	

October 12 Class 6 – Salvation History III – David and the Prophets Sponsor Name

Students continue to look at salvation history by studying the Davidic covenant and the coming of the “Son of Man” as prophesied in the Old Testament. Students must turn in their sponsor names and addresses. Sponsor materials will be mailed to their sponsors.

October 19 Class 7 – Confirmation Book III – Christ and the Church Reading

Students will take place in a round-table discussion on Christ and His Church, theology that is significant to the sacrament they are about to receive. Connections are made to popular media and evangelism through Lord of the Rings.

October 26 Class 8 – Salvation History IV – The New Covenant Sponsor Questions

Students will unite themselves to Christ in the mysteries of the rosary. The class will be spent studying the new covenant in Jesus Christ and the Paschal Mystery. They will connect the old covenants to the New, especially in the Eucharistic sacrifice and our “sacrifice of praise” (the *todah*).

November 2 Class 9 – Salvation History V – Today Saint Paper

Students will learn about the significance of Eucharistic adoration and miracles. The class will focus on their inclusion in salvation history and the battle they live out in their daily lives by overcoming temptation and “running the race”. Sponsor/Candidate small group time is scheduled for today.

November 9 Class 10 – Saint Skits None

Students will arrive early for Saint Skit rehearsal and parishioners and parents will arrive at the normal class time for the Saint Skits. Saint skits are done in teams and based on the lives of martyrs who students will study.

November 16 Class 11 – Confirmation IV – The Holy Spirit and Truth Faith/Service Project

Students again spend time in prayer in the Eucharistic chapel through a biblical narrative on the call of Samuel and connect it to God’s call in their own lives. The class focuses on the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the saints and their lives. Time is also spent on the theology of the Trinity.

November 23 Class 12 – Apologetics I – Protestant/Catholic Dialogue Reading

Students prepare for their Confirmation by learning the basics of apologetics – how to defend their faith without becoming defensive. The class examines differences between Catholics and Protestants on faith, grace, Mary, and the Bible.

November 30	Class 13 – Confirmation V – Defending the Faith	Knowledge Project
	Students study some of the sacred art of the Church by examining famous artwork for Catholic doctrine. They learn more about the defense of the faith, and spend time with their sponsors. They continue to learn to use popular media to evangelize others.	
December 5-7	Confirmation Retreat	None
	Students will go to Bethany House youth retreat center in Dewitt, MI for a 3-day retreat with other youth in the diocese. They will spend time having fun with their peers, as well as studying the Bible, singing praise and worship together, listening to skits, going to Mass, and having an opportunity for confession.	
December 13	Class 14 – Apologetics II – Catholic Morals	None
	Students will learn to defend their faith when society and peers challenge them. Topics considered include embryonic stem cell research, the sanctity of marriage, contraception and NFP, abortion, and other timely topics. Attention is given to using “stories” to help them teach Catholic morals.	
December 21	Class 15 – Confirmation VI – Spreading the Faith	Faith/Service Project
	Now that students are practicing defending the faith, they will learn how to evangelize others and the importance of spreading the faith. They will learn about the Pentecost and Confirmation, and the apostles who spread the faith, especially Peter and Paul. Time is given to sponsor/candidate small groups.	
January 11	Class 16 – Apologetics III – Atheism/Scripture/End Times	Letter to the Bishop
	This final apologetics class is spent discussing modern problems that Catholics face in the real world – especially the challenge of atheism, biblical interpretation, and Protestant “End Times” theology. These complex issues are addressed in an age appropriate manner – equipping them with knowledge on the proofs of the existence of God; how Catholics read the Bible; and what Catholics believe about the end of the world.	
January 18	Class 17 – Confirmation VII – Responding to the HS	Reading
	The focus by this class will turn to reflection and prayer. Students learn about responding to the Holy Spirit in their lives and living their whole lives as Christians.	
January 25	Class 18 – Confirmation VIII – Rite of Confirmation	Faith/Service Project

This class is spent studying the theology of the rite of Confirmation. They will learn about the tradition and scriptures involved in the anointing, laying on of hands, profession of faith, and more. Time is given to sponsor/candidate small groups.

TBA

Confirmation Rehearsal

Students will run through the logistics of the Confirmation Mass with the Coordinator of Religious Education and Pastor.

TBA

Confirmation Mass

Students will be confirmed by the Bishop or his appointed representative. Students are prepped not to worry and let their sponsors handle any stress. They are told to fully enter into participating in the Mass and being attentive to everything that is happening, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in them.

TBA

Interview I & II

Two interviews are set at the beginning and end of the year with the Pastor of the church. These individual interviews assess the student's knowledge and preparedness to receive the Sacrament. Students will watch the Footprints of God: The Apostolic Fathers while they are not in the interview.