

Dear Confirmation Families!

June 2020

Thank you for patiently waiting for information about Confirmation. We have recently received information from Archbishop Thompson and have been diligently working out details. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or clarifications. The team and I have really missed seeing the Confirmation candidates and look forward to regrouping soon.

Confirmation Rescheduled:

The following explanation was shared with us from the Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Archbishop Thompson's assistant.

*Presently Archbishop Thompson would like to be the one to confirm the youth of the archdiocese himself. At this time, it is the Archbishop's preference that these rescheduled liturgies take place at individual parishes, not at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Parishes are asked to keep guests and family to a limited number to facilitate social distancing. There may be a few occasions when two or three parishes with small numbers of candidates may be combined. Parishes with large numbers of candidates may be asked to celebrate the sacrament in multiple Masses, or asked to wait until late summer or fall, to see if there will be an easing of the precautions. ..*

*As you can imagine, rescheduling confirmations into an already existing full calendar is going to be challenging for all. Since we are not able to hold them at the Cathedral, this results in rescheduling 45 individual confirmations throughout the Archdiocese into an already full calendar. ... It's greatly appreciated that you work with the provided date as flexibility/negotiation of dates won't really be possible this year.*

St. Paul's Confirmation has been rescheduled for **Saturday October 10th, 2020**. The Confirmation Liturgy will be at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Nashville, Indiana. Archbishop Thompson will celebrate the Confirmation Mass. Confirmands from St. Agnes (10) and St. Paul (18) will be attending. The Mass begins at 2:30 pm. A meeting with the Archbishop will begin at 1:30 pm. **Sponsors and candidates arrive at 1:15 pm.**

There is a smaller "covid-19 capacity" at St. Agnes. This allows each **candidate, sponsor and parents** to attend the Mass in the main sanctuary. There is a possibility that we might have to make this less or possibly allow more. We will make necessary changes closer to October. There is additional space to view the Mass in the lower level at St. Agnes if it's needed. We understand this might not be what a family expects for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please trust that these decisions have been made carefully with the health and safety for everyone in mind.

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Confirmation Retreat:

In an effort to regroup and recenter our reflections on the Sacrament of Confirmation we will have a short retreat on **Saturday, August 1st**. The retreat will be from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Retreat will be at my house/retreat center, 3708 State Ferry Road, Solsberry, IN 47459. Following the retreat we will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Paul and then attend the 4:30 pm Mass at St. Paul. Sponsors and families are welcome to join us for the 4:30 Mass (register for Mass at [www.hoosiercatholic.org](http://www.hoosiercatholic.org)). The retreat will be for the Confirmation candidates only and our catechetical team (about 20 people). The retreat will take place outdoors.

Details for the retreat are forthcoming. If your candidate has a conflict with the retreat date, then please let me know as soon as possible. The retreat will include group activities, personal reflection, discussion, and prayer. We will do our best on this retreat to understand the Sacrament of Confirmation in the midst of a global pandemic and national unrest. It is important for young people to process our Catholic faith in the intersections of real life situations.

I have found solace in the words of Irish poet John O'Donohue and offer them as a prayer for our preparation process for Confirmation.

“May we have the courage to take the step  
Into the unknown that beckons us;  
Trust that a richer life awaits us there...” from *For the Time of Necessary Decision*

I welcome any questions or clarifications that you might have. You may contact me via email or my cell phone.

Many blessings to you and your family,

Bridget McIntyre  
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