



Important Confirmation Information 2019-20

Dear Eighth Grade Parents,

This year is a big year. Your children are approaching what the Angelic Doctor St Thomas Aquinas deemed the “Sacrament of Christian maturity.” Even though it may not seem like your child is ready for such a big commitment, I can assure you that our Lord has worked His grace. He has readied their hearts. That moment in which Bishop Brennan anoints your child gives them the boost your child may need to choose God. Your child has a grand opportunity to cooperate with this new outpouring of grace, and “run so as to win” the race of holiness (1 Cor 9:24).

Though this sacrament leaves an indelible mark on their souls, it does not work like magic. Without your support and encouragement as they journey toward this important Sacrament, it will be tremendously difficult to continue on the road toward God. They need your living example to show them that it is possible to live for God even in the midst of a chaotic world! This year is also your chance to renew your love for Jesus and His way of the cross.

Now to the practical info. This letter is to inform you of the Confirmation requirements and to serve as a “save the date” for the various meetings and events.

Confirmation Retreat: will be held again this year at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus from September 27 - 29. Located in the beautiful country of Centerburg, OH, Damascus is the home of Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC). Over the last few years, God has worked powerfully in the lives of thousands of Catholic teens because of this glorious place. Some details of the retreat can be found on the back side of this letter. The Confirmation Retreat Logistics Schedule/Packing list & Diocesan Parental Permission are enclosed in this packet. Please fill them out & return them to Bonnie by e-mail bcreeger@stbrendans.net or drop them off to the parish office. All 8th grade parents will receive an e-mail through Flocknote/School Speak by Friday, September 6 with a link & instructions on how to register & pay for the Confirmation Retreat.

Confirmation Parent Meeting: will be held on Tuesday, October 1 from 7-8:30 PM in Church **OR** Wednesday, October 23 from 7:30 – 9 PM in the Church. **Please note that it is required for at least ONE 8th grade PARENT to attend ONE of the two meetings. Students/Sponsors DO NOT need to attend!** At the meeting, we will cover important details about Confirmation. Each parent will also receive a folder with dates, practice times instructions on how to complete on-line registration and payment for the retreat as well as teaching tools you can use at home with your children.

Susan Nussman, our brand-new Middle School Youth Minister will lead the night. This will be a great opportunity to meet her and hear about all the tremendous new and exciting things planned for our teens this year and beyond. Along with serving as an informational meeting, the event will also serve as a “mini-retreat” for parents allowing time for prayer, which will focus on the deeper meaning behind Confirmation.

Even though at least one parent is required to attend the meeting, we highly encourage both parents to attend if possible. It is an investment that is well worth your time!

On-line registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation will open on Wednesday, October 2. Notice will be sent out through Flocknote/School Speak to ALL parents. For parents that don't attend the meeting on October 1, Confirmation registration will be pending until a parent attends the October 23 meeting.

Service Hours: Each student must complete 14 service hours. Any hours that were done after the completion of their 7th grade year through April 1 of their 8th grade year can be counted. Please visit our Confirmation webpage at <https://www.stbrendans.net/sacramental-information/confirmation> to complete the Service Hour Log info on-line.

Confirmation Retreat: September 27-29, 2019

1. Damascus Catholic Mission Campus: 3 Township Highway 200, Centerburg, OH 43011 OR 3 Township Road 200, Centerburg, OH, 43011.
2. Students should arrive to the St. Brendan parking (near the playground) by 4 PM to load busses. Busses will leave at 4:15 PM on Friday September 27. Dinner will be provided at the camp for the students. St. Brendan School students may bring luggage to school with them the morning of September 27 & place it in the gym stage area. After school they may come to the gym area to wait until it's time to load busses.
3. The Retreat fee is \$125. If you haven't already submitted your payment, please pay on-line, by cash or check made payable to St. Brendan Church & return to the parish office.
4. Please join us for the closing Mass at Damascus beginning at 11:30 AM on Sunday. Lunch will not be provided after Mass, but you are welcome to stay for camp tours.
5. There will be no bus for the return trip on Sunday. If you don't join us for the 11:30 AM Mass, please arrive at Damascus at 12:30 PM to pick up your teen.
6. If there are questions about dress code, please refer to the packing list enclosed in this packet.

“And he said to all: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it; for he that shall lose his life for my sake, shall save it” (Lk 9:23-24). May our Lord and Savior bless your children with the virtues of faith, hope, and charity to persevere each day on the journey to Friday night April 17!

May God bless you and your families,

Joshua Kilmer
Director of Youth Evangelization & Catechesis
St. Brendan the Navigator