Welcome to the journey of Sealing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This year’s Confirmation program was designed by the dioceses of St. Cloud to help candidates get the best out of the year of discernment. This guide will help parents, sponsors, catechist and candidates work together to help continue a life long journey of the Catholic faith. This program has been used in various parishes in the St. Cloud Dioceses, it has had many great reviews. The program has five parts and in this handbook each will be described. The process is from fall of 2022 to spring of 2023.

**Confirmation Program**

The five parts of the program:

* 1. Reflection Dialogue
* 2. Sponsoring Process
* 3. Learning Centers
* 4. Retreat
* 5. Liturgical Celebration

**Reflective Dialogue**

 **Initial Dialogue**- The candidate and parents will meet with the Pastor and Director of Faith Formation to have beginning conversations as the start to prepare for the start of the program.

 **Reflection Dialogue**-The candidate will meet with the Faith Formation Director at the end of the process to hear how the process went.

**Learning Centers**

 Candidate and parents will participate in a learning centers to assist them in intentional faith-sharing experiences, support that parents are primary faith educators, and to foster an informed and lived discipleship.

**Sponsor Process**

 Gives sponsor and candidate time for one-on-one setting for faith witness, time to build relationship, build a support system, and enhance involvement in Catholic Church community.

**Retreat**

Fosters the candidate’s relationship with God with in a community of peers, provides reflections time, greater understanding between God and everyday life, also encourages candidate to live as disciple of Jesus Christ through participation in the life of the Church.

 **Liturgical Celebration** The sacrament of Confirmation which will be held at Seven Dolors. We have not been given the date at this time. This will be done by the bishop or the vicar general. This is another time when the Chrism oil is used during a sacrament. It is the same oil that is used at Baptism.

**Parent Role**

Continue to foster your child in an informed and live discipleship. Share your own faith journey and struggles with your child. What is your story? Guide them when they have questions, pray for them as they continue this journey.

*Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole of the Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God: we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in the Church’s mission… ~*excerpted from CCC1213

**Confirmation Sponsor**

Sponsor needs to be a confirmed catholic and a practicing catholic. Meaning regularly receiving the Eucharist. Someone the candidate is comfortable with; family friend, cousin, aunt, or uncle. Because parents have already chosen this faith for them at baptism, parents are not able to be sponsors.

Sponsors also have to be able to have the time to attend Rite of Calling and Rite of Sending with the candidate as well as meeting with them throughout the discernment time.

**Candidate**

Candidates need to be accountable for making sure they are in contact with their sponsor. Making sure they meet with them the six times and journaling about it. Making it to Mass and journaling. It is required to attend 7 Masses and journal about them. Attend Holy Week Masses.

Candidates need to show up to 3 meeting of Faith Formation at Seven Dolors. Complete the centers with the parents and attend the retreat at Seven Dolors. You will find a check off sheet along with this packet. Keep it safe and refer to it as the year goes on.

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**Check List and Dates**

**Parent/Student/Sponsor Information Meeting** – All parishes
 Meeting will be held on September 7, at 7:00 pm (at least on parent needs to attend)

**Rite of Calling**: Held at each parish, parents need to attend with the confirmation student. Sponsors are encouraged to attend as well. See below for your parish information.

**October 16**: Saint Anthony 8:30 am, Saint Benedict 8:30 & 10:30 am,
 Saint Martin 9:30 am, Seven Dolors 10:30 am.

**Student and Sponsor Meetings**: these are set up and completed by the Confirmation Student. You will in addition to the 6 meetings, you will do a service project with your sponsor.

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting One – By October 12

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting two – By November 12

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting Three – By December 3

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting Four – By January 12

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting Five – By February 12

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting Six – By March 8
**Candidate/Sponsor Service Project** – Due by **March 1, 2023** In the journal for each meeting you will be able to find ideas for a service project. On **March 19th** a written paper summarizing your experience with your sponsor during the meetings and project will be submitted. We will gather as a class at **7:00 pm, Sunday, March 19**. This class will be for all 4 parishes; we will meet in the church of Seven Dolors.

**Parent/Candidate Learning Centers** – The centers will be available for your families starting on **November 5 until November 12**. There will be a sign up genius sent out for times they will be open. **Parents and Students attend the centers together**. The centers take about an hour and half to complete. You move through them with your family they are not lead by a facilitator.

**Confirmation Name and Paper** –This will be due on November 28, 2022. One of the centers you will complete with your parents spends time talking about names. If you did not have a saint you were interested in, then during that time with your parents it could be a great conversation. Materials will be available for you to look through at the center. See instructions in this handbook. If you have question during the assignment email me, call me or come see me.
Toni.Hudock@hohcatholic.org \* 320-845-5405 \* office is located at Seven Dolors Parish \* if you need to meet at your parish, call and I will schedule a time to meet with you.

\*\***Saint Papers can be emailed to** toni.hudock@hohcatholic.org

**Confirmation Retreat**: It is REQUIRED that each student attends a retreat. This is a Diocesan requirement. If you cannot make this retreat, you will need to find a weekend that will work for you to complete a TEC retreat. A TEC retreat starts on a Friday and ends on Sunday. They usually offer one during Christmas break. If you need financial help, scholarships are always available. Please see Toni for help signing up.

**Harvest of Hope’s Retreat
December 3, 2022.
Location: Seven Dolors
Time: 10 am to 6 pm**

**Each student is required to attend Mass**. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is an important part of our faith, important part of building a relationship with Jesus. Mass is where the teaching of Jesus is brought to us**. Holy Week attendance is required.**Students will need to hand in **4 Mass journals**. They must include: date, where you went, who said Mass, brief summary of the Gospel, and what spoke to you during the homily. **Due March 8, 2023 – these can be emailed.**

**Letter to Fr Edward** – **Due March 19** At the beginning of the year you and your families met with Father Edward and Toni for dialogues. You shared with us areas you wanted to do better at, as a family and personal ones. How have the last months helped you with your goals you talked about? How have you grown since we visited with you in August? Has your faith grown and your relationship with Jesus? Are you ready to be Confirmed? This letter should be addressed to Father Edward. You can mail the letter or dropped it off at the office of Seven Dolors. If you drop this off, please have attention Toni/Confirmation Letter. I will not open these letters, but I collect them and give them to Father all at once.

**Mailing address:**

Seven Dolors Parish
Po Box 277
Albany, MN 56307

Attention Toni Hudock/Confirmation Letter

**Reconciliation Services** –
Each students should attend their parish or a Harvest of Hope Parish to make confession. Two services are offered through the year. One is during Advent and one is during Lent.
Saint Anthony – March 29, 7:00 pm
Saint Benedict – November 14, 6:30 pm – March 22, 6:30
Saint Martin – November 7, 7:00 pm – March 15, 7:00 pm
Seven Dolors – November 30, 6:00 pm – March 8, 6:00 pm

Faith Formation Sessions
We will meet 4 other times as a group

1. Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 Guest Speaker @ Seven Dolors (required)
2. January 22, at 7:00 pm (SA, SB and SD at Seven Dolors)
3. February 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm (SA, SB and SD at Seven Dolors)
4. March 19 @ 7:00 pm ALL Students (SA, SB, SM, SD at Seven Dolors)

The items below will all depend on the date we are scheduled for Confirmation. Not available at this time.

Rite of Sending

Confirmation Practice

Confirmation