

## **Sacred Heart of Jesus Confirmation Class for 2018 (11<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall of 2018)**

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents, and Families

My name is Sean Moore. Anthony Lucia and I will lead the Confirmation Class this year. This is a preliminary message to get initial information out. However, things are subject to change and we want to be able to keep you updated, and give you the ability to reach out to us with any questions we can answer.

My contact information is as follows:

Email— sean.damian.moore@gmail.com

Phone—504 723 4948 (mobile) and 985 764 0712 (home)

My work day is typically 7:30 am to 6 pm and I don't have access to personal email from work (except by smart phone and that can be unwieldy because my eyes are getting worse and screens aren't getting much bigger), so please don't expect immediate responses to email during work hours. You may text me and I'll respond when I can.

Please send me an email giving me contact information for each candidate, including the candidate's names, the names of parents or guardians, and at least one parent or guardian's email address and home and/or mobile phone numbers. You can text me your names and mobile phone numbers as well (but I still really want emails because they are easier for me to manage). I'll use this information to try to keep you informed. I would rather not have the phone numbers or email addresses of candidates themselves (there is usually no good reason for me to contact any of them directly and not involve a parent or guardian, so if you give me a candidates contact information because of some particular reason, please be sure to also give me the parent/guardian contact information).

We have the following points that are usually most questioned—please note that all dates are tentative but we will try to firm these up ASAP, and I will try to keep one master document that has all information, so that when you get a communication about one date changing, all other dates will be on that communication so you only have to look in one spot.

1. There will be Confirmation meeting with parents and students following mass on **Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**. The attendance of at least one parent is mandatory, but if both can attend, that is preferred. This meeting will be both informational and instructional.
2. Classes will begin **Sunday, August 19** and will be held every Sunday beginning with mass at 6 pm, followed by class in the Youth Center (next door to the church) until 8:15 pm. No classes on Labor Day or when the next day is a school holiday. Also, classes may be bumped because of bad weather (we hope not).
3. Class attendance is mandatory BUT if there is going to be an issue on a particular night please let me know ASAP. I will work with you if reasonably possible.
4. **Confirmation is scheduled for Thursday November 15**. Please let us know ASAP if there is a conflict and we will work with you if reasonably possible—we have had candidates who had a

conflict that could not be overcome, and we may be able to arrange an alternative (but no promises).

5. **If the Confirmation date holds then Rehearsal for Confirmation will be Monday November 12 at 630 PM.** Candidates must be present. The sponsor (more about that later) doesn't have to be present (out of town sponsors may have a hard time making it), but the candidate is responsible for making sure the sponsor knows what to do.
6. **Likewise, Candidates will be presented at 10 am mass on Sunday November 11.** This is mandatory for the candidates (not sponsors). Please get with me ASAP if this is an issue. I'll work with you if reasonably possible. The Saints are at Cincinnati that day so we will have you home by kick-off. You will miss the pre-game though.
7. We will hold a mandatory retreat and are right now trying to determine whether we will do one day (begin around 9 am on a Sunday and end with 6 pm mass) or an overnight retreat. We welcome input from parents and candidates as to which is preferred.
8. At some point before Confirmation the candidates will each be interviewed by Father Ed. This is to assure that candidate is ready for this sacrament, but it is also a time for the candidates to ask any questions they may have. Class is also the time for candidates to ask questions. Candidates are Christian adults and if they didn't have questions then they are either absolutely brilliant or they aren't thinking about their faith enough—we want questions from the candidates, either to Father Ed, or to Anthony and me. If we can't answer right away we will get them the answer.
9. The candidates need to pick a saint's name for Confirmation. More on that to come but start thinking now—what saint interests you, inspires you, and exemplifies the life you want to lead. The candidates will submit a brief report—this isn't a graded assignment, but an opportunity for you to learn more about the saint with whom you've chosen to share a name.
10. The candidates need to pick a sponsor. Again, more to come, but the sponsor can't be a parent (the sponsor can be a sibling). The sponsor doesn't have to be the same gender as the candidate. BUT the sponsor must be a confirmed and practicing Catholic. We all have family members with whom we are close and who we love dearly, but who don't practice the faith (at least I do). The sponsor needs to be active in the Catholic faith—if there is someone you want to be a sponsor who isn't practicing now, maybe this is the time to invite them back home to active life in the faith.
11. Candidates need to be mindful of their service hours and are responsible for keeping track and getting them done timely. This is not something I track—it's up to the candidates.
12. Candidates need to be regular mass attendees. Don't take summer vacation from mass. We receive the most important sacrament, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at mass---don't miss this opportunity.

I will try to set up a set of folders in the youth center for candidates to turn in information (reports, sponsor forms, service hours, etc.). You may at some point have to turn something in at the rectory. If you do, be sure to let Anthony Lucia or me know. We don't have regular contact with the rectory and in fact, when the rectory is open I am at work in New Orleans, so dropping off something there doesn't always mean it will get to me, and the rectory staff is not responsible for being sure things get to me.