

PARISH MINISTRY

St. Therese Confirmation, 2023-2024

The sacrament of Confirmation is a call to mission. *Lumen Gentium*, one of the principal documents of the Second Vatican Council, says the following about the confirmed faithful: "They are more perfectly bound to the Church by the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and deed, as true witnesses of Christ." (11). Thus, in seeking to be confirmed, one is pledging to serve the Church at large, and the parish at which one is confirmed. To this end, St. Therese parish requests that her confirmands engage in a ministry at our parish this year. Service in ministry is an important component of Confirmation formation: it teaches one to build up the Church, and helps one discern his or her charisms.

Candidates select from one of the following options. Candidates are encouraged to consider their own talents and interests when choosing a ministry. (We are also happy to discuss other ideas for parish ministry that a candidate might have.)

- **Option 1: Faith Formation Volunteer.** Candidates can volunteer with our Wednesday Faith Formation sessions as catechists or helpers with the elementary program (grades K-5) or middle-school program (grades 6-7 or 8). This is a great way to help younger kids grow in the faith.
- **Option 2: Lectoring at Sunday Evening Mass.** We are looking for two teens who can commit to lectoring this year at our Sunday Evening Masses, which take place about once a month at 5:00 pm (on Oct. 1, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, Feb. 18, Mar. 10, and Apr. 14). Lectors will receive training, and will also commit to preparing at least a week in advance of each Mass by praying with the readings and practicing. A candidate picking this option should ideally be at all 6 Sunday Evening Masses, but it is okay if her or she can only make 5. Someone who cannot be at at least 5 Sunday Evening Masses should select a different option.
- **Option 3: Liturgical Service.** Candidates may begin, or continue, serving at St. Therese liturgies as altar servers, greeters/ushers, musicians, sound board volunteers, etc.

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- **Option 4: Parish Ministry Service.** Candidates may also minister to the parish by assisting in many of the service and social events that we are holding throughout the year. We have compiled a list of several of these opportunities, with sign-up information as well. Candidates can review that list and sign up at our Confirmation website (<https://www.st-therese.org/confirmation>). The options include
 - Cinnamon Roll Sales
 - Sunday Evening Mass Ministries
 - Pancake Breakfasts
 - GIFT Events
 - the Christmas Box Project
 - Christmas Decoration Crew
 - Feed My Starving Children Meal Pack
 - Lenten Fish Fries & Soup Suppers

Candidates selecting this option should complete at least **eight** hours of service. We encourage, but do not require, that confirmands complete the majority of their hours with the same ministry, to develop skills and relationships.

Candidates should inform James of their selection by October 1st. Once a candidate has selected, we will help them get connected with their chosen ministry.