



Saint Philip Neri Blessed Sacrament
CATHOLIC PARISH

April 11, 2024

Dear Parents of Confirmandi:

Peace be with you! As we make final preparations for the special Confirmation Mass for your youth on Monday, May 6th, we wanted to inform you of various details for the sake of your planning.

DOCUMENTS

Our D.R.E., Monica Valles, should have received the following documents from you so that we can create accurate sacramental certificates and plan accordingly for the day:

- Completed Registration Form for Confirmation
- Physical Copy of the Baptismal Certificate of the Confirmand (obtained from the parish of his/her baptism)
- Completed Sponsor Form (having been completed in the presence of and by the respective pastor)
- Copy of Birth Certificate (to ensure correct information for names and records)

If you have questions about these, please contact Monica at mavalles@archomaha.org.

MANDATORY REHEARSAL/PRACTICE & DINNER

Each confirmand and his/her respective sponsor are required to attend the **practice on Sunday, May 5th, at 6 p.m. in St. Philip Neri Church**. Please arrive on time, as there is much to rehearse. We are offering a complimentary supper for the sponsor and his/her confirmand in the parish center after the practice: It's a great way to further bond them together.

CONFIRMATION DAY

All eighth grade SPN School students, and those SPN-BS parishioners in our joint Religious Education classes or those who are homeschooled and who will be 13 at the time of Confirmation will receive **the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, May 6th, 2024, during the Mass in English at 6 p.m. in St. Philip Neri Church**. Confirmandi and their respective sponsors are asked to arrive already dressed and **report to the Parish Center (SPN Church basement) no later than 5:40 p.m.** and to meet the Religious Education Director and assisting adults to line up for their entrance procession. Parents are welcome to remain with their youth until the Mass begins, but only the confirmandi and sponsors will walk in the opening procession of Mass.

ATTIRE FOR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

Because the color white is bright, pure, and free from blemish, it is the symbolic color of Christian dignity. Altar servers and clergy wear white garments called albs (*alba* is the Latin word for white) whenever they perform their sacred functions, and the baptized are dressed in a white gown after their Baptism. Because Confirmation and Holy Communion are Sacraments of Initiation and are, thus, especially tied to Baptism, we ask girls and boys to dress in white clothing when they receive any of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and/or First Communion.

We realize that it may be difficult to find entire ensembles that are white, especially boys' trousers or even suits that are white, so we ask families simply to do the best they can within reason and within their financial limitations.

- **Girls' Sacramental Attire:**
 - **Minimum Requirements:** A modest, white dress or a modest, white blouse – they may be sleeveless but never strapless.
 - **Welcome Additions:** A modest, white skirt, skorts, or pants, preferably white, if possible; dress shoes, preferably white, if possible.

- **Boys' Sacramental Attire:**
 - **Minimum Requirements:** A button-down, long-sleeved, white shirt with collar.
 - **Welcome Additions:** Nice pants or trousers, preferably white, if possible (no jeans); dress shoes, a tie in a solid color, and suitcoat, preferably white, if possible.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Parents and guests are allowed to have one representative from their family take a photo during the moment of Confirmation. We ask that they be discrete and not interrupt things, nor draw attention to themselves or use flash. We also ask that said photographers stay in the side aisles during the moment of the reception of Confirmation.

Immediately after the Mass concludes, we will assemble the confirmati in the sanctuary for a group photo and we will make that photo available digitally to all parents for free. Of course, after the group photo, families are welcome to take their own group or individual photos, but please wait until the official group photo is taken.

RESERVED PEWS

As in previous years, each family will have one reserved pew. The confirmand will sit in his/her pew along the center aisle with his/her sponsor next to him/her. Names for each pew will be posted on both sides of the respective pew. Additional family and guests will need to find seats in the general seating areas of the church.

AFTERWARDS

The priest is happy to bless any religious gifts after the Mass has concluded. We will not have a reception at the Church because of people's individual parties, and the SPN-BS Parish Center and Activity Center are unavailable after the Confirmation Mass for parties. Please plan something for your youth at home or another location.

I hope this information is helpful to you and we look forward to seeing you and your confirmand and his/her sponsor at Confirmation!

Your Servant in Christ,



Fr. Damien J. Cook
Pastor