



# SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

FROM: John Smestad, Jr., Youth Minister

RE: Sacrament of Confirmation 2023 (10/15/22 update)

Thank you for your interest in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as a high school junior in Spring 2023. Receiving the sacrament completes initiation into the Church. It is not a rite of passage, but a gift of strengthening where the graces of the Holy Spirit help a person to grow and be a witness to their Catholic faith. Sacramental preparation at St. Dominic follows the requirements of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

## **REGISTRATION**

A completed registration includes the following:

- completed registration form
- completed sponsor testimonial form
- Baptismal certificate (we can make a copy when you arrive)
- program fee of \$185 payable to St. Dominic (includes retreat and class materials)

Bring the above items to my office in Aquinas Hall, 6361 Memphis Street, in person, between 3:30pm and 6:00pm on one of the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 19, 2022
- Friday, October 21, 2022
- Wednesday, October 26, 2022

## **SPONSOR SELECTION**

- The sponsor is selected by the candidate and must be a practicing Catholic who has already received the Sacrament of Confirmation and
- The sponsor may NOT be the candidate's parent (natural or adoptive)
- Choosing a Godparent is encouraged
- Sponsors must provide the signed Sponsor Testimonial Form; the signature of a priest is not required
- The sponsor must be physically present at Confirmation on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 (and the rehearsal on April 24, 2023)

## **SAINT SELECTION**

Each candidate must choose a Blessed or Saint of the Roman Catholic Church as their Confirmation "name." A short reflection paper summarizing the life of the Saint and your reason for choosing that person will be required. Instructions will be given at your first class

## **SERVICE HOURS**

Six service hours, done in support of those in serious need and/or the Church community, are required, and all six must be completed per the attached policy between June 2022 and April 2023.

## **INTERVIEW**

Interviews will be conducted during a scheduled class session.

## **RETREAT INFORMATION**

- See the attached Retreat for Confirmation explanation. A retreat from among these choices is mandatory. Per archdiocesan policy, a school-based retreat is not accepted as part of Confirmation preparation.
- Further instructions, packing list, and permission/medical forms will be sent approximately one month in advance of your chosen retreat.
- Bus transportation, meals, and lodging are included.

## **CLASS SESSIONS**

Instructional hours are mandatory per archdiocesan policy. Please mark class sessions on your calendar now and make arrangements to be present. Absence for illness may require a doctor's note. Absence for athletic or other extra-curricular activities should be avoided. If any one class session is missed, it must be made up on the April 23<sup>rd</sup> date as noted. **If two or more class sessions are missed, the candidate will not be confirmed.**

## **CALENDAR – all dates mandatory**

Parent/Teen/Sponsor Meeting	Wednesday, November 9, 2022	7:00pm in church
Class Session #1	Sunday, February 5, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #2	Sunday, February 26, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #3	Sunday, March 5, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #4	Sunday, March 19, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #5	Sunday, April 2, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #6	Sunday, April 16, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
<i>Make-up Class (if applicable)</i>	<i>Sunday, April 23, 2023</i>	<i>3:00pm-5:00pm in gym</i>
Confirmation Rehearsal (for candidates and sponsors)	Monday, April 24, 2023	7:00pm in church
Confirmation Mass	Tuesday, April 25, 2023	7:00pm in church

## **CONFIRMATION MASS INFORMATION**

- Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond is scheduled for Confirmation at St. Dominic
- Candidates and sponsors arrive at 6:15pm; the Mass begins at 7:00pm
- Boys' attire: Dress shirt, pants, tie, and jacket (or suit,) and dress shoes & socks
- Girls attire: Dress or dress pants/skirt and modest blouse; dresses must be no more than 3 inches from the floor when kneeling; shoulders must be covered; dress shoes or sandals
- After the Mass a group photo will be taken with the archbishop, and then the archbishop will be available for individual photos

## **QUESTIONS?**

Call Johnny Smestad at 504-813-3003 or Laurie Neely at 504-486-9731

# St. Dominic Religious Education Confirmation 2023 – Registration

Name as shown on  
Baptismal Certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Landline Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attending \_\_\_\_\_ 2022-2023 Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Information

Father \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Religion

Address (if Different) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Father Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Father E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Maiden Last Religion

Address (if Different) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mother Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Mother E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

With whom does student live? \_\_\_\_\_

## Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church Parish \_\_\_\_\_ **Must submit signed Sponsor Testimonial Form**

**A Sponsor:**

- Must have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must be a practicing Catholic
- Must not be the father or mother, natural or adoptive, of the one confirmed.

# Mandatory Documentation

**Baptism (certificate copy required)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Baptismal Church \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Church address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist** \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Choices and Obligations

**Confirmation/Saint Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sacramental Instructional Classes** Initial to acknowledge the mandatory classes: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Session #1	Sunday, February 5, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #2	Sunday, February 26, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #3	Sunday, March 5, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #4	Sunday, March 19, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #5	Sunday, April 2, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
Class Session #6	Sunday, April 16, 2023	3:00pm-5:00pm in gym
<i>Make-up Class (if applicable)</i>	<i>Sunday, April 23, 2023</i>	<i>3:00pm-5:00pm in gym</i>

The instructional hours are mandatory per archdiocesan policy. Please make arrangements with your other extra-curriculars so that you can attend and participate. Failure to attend will result in the sacrament being postponed.

**ALL MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RETREATS** Retreat Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1** - CYO Winter Retreat – Tuesday, December 27 - Thursday, December 29, 2022

**Option 2** - CYO Spring Retreat – Friday, March 24 – Sunday, March 26, 2023

**Parish Member** Yes No St. Dominic Parish Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not a parishioner of St. Dominic Parish (meaning not living within the parish boundaries nor registered as a parishioner,) a letter of permission from the pastor of your home church parish is required.

**Program Fee: \$185.00** (Includes retreat, class materials, and liturgy supplies. Due with registration in Fall 2022. Installments available; please call Laurie or Johnny at 504-486-9731 to make arrangements.)

### For Office Use Only

Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check/Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Recv'd by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism Certificate Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ First Eucharist Date/Documentation \_\_\_\_\_



# SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

## Sponsor Testimonial for Confirmation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person to be Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Confirmation: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

### Criteria to Serve as Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism/Confirmation

1. The Godparent/Sponsor must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has been Confirmed and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith;
2. The Godparent/Sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age;
3. If married, the Godparent/Sponsor must be in a marriage recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Person may not be cohabiting (living together without marriage);
4. If not previously attended, the Godparent/Sponsor will attend appropriate preparation for fulfilling this role.

### Statement of Sponsor

"I meet the above-stated criteria to serve as a Sponsor, and I will do all in my power to assist the parents of this child to raise their child in the Catholic faith, or - if an adult - to assist him/her in living faithfully as a Catholic Christian."

By signing below, the proposed Sponsor solemnly swears that he or she has read the above criteria, and that the statement above is a true and correct indication of his/her intentions.

Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

ST. DOMINIC PARISH  
RETREAT FOR CONFIRMATION 2023  
*Please read carefully*

Each student preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation must participate in a retreat experience. Such an experience will include witness talks about the Catholic faith, time for reflection, and an opportunity to be with peers for further discussion and community-building as the Body of Christ. The retreat experience is important also because it takes time away from daily routines and responsibilities and allows for a better focus on one's faith journey. The Archdiocese of New Orleans Confirmation policy requires a retreat experience that is done through the parish during formation. Retreats done through school are not accepted per archdiocesan policy.

Candidates should choose ONE of the following options. Please read each carefully and make an informed choice based on which retreat best fits in your schedule. We have confidence that if you're open to the retreat experience and fully participate, you will receive many graces in return. Please note that lack of a retreat will result in your not being able to receive the sacrament on time.

**OPTION #1**

**St. Dominic CYO Winter Retreat** on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 – Thursday, December 29, 2022, at Camp Abbey on the northshore. This is a **2 night/2 day** retreat experience facilitated by the CYO Peer Ministry Team and adult advisors. It includes faith witness talks by older teens and adults, small group discussion and activities, recreation time, Reconciliation, and Mass. Other CYO members besides Confirmation candidates will be at this retreat; total attendance is about 100 teenagers. **Lodging, meals, and bus transportation are included.**

**OPTION #2**

**St. Dominic CYO Spring Retreat** on Friday (evening), March 24, 2026 – Sunday, March 26, 2026, at Holy Spirit Hall near Mobile, Alabama. This is a **2 night/2 day** retreat experience facilitated by the CYO Peer Ministry Team and adult advisors. It includes faith witness talks by older teens and adults, small group discussion and activities, recreation time, Reconciliation, and Mass. Other CYO members besides Confirmation candidates will be at this retreat; total attendance is about 80 teenagers. **Lodging, meals, and bus transportation are included.**

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The process for selecting/confirming your retreat choice is as follows:

- 1) Check your calendar and select your retreat choice on the Confirmation 2023 Registration Form
- 2) An instruction memo with instructions about arrival/departure, transportation, what to pack, and permission/medical consent forms will be e-mailed or mailed to you approximately one month prior to the retreat
- 3) Submit the necessary permission/medical consent form to the St. Dominic Church Office by the deadline provided (approximately one week prior to the retreat)
- 4) There is **NO additional fee** to pay as the retreat was included in your overall Confirmation program registration.
- 5) Members of the St. Dominic CYO Peer Ministry Team who will be at both CYO Winter Retreat and CYO Spring Retreat are asked to mark a retreat to which you would like your Confirmation retreat fee applied even if you will be at both retreats.
- 6) If, in the unlikely event that neither option above is workable on your calendar, you must speak with Johnny Smestad during during Fall 2022 and then make arrangements yourself to complete a Confirmation retreat with another church parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The other retreat must be at least 8 hours. That church parish will have to provide documentation of your attendance.

## ST. DOMINIC SERVICE HOURS FOR CONFIRMATION 2023

In receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidate is called to use his/her gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God on earth, the Body of Christ. Therefore, service to those in need and service to the Church and larger community are appropriate both in preparing for the sacrament and in living discipleship throughout one's life. Importance of service to others:

- As part of the Christian call for building the reign of God while we're on earth, we are all obliged to do our part to make this world a better place.
- Reaching out and helping others, putting others' need before our own are ways of experiencing God's reign in the here and now.
- To see God in the faces of those to whom we give of ourselves

Important criteria regarding service hours for Confirmation:

- All service performed must be done voluntarily, outside of class, and without payment. Service is not service just because you do it voluntarily and without financial compensation. It should help those less fortunate and/or build up the life of the church and community. Hours not meeting these guidelines have been rejected in the past. If your hours do not fall under one of the categories below, you must have them pre-approved by Johnny Smestad.
- Per the archdiocesan policy implemented in 2019, **six hours are required.**
- While you are welcome to submit Confirmation service hours to your school for credit there, the reverse does not hold. Service hours done for school will not be accepted for Confirmation.
- There will be three main avenues for completing acceptable service hours. You can mix and match any combination of these.
  - 1) **Service projects sponsored by St. Dominic CYO are automatically acceptable. At least 3 of the 6 hours must be done through projects sponsored by St. Dominic.** These opportunities are publicized on [www.stdominiccyo.org](http://www.stdominiccyo.org) one semester at a time: summer, fall, spring. Confirmation candidates and parents will receive periodic e-mails with these opportunities. Sign-up deadlines will be listed and space is limited at most of these. No space is being held for Confirmation candidates; plan ahead. You do not need to submit any documentation or obtain signatures as we will already have record of your attendance.
  - 2) **Service to elderly or disabled family members or neighbors** in tasks such as grocery shopping or other errands/tasks that those individuals are not able to do. Such work will require completion of the attached form; service may be verified. This service must be pre-approved.
  - 3) **Creating care packages with "pen pal" style letters for residents of an archdiocesan nursing home.** Care packages should contain at least four items including, but not limited to puzzle books, tissue packs, lotion, candy, coffee mug, AND the pen pal letter sharing a bit about yourself including family, school, extra-curricular activities, and that you are praying for them. Every two packages will count as 1 hour of service. These may be brought to Aquinas Hall during Johnny's office hours on Wednesdays during the school year from 3:30pm-6:30pm; he will coordinate delivery to the nursing home.
- Any other service idea not included above must be proposed to Johnny Smestad for approval **IN ADVANCE** by e-mailing [info@stdominiccyo.org](mailto:info@stdominiccyo.org) . Such requests must be substantial service projects that go beyond those listed above.
- Eligible service hours are those done from June 2022 until the deadline to submit hours in April 2023. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE to do your service!**

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS  
FOR ELDERLY/INFIRM/DISABLED FAMILY/NEIGHBORS**

\_\_\_\_\_

CANDIDATE NAME (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER

I have completed \_\_\_\_\_ service hours without monetary compensation for the following person:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

How I know this individual \_\_\_\_\_

Date (s) of service \_\_\_\_\_

Service provided/tasks completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe how this service helped the individual named, and how the service helped you grow as a disciple of Jesus and live Gospel values:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_