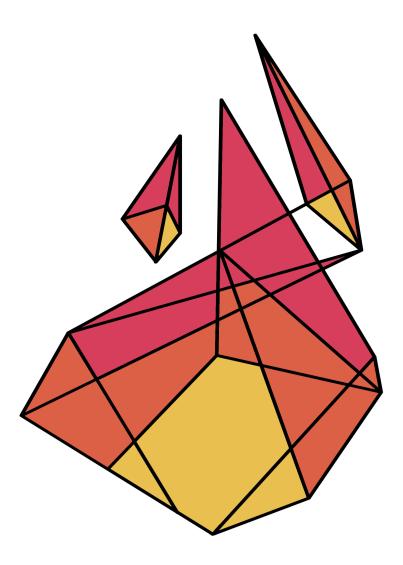
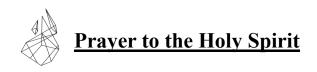
# Ignite 2022-2023 Your Guide to Confirmation





**St. Matthew Catholic Church Office of Faith Formation** 



O Holy Spirit of God stand by us;

inspire all our thoughts and imagination;

guide all our actions.

be with us in our silence and in our speech,

in our obligations and in our free time,

in our social interactions and in our alone time;

at the start of the day and in the exhaustion of night;

and give us grace at all times,

humbly to rejoice in your mysterious companionship,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



Dear Ignite Participants,

Confirmation preparation is a compelling time for you and your family. Your adolescent heart yearns for answers to life's confusing questions and desires authentic acceptance among your peers in the midst of discovering who you really are. In response, the world will offer distractions and counterfeit "conditional" approval.

In partnership with your family and your confirmation sponsor, we have the privilege of enlightening you to God's truthful response...the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit! During your time in IGNITE you will:

- Learn how to recognize the Holy Spirit at work in the world.
- Remain keenly aware of the Holy Spirit's presence your lives.
- Embrace your commitment to feed and strengthen your soul with the grace of the Holy Spirit through an active Catholic sacramental and parish life.

Jesus said, "behold, I am with you always," and as promised sent His Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Our goal is to help you experience the power of this reality.

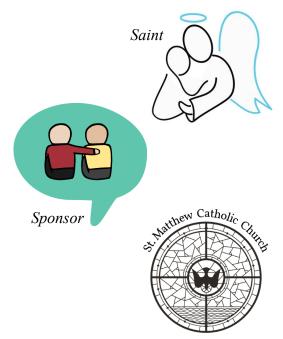
We thank you for walking this impactful journey to ignite your faith in becoming young disciples of Christ. We have the blessed privilege of working with you and your family as Sacramental Coordinator & Administrator. If you have any questions or concerns about your confirmation journey, please reach out to us.

Let's get this Holy Spirit celebration IGNITED!

With grateful hearts,

Amy & Carolyn

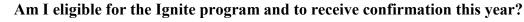
abojarski@stmatthewcatholic.org clynch@stmatthewcatholic.org



Be The Church



### Are you ready to IGNITE your confirmation journey?



If you are currently in 8th or 9th grade and have completed one year of formation during 2021-2022 with St. Matthew Faith Formation, another parish's faith formation program, or at a Catholic School then you are ready for Ignite.

**X** If you are in your first year of faith formation in preparation for the sacrament (currently in  $6^{\text{th}}/7^{\text{th}}$ grade, or in  $8^{\text{th}}/9^{\text{th}}$  grade and were not previously enrolled in St. Matthew Faith Formation or in Catholic school), then you are not eligible to be confirmed this year.

X If you are in 10th, 11th or 12th grade you should be enrolled in our RCIT program.

#### What do I need to do this year in order to receive the sacrament of confirmation?

- Complete one IGNITE seven week trimester. Absences are discouraged and will be addressed on an individual basis.
- Attend one parent/teen (sponsor optional) day retreat.
- Participate in nine "Be The Church" experiences before May 1st, 2023.
- Attend rehearsal for your Mass of Confirmation on May 9th or 10th.
- Submit the required forms and documents listed below.

#### What are the required forms to turn in and when are they due?

Copy of the Baptismal Certificate	Due December 1st, 2022
Saint Essay	Due March 1st, 2023 (see pg. 5)
Sponsorship Form	Due March 1st, 2023 (see pgs. 6-7 & 13-14)
Be The Church (nine submissions)	Due May 1st, 2023 (see pg. 8)

#### What is the Ignite Retreat?

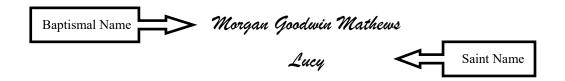
The confirmation retreat is a unique opportunity for you and your parents to take time away from the chaos of everyday life to celebrate and experience your faith together. Your sponsor is also invited to join us, but their attendance is not required. Our hope is that all who attend encounter God, his love for them, and are set on fire to go and be true disciples. You and at least one parent's attendance at the retreat is a requirement for receiving the sacrament of confirmation. The Ignite Retreat will be during the trimester in which you are enrolled on the following dates:

Fall—November 5th, 2022 Winter—February 4th, 2023 Spring—April 29th, 2023

Retreat Times TBD



Our confirmation process includes the beautiful Catholic tradition of selecting a saint to be your heavenly prayer champion and lifelong guide. You should feel both connected and inspired by the saint you select. Only names of canonized or beatified (blessed) saints recognized by the Catholic Church can be chosen as confirmation saints. The saint you choose will be the name you use during your anointing and will be entered into your permanent sacramental records alongside your baptismal name. For example:



You can choose any Catholic saint you wish, even your baptismal namesake. The more time and care you take in selecting your patron, the greater impact it will have on you. Explore the saints (or blessed) and find one that you connect with or whose story has special meaning to you. If you need help getting started, head to one of the following websites:

### LifeTeen's Biggest and Best List of Confirmation Saints (for Guys and Girls):

lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/

### **Catholic.org:**

www.catholic.org/saints/

You are expected to write a personal reflection at least three paragraphs in length which tells of who you are, who your saint is and how you connect. It may be helpful to ask yourself these questions:

- What am I passionate about or what is important to me?
- How can my chosen saint impact my life?
- What draws me to this particular saint?

All submissions will be reviewed by St. Matthew staff members. We look forward to seeing which saint you chose and why!

### How to Complete & Submit the Saint Submission

Follow the link below to submit your essay.

### tinyurl.com/SaintEssay2023



### **Confirmation Sponsor Information**

Another Catholic tradition and very ancient custom of the Church is the role of the confirmation sponsor. As a confirmation candidate you get to select your sponsor. In similar fashion to your saint, your sponsor should be viewed as your human prayer champion and lifelong guide in faith. Who will you choose to walk this journey with you? Before you make your selection here are a few things to consider...

- The responsibility of your sponsor will be to present you to the Bishop at your Mass of Confirmation and to guide you in your Catholic faith everyday forward.
- Your sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age.
- Your sponsor must be a baptized Catholic, who has been confirmed, has already received the Blessed Eucharist, and lives a life of faith abiding by the truths and precepts of the Catholic Church.
- Your sponsor can not be your father, mother or guardian.

When making your selection, first and foremost pray. Make a list of a people to consider, including family or friends, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your decision. Seek the counsel of your parents if you need extra guidance in making a final selection.

### How to Complete & Submit the Sponsor Form:

- 1. Candidates pick someone in their life who meets the above requirements and can continue to be a guide throughout their life.
- 2. Provide the sponsor with the Sponsorship Form to complete.
- 3. If the sponsor is a member of St. Matthew Catholic Church, they do not have to complete the *Office Use Only* box at the bottom of the form. St. Matthew staff will complete the verification.
- 3. Sponsors outside our parish should bring the completed form to their parish to complete the *Office Use Only* box with the pastor's signature and the church seal acknowledging that they are current members of the parish.
- 4. The completed, signed, and sealed form should be sent back to St. Matthew Catholic Church via the following options.

### Mailing Address:

St. Matthew Catholic Church

ATTN: Confirmation Coordinator

8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy

Charlotte, NC 28277

Fax Number: (704) 542-7244, ATTN: Confirmation Administrator

### **Email with PDF attachment:**

clynch@stmatthewcatholic.org, Subject: "Confirmation 2023- Sponsor"



#### A) If my sponsor is a member at St. Matthew Catholic Church do they need to complete the form?

Yes, they should complete the form and turn it into the Church Office for our verification. No need for them to obtain proof of parish membership in the box at the bottom of the form.

### B) My chosen sponsor's parish does not sign paperwork from other parishes.

The parish should provide you with some other kind of paper with their affirmation of membership. This can be attached to the form and sent with the completed form back to the St. Matthew Church Office.

### C) I am having trouble selecting a sponsor.

The sponsor does not necessarily have to be a family member. It can be your small group leader (past or present), parents of friends, and family friends who are practicing Catholics. In the case that you are unable to find a suitable sponsor, any member of the St. Matthew Faith Formation staff is happy to be your sponsor

### D) My chosen sponsor won't be able to attend my Confirmation Mass.

They can remain the sponsor on record and you will need a proxy to stand in place for them at your Confirmation Mass. The proxy is someone who should meet the same requirements as the sponsor.

# E) The person I wish to choose is not currently practicing their Catholic faith. (i.e. The person received their sacraments and now attends a non-Catholic church or is otherwise not living in full communion with the Catholic Church.)

We're happy to work with and assist anyone who is interested in coming back into full communion with the Catholic Church. Otherwise, the canons concerning the requirements for sponsorship are clear, and we cannot licitly permit someone who does not meet the requirements to the role of sponsor. If this person is unable to return to our Catholic faith and fulfill the role of sponsor, we encourage them to be with you at your Mass of Confirmation in unified prayer and witness to power of the Holy Spirit.

### F) I want to choose a person to be my sponsor who is not Catholic.

As stated above, we're happy to work with anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic. The RCIA process is a personal journey for them to begin on their own merit and, unfortunately, will take longer than the time available to be a sponsor for this year's Confirmation. Although unable to fulfill the role of sponsor, this person is encouraged to be with you at your Mass of Confirmation in unified prayer and witness to power of the Holy Spirit.



In addition to choosing a saint and a sponsor, this Holy Spirit journey will not be complete without your active participation in what we call BE THE CHURCH. You will choose a minimum of nine parish life events to participate in outside of your Ignite sessions, regular weekend Mass and holy days of obligation. After each event you must submit a Be The Church google form detailing your experience. The goal of these experiences is for you to learn more about yourself and how the Holy Spirit is guiding you to live an active life of faith. Although we never want to discourage community involvement outside our parish, these nine experiences must be sponsored by a St. Matthew ministry. Please do your best to try a variety of experiences to allow ample opportunity for the Holy Spirit to communicate with you.

## How can I find opportunities to get involved in St. Matthew parish life and where is the Be The Church submission form?

To assist you in selecting experiences that are age appropriate and to find the Be The Church submission form, go to our **Be The Church page** on our St. Matthew website.

### stmatthewcatholic.org/bethechurch

**Youth Ministry events** are the most frequently held and easily available teen opportunities for you to Be The Church. Edge is our middle school youth group and Life Teen is our high school youth group. For more information, check out our youth ministry webpage, see the youth ministry calendar of events on page 11, or reach out to our amazing youth ministers.

#### stmatthewcatholic.org/youthministry

Middle School Youth Minister	High School Youth Minister
Avery Utz	Sarah Jerome
autz@stmatthewcatholic.org	sjerome@stmatthewcatholic.org

The **weekly bulletin**, **parish website**, **and social media accounts** are also good resources for additional Be The Church opportunities. Please note that some parish events could be sensitive in nature and may require your parent to accompany you. (i.e. homeless shelter visits, pro-life walks)

### How will multi-day events like VBS or youth ministry retreats be counted?

For multi-day St. Matthew sponsored events please submit one Be The Church google form per day of your experience. Each submission should detail a different gift and fruit encounter with the Holy Spirit than your previous submission.

### How will the Muffin Ministry and other food donation drop-off events be counted?

Only one drop-off donation event should be submitted per faith formation year. While we love and appreciate all donations, the goal of the Be The Church experience is to ignite your parish life community involvement. Food sorting, packing and serving count as individual experiences because they are held in community.

For more questions regarding appropriate submission of Be The Church experiences please contact:

abojarski@stmatthewcatholic.org clynch@stmatthewcatholic.org



### Preparing for Your Mass of Confirmation

### **Confirmation Night of Prayer and Rehearsal**

Our night of prayer and rehearsal is a required event for all Fall, Winter, & Spring Ignite candidates and your parent. Your sponsor, if available, is also encouraged to attend. It gives us an opportunity to come together one final time to review the specific details of your Mass of Confirmation. Best of all, it gives us the chance to pray over you and invite the Holy Spirit even closer in the days before your anointing. The dates for the Night of Prayer & Rehearsal are set for May 9th or 10th at the Ballantyne Campus Church. You will receive an email to RSVP to one of these rehearsal opportunities.

#### When are this year's Confirmation Masses?

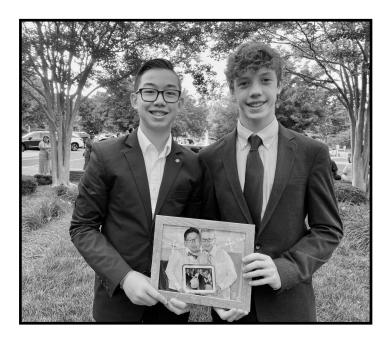
Our Confirmation Masses will take place in late spring of 2023, but we have not yet received our specific dates from the Bishop's Office. For the last few years we received our dates in January. As soon as we know our dates, we will communicate them to you.

#### **Mass Assignment and Location**

We are planning to hold four Masses of Confirmation in 2023 with limited space at each celebration. The Confirmation Masses will take place at the Ballantyne campus church and will take approximately two hours. Your family can select your preferred date.

As soon as we receive word from the Bishop's Office, we will send you an email notification with the confirmation dates and instructions for when the link to select your Mass will go live. The email listed on the label on the front of this guide is the email that will be used to notify you. If you want us to use a different email, please contact Carolyn Lynch, Confirmation Administrator at clynch@stmatthewcatholic.org.

Once you've selected your preferred Mass, changes will only occur in case of a family emergency, and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. We promise to communicate the assigned dates to families as soon as we can so as to provide as much time to plan as possible.



## FULLY INITIATED BAPTISM FIRST COMMUNION CONFIRMATION





### **Confirmation Mass Dress Guidelines**

We have set the following dress guidelines to assist you in preparing to approach the sacrament with grace and care. These guidelines are intended for you, the Confirmand, and your sponsor. Please reach out if you have concerns or questions.

Note: We are no longer using confirmation robes for our candidates. St. Matthew will not provide robes, nor should families purchase robes for use during the Mass.

### **Guiding Principles of the Dress Guidelines for Candidates:**

- This is an occasion to dress your best, not a casual or everyday event.
- Candidates should feel comfortable and confident on the day of confirmation. If they constantly need to adjust or pull on their outfit to cover themselves, it will distract from their full participation in the Mass.
- Candidates should have a place to wear a nametag on the upper portion of their chest to be easily readable by the bishop.
- Candidates and their sponsor during the Rite of Confirmation will bow in front of the bishop, with their back to the congregation.

### For all:

- No athletic shoes or flip flops.
- No jeans (including "nice" jeans) or shorts.
- The color red is the liturgical color for Confirmation Masses, but candidates are not required to wear red.
- Traditional cultural apparel (sari/wrapped garments, kilt, kimono, etc.) that meet the below requirements are also encouraged.

### For gentlemen:

- Dress shoes
- Dress pants with dress belt
- Dress shirt, long sleeve
- Tie or bowtie
- Sport coats/Blazers or suits may also be worn, if desired.

### For ladies:

- Dress shirt & slacks, dress, or jumpsuit that meet the below guidelines are allowed.
- Dress flats or modest heels/wedges. (Make sure you can walk in them!)
- Neckline should be no more than one hand's width below collarbone.
- Skirts should come no higher than fingertip length when both standing and bowing.
- When bowing, no underwear, shorts or excessive cleavage should be seen.
- No midriff/low back cutouts or open back tops
  - Shoulders/Upper back should be 80% covered. Midriff should be 100% covered.
- No strapless or spaghetti strap shirts/dresses without a cardigan or cover worn at all times when inside.

### Youth Ministry Calendar 2022-2023

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### Ignite Calendar of Sessions 2022-2023

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# 2022-2023 Faith Formation Calendar

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### https://stmatthewcatholic.org/faithformation Children's Mass is held on the third Sunday of the month at 9 am

Fall SessionsWinter Sessions

- = Spring Sessions
- = Preschool/Kindergarten Sessions

### BALLANTYNE

SUNDAY

Preschool-Kindergarten: 9 and 10:45 am Masses	
Elementary: 2:30 and 4 p	m RCIC: 4 pm
RCIM/RCIT: 3:30 pm	Invited and Ignite: 7 pm
TUESDAY	
Elementary: 4 and 5:30 p	m <b>RCIC:</b> 5:30 pm
Invited and Ignite: 7 pm	RCIM: 7pm



stmatt\_ym stmatthew\_faithfamily stmatthewcatholic

WAXHAW SUNDAY Elementary: 4 pm Invited: 5:30 and 7:15 pm Ignite: 7:15 pm WEDNESDAY Elementary: 2:45, 4:15 and 5:40 pm Invited and Ignite: 7:15 pm



### and Evidence of the Holy Spirit

### **Gifts of the Spirit**

**Wisdom**–you see the big picture of life from God's point of view

**Knowledge**—you know what God asks of you

**Fortitude**— you show courage and strength in following God's will

Piety—you respect the Lord

Counsel—you show right judgement

**Understanding**– you comprehend God's truth

Fear of the Lord—you are in awe of the glory and majesty of God





### Fruits of the Spirit

Love—displaying selfless service

Kindness—showing compassion

Gentleness—forgiving and merciful

Faithfulness—being loyal

**Joy**—finding deep gladness in good and bad circumstances

Generosity—sacrificially giving

Self-Control—displaying self discipline

**Chastity**—making good moral choices with your body

Peace—having calm confidence in God

Goodness—showing others God's grace

Modesty—giving credit to God

Patience—enduring difficulties



Created for the St. Matthew Ignite program 2022-2023 By the St. Matthew Office of Faith, Family & Youth Programs





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### St. Matthew Catholic Church www.stmatthewcatholic.org

#### SPONSOR AND GODPARENT FORM

"Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it." (Canon 872, Code of Canon Law)

The role of a sponsor is such an important one that the Catholic Church has specific requirements for those asked to fulfill it. The following statements come from the requirements for sponsors and godparents as set down in the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church. The relevant canonical requirements are listed on the back of this form. **Please print** 

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have been asked to be a sponsor/godparent for \_\_\_\_\_ for the sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Child's full name) Please initial by each statement: I have read and understand the requirements of canon law listed on the reverse side. I am at least 16 years of age. I am a faithful, practicing Catholic and have been baptized and confirmed. I am not bound by any canonical impediment. I am not the father, mother, step-parent, or custodial guardian of the candidate. \_\_\_\_\_, a faithful, practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor/godparent, solemnly I, (print name) affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as sponsor/ godparent. Office Use Only: Approval of the Parish Priest Name of Parish City, State Please deliver or mail to the address below.

Saint Matthew Catholic Church – P.O. Box 49349 – Charlotte, NC 28277-0077 – (704) 543-7677 office@stmatthewcatholic.org

To be returned by March 1st, 2023



**St. Matthew Catholic Church** Ignite Confirmation Preparation

### SPONSOR/GODPARENT CODE OF CANON LAW OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Can.872** Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can.873 There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Can.874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- Have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

**§2.** A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.