

St. Francis of Assisi  
Faith Formation  
1031 Chenango Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
607-722-4177 [Mkirk@syrdio.org](mailto:Mkirk@syrdio.org)

July 12, 2023

Dear Candidates and Parents,

As you know the Bishop's office has given us our date for Confirmation, which is Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at the 10:30 AM Mass. **We will have our only rehearsal and final meeting on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 AM.** The final session is a time for sponsors and candidates to get together one last time and talk about their experience through this journey. We will have a Prayer Service, that includes some reflection/discussion **with your sponsor. The rehearsal should start before Mass in the church.** If your sponsor cannot attend this meeting please have someone with you for this final session. **During the mass, probably after Communion, the candidates will be presented with the Green Apple Award, from the diocese for their Laudato Si Group project!** When Mass ends we will finish our rehearsal. After the rehearsal, instead of having lunch in the parish hall we will meet with our parish community at the Ukrainian Pentecostal Church (formally St. Christopher's) for our parish picnic. The rehearsal will be finished by noon so that we can be at the picnic shortly after. Candidates, with their family's and sponsors are expected to be at the Parish Picnic.

Today's letter will highlight any missing information I need and give you the time and date for your scheduled interview with Fr. Tim or me. The interview dates are randomly assigned and can be changed to fit the candidate's schedule. The interview generally lasts about 20 minutes, unless we get chatty. I have enclosed topics of conversation for the you to review. Candidates, you **DO NOT** need to have written answers to these questions, but you should have some idea of how to answer them. Please think about the questions and perhaps engage in a dialogue with your sponsor about them. Weekly attendance at Mass is important, and I strongly encourage you to be attending Mass.

We will celebrate the Sacrament on **Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at the 10:30 Mass.** Mass will be a bit longer than usual. I will not have assigned family pews, you are free to sit anywhere in the church. A photographer has been hired to take photos as the candidate receives the sacrament. There will be a reception following mass, where the Bishop will be available for individual and family group photos. If you are making arrangements for your own celebrations, you can safely make plans for anytime after 1 PM.

Please bring to your interview in **hard** copy:

1. Your discussion notes from your *Faith to Faith* conversations—mailed to your sponsors in the spring
2. Your *completed* Decision Point book
3. Your letter to the bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation (**see reverse side**) **please do not fold the letter.** They are mailed together as a packet.
4. Any past assignments or information listed on the note attached to this letter. (If there is no post it note all assignments and/or paper work are completed.)
5. Your service project picture poster or written description of your project(s).

Thanks for your co-operation, see you soon,

Maria Kirk