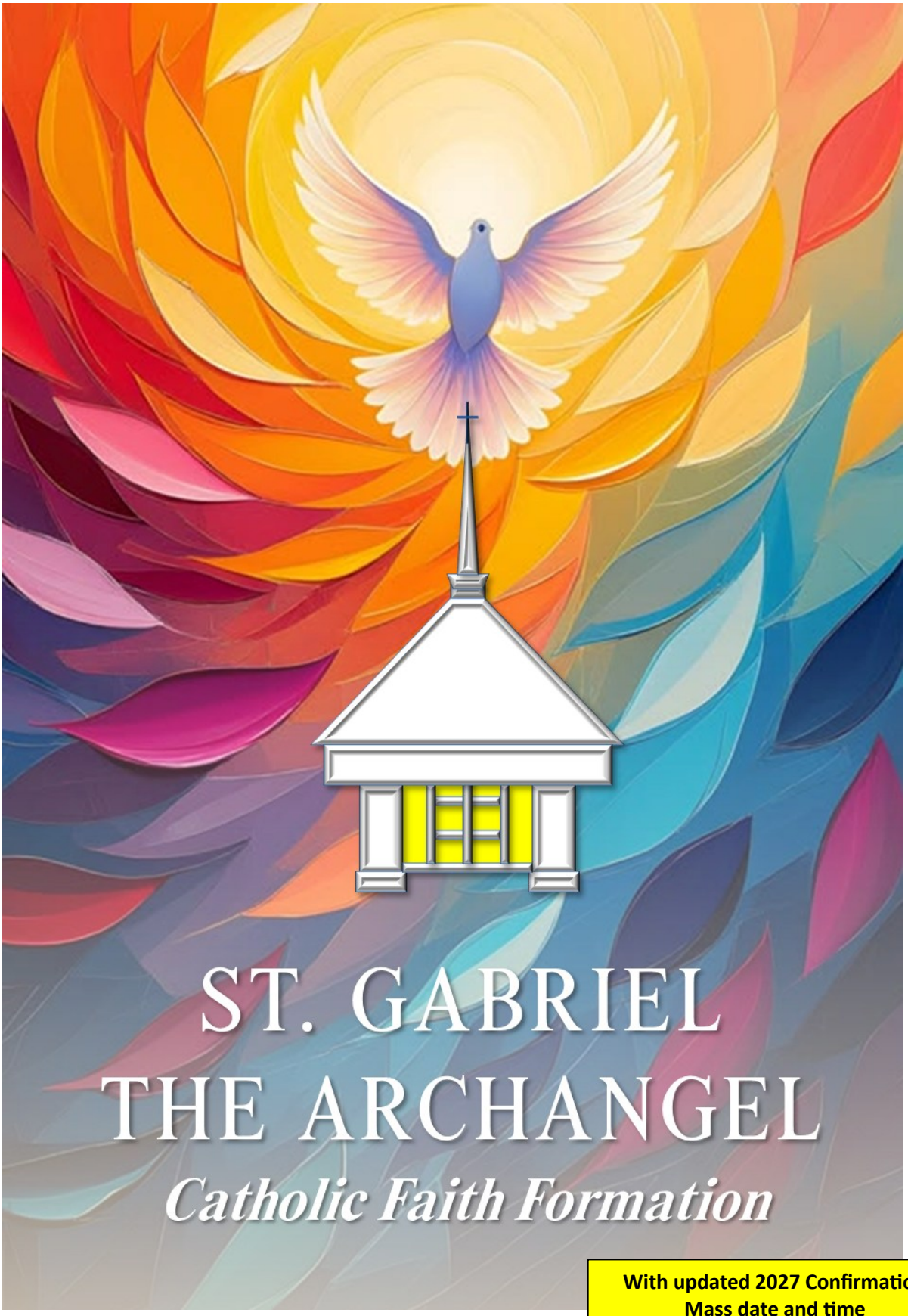


CONFIRMATION

With updated 2027 Confirmation Mass date and time

2026-2027

ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

CONFIRMATION 2026-27

Calendar of Dates

September 2026

16 7:30 – 8:40 pm first class……..**Family & Baptismal Information Form DUE** **(see pg 6)**

23 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

30 NO CLASS

October 2026

7 7:30 – 8:40 pm class……**Confirmation Sponsor Information Form DUE** **(see pg 7)**

11 **(Sun)** 10:00 am **CONFIRMATION PLEDGE Mass**

At this Mass, the parish community offers its prayers and encouragement to our Confirmation students. Following the homily, Father invites the students and their sponsors to come forward. The sponsors are asked as a group if they're ready and willing to accompany the students. The parish community is asked if they're ready and willing to support the students by their good example. And the students are asked as a group if they accept the support of those around them. It's a short but meaningful ritual. Students and sponsors are asked to make every effort possible to be present.

14 7:30 – 8:40 pm class……..**Romans 12 Project Form DUE** **(see pg 9)**

21 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

28 7:30 – 8:40 pm class……..**Confirmation Name Form DUE** **(see pg 8)**

November 2026

4 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

11 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

15 **(Sun)** **CONFIRMATION RETREAT** @ St. Gabriel Parish, 9:00 am to 6:30 pm

The Confirmation Retreat will be a day-long experience of prayer, reflection, and Catholic community as the students go deeper in their relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Students will gather in the Christian Initiation Room (across from the Parish Office) at 9:00 am and will spend the day in various spaces on the St. Gabriel parish campus, and have lunch and supper together. **(see pg 13)**

18 NO CLASS

25 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

December 2026

2 6:00 pm **ADVENT Reconciliation Service** in church

The service is for the entire parish community, including Faith Formation students. Even though the service begins at 6:00 pm, students may come later than that, depending on their schedule. Students will check in with Tina (or a Faith Formation volunteer TBD) for attendance before going to confession.

9 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

16 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

23 NO CLASS (Christmas Break)

30 NO CLASS (Christmas Break)

January 2027

6 NO CLASS (Christmas Break)

13 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

20 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

27 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

February 2027

3 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

Students will also review the **Confirmation Interview guide** to help them prepare. **(see pg 19)**

10 NO CLASS (Ash Wednesday)

Students should do their best to attend one of the Ash Wednesday Masses.

17 7:30 – 8:40 pm

Students will be writing their letters to Bishop Ricken while Confirmation Interviews are being done. Worksheets will be given to students to aid in the letter-writing process. **(see pg 14)**

24 7:30 – 8:40 pm……..**Letters to Bishop DUE by end of class**

Students will finish writing their letters to Bishop Ricken while Confirmation Interviews are being done.

March 2027

3 6:00 pm **LENT Reconciliation Service** in church

The service is for the entire parish community, including Faith Formation students. Even though the service begins at 6:00 pm, students may come later than that, depending on their schedule. Students will check in with Tina (or a Faith Formation volunteer TBD) for attendance before going to confession.

10 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

17 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

24 NO CLASS (Easter Break)

31 NO CLASS (Easter Break)

April 2027

7 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

14 7:30 – 8:40 pm class (Review of the Confirmation Rite)

~~17 **(Sat)** 6:00 pm **CONFIRMATION MASS** @ St. Mary's Menasha~~
~~There will be~~ **Rescheduled to April 28, 2027** ~~ry that evening. Students and sponsors, please plan on being in church by 5:30 pm.~~ **~~(see pg 20)~~**

21 7:30 – 8:40 pm class

28 6:30 pm **CONFIRMATION MASS** @ St. Mary's Menasha
There will be a 5:30 pm rehearsal in church at St. Mary that evening. Students and sponsors, please plan on being in church by 5:30 pm **(see pg 20)**

May 2027

5 7:30 – 8:40 pm final class…….**Romans 12 Project is COMPLETED by this date**

In addition to the scheduled events and classes above, Confirmation students are expected to be regular participants in Sunday (or Saturday pm) Mass.

If students have transportation issues with getting to church, please contact the Faith Formation Office or check with other students who may be able to assist.

Components of the Confirmation Preparation Program

One-Time Components of the Program

- The completion of various informational forms
    - Family and Baptismal Information Form 6
    - Confirmation Sponsor Information Form 7
    - Confirmation Name Form 9
    - Romans 12 Project Form 8
- Choosing a Confirmation Name and Sponsor 11
- The Confirmation Pledge Mass 12
- A Day-Long Confirmation Retreat 13
- Writing a letter to Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation 14
- Completing a Confirmation Interview with Father 19
- Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Confirmation Mass 20

Ongoing Components of the Program

- Weekly Sunday (or Saturday pm) Mass attendance 4
- Working with a Confirmation Sponsor 10
- Completion of a Romans 12 Project 8, 30
- In-Person Classes and Spiritual Formation 2
- Demonstration of Standard Catholic Prayers 21

FAMILY AND BAPTISMAL INFORMATION FORM

Due Sept. 16

I. Birth, Family, and Contact Information

Today's Date:
First Name:
Middle Name:
Last Name:
Date of Birth:
City/State of Birth:

Father's Name:
Mother's Name:
Mother's Maiden Name:
Address:

Parent Phone:
Parent Email:*
Student Email:*

**Any emailed information or communications will be sent to parents and students in the same email. It is against St. Gabriel and diocesan policy to electronically communicate with students without also including parents and/or other Virtus-trained adults.*

If you prefer that email communications be sent ONLY to parents, please check here: _____

II. Baptismal Information

Date of Baptism (if you know):
Parish of Baptism (ask parents):
Location of this Parish (City, State):

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR INFORMATION FORM

Due Oct. 7

Student Name:

In choosing a sponsor, the student/candidate for the reception of Confirmation should select a person with the characteristics listed below. These characteristics come from the Canon Law of the Catholic Church and the guidelines for the Green Bay Diocese:

- The sponsor may be a male or female, but not a parent.
- The sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- The sponsor MUST:
  - be baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith
  - practice his or her faith by regular participation in Sunday Mass and Eucharist
  - lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith

If the student is unable to find a suitable sponsor, he or she should contact Tina or Father. There are many parishioners at St. Gabriel who would be more than happy to serve in the role of Sponsor for confirmation students.

Sponsor's Name:
Sponsor's Mailing Address:
Sponsor's Email:
Sponsor's Current Parish:
Sponsor's Parish of Baptism *and* Year of Baptism:

Please tell us why you have chosen this person to be your Sponsor. How is he or she an example of faithful Catholic living for you? How do you hope this Sponsor will assist you in preparing for Confirmation and adult Catholic living after Confirmation?

ROMANS 12 PROJECT FORM

Due Oct. 14

See page 30

Student Name:

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."
Romans 12:6

The "Romans 12 Project" is an opportunity for high school students in Grades 9-11 to prayerfully consider the gifts and interests God has blessed them with, and how their own giftedness can be exercised as members of the one Body of Christ for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

- Students in Grades 9-10 and Confirmation (Grade 11) will complete 4 hours per school year toward a ***Romans 12 Project***. Students may work together, but each student is responsible for his or her own 4 hours.
- By mid-October each school year, the student will present his or her ***Romans 12 Project*** ideas/plans to the Faith Formation Office for approval. *Please see the ***Romans 12 Project Idea Sheet*** **on page 30** for project ideas based on student interests.

Grade Level (circle one) 9 10 11

What is your Romans 12 Project idea(s)? _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

When will this project take place or be completed? _____

How does this project reflect your God-given gifts, talents, interests, and sense of calling and purpose?
_____
_____
_____

If necessary, what adult(s) will you be coordinating with? _____
_____

Faith Formation Office Use

Project(s) Approved on _____ By _____
Project(s) Completed? Y N
Notes _____
_____
_____

CONFIRMATION NAME FORM

Due Oct. 28

Student Name:

At Confirmation you will be **called by name** as you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and complete your Christian initiation.

You are encouraged to choose a new confirmation name; however, you may decide to use your baptismal name. In either case, the name you use at Confirmation should be important to you. Your confirmation name is reflective of your new life in Christ as an **adult, engaged** member of his Church. It should have special meaning and should express something about who you hope to become as an adult Catholic.

When choosing a Confirmation name, please avoid names which you like simply because of the way they sound. Instead, choose a name connected with, perhaps, a person or saint whom you respect and whom you would like to hold up as an inspiration for you ongoing life of faith. Your Confirmation name should challenge you to grow as you enter into this next and deeper step of practicing your faith.

Some possible sources to help with choosing a Confirmation name include:

- **catholic.org/saints**
- **catholicsaints.info**
- **en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Roman_Calendar**
- **catholicsaints.info/roman-martyrology**

My chosen Confirmation Name is:

NOTE: If you're taking the name of a Saint, for example "St. Gabriel," then your Confirmation Name would be simply "Gabriel."

Please tell us briefly why you have chosen this name, for example, what meaning it has for you at this point in your life, or what habits or virtues you hope to take on with a new name. If it's the name of a Saint, what about that person's life inspires you?

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES & SELECTION

The primary responsibility of the Sponsor is to provide the candidate prayerful support and guidance in his or her faith and to "take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament" (canon 892).

A significant way the Sponsor fulfills this responsibility is to take on the mindset of a ***mentor***. The Sponsor guides by example and holding the student accountable to his or her desire to be confirmed in the Catholic faith and all that desire entails.

Specific Responsibilities of the Sponsor:

- ✠ Periodically check that the student in participating regularly in Sunday Mass. The Sponsor should also occasionally attend Sunday Mass with the student.

- ✠ Periodically meet with the student outside of Mass to engage in spiritual conversation and reflection about how life and faith intersect, using the student's own specific daily life experiences as a jumping off point for discussion, reflection, and understanding.

- ✠ Encourage the student in his or her devotion to their chosen Confirmation Name. The Sponsor and student may even agree to call the student by his or her Confirmation Name in their times together.

- ✠ While Sponsors are <u>not required</u> to attend Wednesday evening Faith Formation sessions with their student, Sponsors are welcomed to join their student on Wednesday evenings.

- ✠ Work with and encourage the student on his or her ***Romans 12 Project(s)***.

- ✠ Periodically quiz the student on the standard Catholic prayers they should know.

- ✠ Sponsors should regularly pray with and for his or her student, especially for the intention that they grow in relationship with the Lord Jesus and move from knowledge "about" God to knowledge "of" God.

- ✠ Sponsors participate in the Confirmation Mass and present the student to the Bishop to receive the Sacrament.

- ✠ The Sponsor provides good example of Catholic living in today's world, and shares his or her own faith—the joys and struggles—with their student.

Selection of a Confirmation Sponsor:

When the student is confirmed, he or she will be presented to Bishop by their Sponsor. ***The Sponsor represents the Catholic community*** and, by presenting the student to Bishop, basically testifies that the student is ready to be confirmed. Because of this, the Confirmation Sponsor MUST be an already practicing Catholic.

In choosing a sponsor, the student/candidate for the reception of Confirmation should select a person with the characteristics listed below. These characteristics come from the Canon Law of the Catholic Church and the guidelines for the Green Bay Diocese:

- ✠ The sponsor may be a male or female, but not a parent.
- ✠ The sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- ✠ The sponsor MUST:
  - be baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith
  - practice his or her faith by regular participation in Sunday Mass and Eucharist
  - lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith

If the student is unable to find a suitable sponsor, he or she should contact Tina or Father. There are many parishioners at St. Gabriel who would be more than happy to serve in the role of Sponsor for confirmation students.

CONFIRMATION PLEDGE WEEKEND MASS

Oct. 11 @ 10:00 Mass

At this Mass, in between the homily and the Creed, the parish community and Sponsors offer their prayers and encouragement to our Confirmation students. The students accept the offer of support.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS:

***You do not need to study this. This is just an FYI so you know what to expect.*

- When students arrive, they check in with Tina or another Volunteer TBD.
- No special attire is worn, other than what you'd normally wear for Sunday Mass.
- Students and their Sponsors may sit anywhere in church.
  - No name tags are worn.

- After the homily, Father will invite the students and Sponsors forward.
  - They come forward as a group.
  - The students gather on the sanctuary steps, facing the people.
  - Their Sponsors stand behind them on the next step up.

- **Father will ask the Sponsors**: "Are you willing to walk with these children of God as mentors in the faith, as they enter the final phases of their sacramental preparation?"
  - The Sponsors respond: **We are**.

- **Father will address the gathered community** and ask: "Are you willing to support these children of God by your own good example, by your prayers for them, by your words of encouragement, and by your own hopes for their well-being both as Catholics and as human beings?"
  - The congregation responds: **We are.**

- **Father will address the students** and ask: "As you enter into this final phase of your sacramental preparation, knowing that none of us walks alone, do you accept the support you have?"
  - The students respond: **We do.**

- Father offers a short prayer, then the congregation and Sponsors show a sign of support by applause.

- The students and Sponsors return to their pews.

- Mass continues on as usual with the Creed and following.

It's a short but meaningful moment in the Mass where pledges of mutual support and encouragement are offered and received among members of Christ's Church.

DAY-LONG CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Nov. 15 9:00 am – 6:30 pm

The Confirmation Retreat will be a day-long experience of prayer, reflection, and Catholic community as the students go deeper in their relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

Students will gather in the **Christian Initiation Room** (across from the Parish Office) at 9:00 am and will spend the day in various spaces on the St. Gabriel parish campus, and have lunch and supper together. Depending on the weather in mid-November, students may or may not be outside.

Students should wear/bring comfortable clothing, any special snacks or drinks they'd like, and a Bible and Rosary if they have them. The parish will be providing everything needed, including lunch and supper, snacks, writing materials, Bibles and Rosaries for those who need them, and anything else.

The details of the day are still being worked out, but the retreat **tentatively** involves:

9:00 Arrival and welcome of students
9:15 Welcome, Orientation, and Review of Retreat Rules
9:45 **Session I:** Why Am I Here?
Prayer, teaching, personal testimony, small group discussion
10:30 Break
10:45 **Session II:** Committing to Christ
Christian Initiation, personal testimony, teaching, small group discussion
11:45 Break
12:00 Lunch and free time
1:00 **Session III:** Repentance, Reconciliation, and Healing
Prayer, personal testimony, teaching, small group discussion
1:45 Break
2:00 **Confessions** and quiet prayer/reflection, discussions with adult mentors
3:00 **Mass** in the chapel
3:45 Break
4:00 **Session IV:** The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Prayer, teaching, personal testimony, small group discussion
4:45 Break
5:00 Supper
5:30 **Session V:** On Mission
6:15 Closing Prayer Session
6:30 Retreat Concludes

A LETTER TO THE BISHOP

Due Feb. 24

Requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) are not automatically given. A person needs to request these and all the sacraments of his or her own free will. God invites us into eternal friendship with him, but he does not force us to accept the invitation. Writing a letter to the Bishop to request the Sacrament of Confirmation is one way you express how you've freely chosen to more closely identify yourself with Jesus Christ in the way you live life. That free choice is reaffirmed every Sunday when you say "Amen" to the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Please follow the format below when writing your Confirmation letter to the Bishop.

GREETING

Begin with either: "Most Reverend David L. Ricken," or simply "Dear Bishop Ricken,"

BODY OF LETTER

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Say something about your family or background, where you live, how old you are, where you go to school, what grade you're in, or similar things.

Paragraph 2: Request the Sacrament and give at least 2-3 (or more) reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important to mention specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, participation in other sacraments including the Mass, service opportunities or experiences you've found especially impactful, and things like this.

Paragraph 4: Describe how you intend to continue being a disciple of Christ by loving God and others. After Confirmation, how do you plan on continuing to develop as a son or daughter of God in Jesus, and as a sharer of the Good News of Jesus?

CONCLUSION

Conclude the letter with: "Sincerely," or "With Thanks," or "In Christ," or something similar.

Then sign your full name.

(Be sure to check your spelling and grammar!)

WRITING WORKSHEET

Before writing a draft of your letter,
write down ideas of what you want to include

Ideas for Paragraph 1:

- Do you have any siblings? _____

- What interests do you have? _____

- Where do you go to school? What grade? _____

- Is your family from someplace other than Neenah? _____

- Other things you want to say about yourself: _____

Ideas for Paragraph 2:

- What do you hope will happen by being confirmed? _____

_____

- How does being confirmed reflect your relationship with Jesus? _____

_____

- What part(s) of Catholic living do you hope to have strengthened through Confirmation through the gifts of the Holy Spirit? _____

_____

- What are other personal reasons why you want to be confirmed? _____

_____

Ideas for Paragraph 3:

- Is there an example of when you had to really rely on God? _____

_____

- Has confirmation preparation changed your prayer life or relationship with God? If so, how?

_____

_____

- What part of your Romans 12 Project has been especially meaningful to you? _____

_____

- How else have you prepared for Confirmation that you want to be sure to tell Bishop Ricken about and have enjoyed (or that have challenged you to grow as a person and as a friend of Jesus)? _____

Ideas for Paragraph 4:

- If you have a sense of "what you want to be when you grow up" (that is, your vocation), how do you see your Catholic faith shaping how to approach and live it? _____

_____

- If you intend on going deeper into Scripture, are there particular books, letters, or other writings in Scripture that have your interest? _____

_____

- Is caring for the poor and the lost a way you plan on continuing your life as a Catholic?

_____

- What liturgical ministers might you be interested in being a part of as a confirmed Catholic?

_____

- If you plan on marriage some day, how do you hope your Catholic faith will guide your marriage as well as the raising of children? _____

_____

- Are you considering the priesthood or joining a religious order? _____

- What aspects of your prayer life (including going to Mass and confession) do you hope to deepen even more as a confirmed Catholic? _____

_____

Use these questions above to help give you ideas for what to include in your letter.

Write a rough draft on lined loose leaf paper.
<u>After your rough draft looks good, you'll rewrite a FINAL DRAFT</u>
<u>on heavier paper and in pen.</u>

In any student's penmanship is such that he or she would prefer to type out their letter, that is an acceptable option. Just talk with Fr. Brian about it.

Sample Letter to the Bishop *(Do NOT copy word for word!)*

January 25, 2027

Most Reverend David L. Ricken,

Hello. My name is John Smith. I am currently in 11th grade at Neenah High School. My family and I belong to St. Gabriel Parish in Neenah. I have an older brother and a younger sister. I have lived in Neenah since I was born. I enjoy playing sports, watching TV, and having fun with my friends.

I am writing you today to request to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I want to be confirmed because I want to deepen my relationship with Jesus. I know that when I receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I will be more fully equipped to face the challenges that I will have in the future. I want my Catholic Faith to always be a big part of my life, and I know that Confirmation will give me the grace I need to keep it like that.

I have done a lot of work in preparation for Confirmation. I began my preparation in 9th grade, reviewing important information about Jesus, the Bible, and the Church. I have finally chosen my Confirmation saint, St. Sebastian, whom I admire very much partly because of my interest in sports, and mostly because I am struck by how he suffered and endured for the faith. I also completed a spiritual activity and completed a Works of Mercy Project, which helped me see the importance of serving others, which is something Jesus always likes to see.

Once I am confirmed, I will continue to live my Catholic faith for the rest of my life. I will go to Mass on Sundays, and try to make it to Confession more often. I look forward to meeting you, Bishop, when you come to celebrate Confirmation.

Sincerely in Christ,
John Smith

Sample Letter to the Bishop *(Do NOT copy word for word!)*

January 10, 2027

Dear Bishop Ricken,

My name is Brittany Jones and I am an 11th grade student at St. Mary Catholic High School in Neenah. My family is originally from southern Illinois, but we're parishioners now at St. Gabriel Parish in Neenah.

I am writing to you because I would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I've been preparing for it for several years and I feel ready to receive it. I have learned that Confirmation is not the end of my faith life, but just the beginning. I am ready to take my faith seriously, become more active in my parish, and live out my faith through serving others.

I have prepared for Confirmation by attending my parish's religious education program, attending Mass with my family, and helping out more around the house when my parents ask me to do so. One part of my Confirmation preparation has been the conversations we have during our classes on Sunday nights. I like that I can share my thoughts, ask questions, and learn more about Jesus Christ and how I am called to be a friend and disciple of his.

Confirmation means that I am ready and willing to live out my Catholic faith. I am ready to be a leader to my friends and family. I am ready to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and grow into the person God is calling me to be. I feel that I have been well prepared for Confirmation through all of the classes and service projects I have attended and completed.

Sincerely,
Brittany Jones

COMPLETING A CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

Feb. 17 or 24

The Confirmation Interview is a way for the student and the Pastor to talk one-on-one about Confirmation, what it is, and what its hoped-for effects will be in the life of the newly confirmed. The interview is **not** a test, but the student should be able to converse with Father about the following topics on some level of understanding:

1. All seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are important. But after Confirmation, what is one gift (or two) that you feel you'll probably be calling on more frequently? And why?

2. The seven Sacraments: what they are and how God's grace works through them for our benefit.

3. What the Catholic Church has always believed about the Eucharist and the "Real Presence," and how that differs from what other Christians believe.

4. What the Ten Commandments and the Two Great Commandments are.

5. Who the four gospel writers are, and maybe one favorite story, scene, or parable from the gospels.

6. What chastity is and how it's lived out as a single person, a married couple, or an ordained or consecrated religious person.

7. The confirmation name you've chosen and why you've chosen it: how it (and your patron saint) reflects your values and aspirations as a follower of Christ in the Catholic way of life.

8. How you're already involved in the life of the parish and/or the wider Church community.

9. What your plans are for continuing your personal faith development as a confirmed Catholic.

10. What you enjoy and find life-giving about your Catholic faith. What some challenges are (personal, spiritual, moral, social) that come with being a Catholic and how you deal with those.

Again, the Confirmation Interview is **not** a test. So please, "be not afraid." It is, first and foremost, a ***conversation*** between a to-be-confirmed student and the Pastor (who represents the Bishop on the parish level) about their shared faith in the one Jesus Christ.

Confirmation interviews will take place during regular class time, while students are working on their letters to the Bishop.

THE CONFIRMATION MASS

Wed., Apr. 28, 2027

UPDATED

I. Confirmation Mass Schedule

- Wednesday, April 28, 2027 at St. Mary Menasha
- 5:30 pm – Rehearsal in church with students and sponsors
    - When you arrive, locate your Confirmation name tag and attach it where Bishop can see it easily
    - Pews in the front of church are reserved for students and sponsors—please be seated by 5:30
- 5:55 pm – Bishop and Fr. Ben Pribbenow will speak with the students
- Other pews in church will be reserved for family members
    - Family members can quietly find their pews, but please stay quiet so as not to interrupt Bishop's talk with the students in church
- 6:30 pm – the Confirmation Mass begins

II. Confirmation Mass Dress Code (per the Diocese of Green Bay)

- This applies to both Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors.
- **Males:** Dress pants and collared, button-down shirt tucked in. Dress shoes.
    - **Optional:** Tie, sport coat, vest.
    - **Not allowed/appropriate:** Jeans, cargo pants, shorts, or T-shirts
- **Females:** Dress/skirt and blouse, or dress slacks and blouse. Dress/skirt length must be modest (i.e., at or below knee). If above the knee, leggings (not tights/hose) must be worn. Dress shoes with appropriate low heels.
    - **Optional:** Simple veils or hair dress.
    - **Not allowed/appropriate:** Backless or low cut dresses. Dresses that are strapless or with spaghetti straps (*unless a sweater or shawl is worn to cover chest and shoulders*). Jeans, cargo pants, shorts, or T-shirts.

III. Confirmation Mass Photography

- There (should) be a photographer taking pictures throughout the Mass.
- The photographer will capture each student's confirmation.
- The photographer will take a group photo immediately following Mass with Bishop.
- Please note that Bishop does not typically do individual photos.
- More information will come about photos as the date gets closer.

STANDARD CATHOLIC PRAYERS

The prayers on the next several pages are learned by students at various stages along their years in the Faith Formation program: some are learned early on in 2nd and 3rd Grade, while others are learned in the Middle and High School years. Beside each prayer is a number indicating which grade level a student most likely learned the prayer. If a student discovers a prayer below that he or she hasn't learned by the appropriate grade level, the student should learn it with the help of parents, catechists, **or—in the case of Confirmation students—with their Sponsors.**

Sign of the Cross *(1st Grade)*

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father *(2nd Grade)*

Our Father, Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary *(2nd Grade)*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be *(2nd Grade)*

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Prayer Before Meals *(3rd Grade)*

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which
we are about to receive, from thy bounty,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Guardian Angel Prayer *(3rd Grade)*

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen *(3rd Grade)*

Hail, holy Queen,
Mother of mercy, our life,
our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To thee to we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us
the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

St. Michael Prayer *(4th Grade)*

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our safeguard against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts,
by the Divine Power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Fatima Prayer *(4th Grade)*

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.

Mass Responses *(4th Grade by heart)*

For example:

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God…
All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Act of Contrition *(5th Grade by heart)*

O my God,
I am heartfully sorry
for having offended thee,
and I detest all my sins
because of thy just punishment,
but most of all
because I have offended thee my God,
who are all good
and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of thy grace,
to sin no more,
and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

or

O my God,
I am sorry and repent with all my heart
for all the wrong I have done
and for the good I have failed to do,
because by sinning I have offended you,
who are all good and worthy to be loved
above all things.
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid the occasions of sin.
Through the merits of the Passion of our
Savior Jesus Christ,
Lord, have mercy.

Memorare *(6th Grade)*

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Apostle's Creed *(5th Grade by heart)*

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day
He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Stations of the Cross *(6th Grade)*

1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death
2nd Station: Jesus carries His cross
3rd Station: Jesus falls for the first time
4th Station: Jesus meets his mother
5th Station: Simon helps Jesus carry his cross
6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7th Station: Jesus falls the second time
8th Station: Jesus meets the women
9th Station: Jesus falls a third time
10th Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothes
11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross
12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross
13th Station: Jesus' body is taken down
14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

Nicene Creed *(6th Grade by heart)*

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe
in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward
to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Mysteries of the Rosary *(7th Grade)*

The Five Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. The Finding in the Temple

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death

The Five Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of Mary

The Five Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Mondays – Joyful Mysteries
Tuesdays – Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesdays – Glorious Mysteries
Thursdays – Luminous Mysteries
Fridays – Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturdays – Joyful Mysteries
Sundays – Glorious Mysteries, except…
During Advent: pray the Joyful
During Lent: pray the Sorrowful

Divine Praises *(8th Grade)*

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God,
Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints

Anima Christi *(9th Grade)*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from Christ's side, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
From the malicious enemy defend me
In the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That I may praise thee with Thy saints
And with Thy angels
Forever and ever. Amen

Angelus *(9th Grade)*

Usually prayed at 6am, Noon, and 6pm):

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary…

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary…

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us (bow your head)

Hail Mary…

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen

The Rosary *(Be able to lead by 10th Grade)*

Make the Sign of the Cross with the crucifix and kiss the crucifix.

Apostles Creed

Leader: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

On the first bead, pray an Our Father.

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

All: Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Pray one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads.

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Pray one Glory Be.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Leader announces the Mystery of the Rosary to be reflected on. Then pray one Our Father on the next single bead.

On each of the next ten beads (a decade), pray one Hail Mary. After the tenth Hail Mary, pray a Glory Be, and then the Fatima Prayer:

> O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy Mercy.

After praying all five decades, all together pray the Hail, Holy Queen:

> Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley, of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
>
> Leader: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
> All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.
All: O God whose only begotten Son by His Life has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, Grant that we beseech Thee while meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Make the Sign of the Cross with the crucifix and kiss the crucifix.

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy *(11th Grade)*

The Chaplet is prayed using ordinary Rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.

The Sign of the Cross with the Crucifix

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayers on the 1st Bead

Leader: You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

All: O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You! (3x)

Our Father on the 1st of Three Beads

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

All: Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary on the 2nd of Three Beads

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Apostle's Creed on the 3rd of Three Beads

Leader: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The following is said five times, using the remainder of the Rosary beads:

On the Singular Bead

Leader: Eternal Father…

All: I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On each of the Ten Following Beads

Leader: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion…

All: have mercy on us and on the whole world.

On the Medallion

All: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3x)

Closing Prayer

All: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion—inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

Jesus, I trust in you.

ROMANS 12 PROJECT: IDEA SHEET

AREAS OF STUDENT INTEREST	PROJECT IDEAS
Showing Compassion	Serve a meal at a soup kitchen Participate in or coordinate a food drive for a local pantry Donate food at a food pantry, especially around Thanksgiving or Christmas Organize a Gift Tree for Christmas Assist with celebrating the annual All Souls' Mass of Remembrance Request a Mass intention for someone going through a tough time Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down names of those you are praying for
Service	Help a neighbor with yard work Volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul Join the Altar Server or Usher ministry at St. Gabriel Make a home-cooked meal for your family
Befriending Others	Volunteer at a senior living center (in coordination with the parish Pastoral Minister) Befriend someone your age at school or the parish who you don't know Join the Greeter ministry at St. Gabriel With a parent or other adult, visit an elderly neighbor for a friendly visit
Visual arts	Study illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages and create your own illuminated manuscript page using the text of the Our Father, or the Hail Mary, or another prayer. Prepare a short 5-minutes presentation for your Small Group on the various artistic symbols a person might find on gravestones, especially older gravestones, and what those symbols are trying to communicate to the viewer. Paint or draw an image (minimum 8.5 x 11") of your favorite Saint. Study the Saint's iconography and incorporate that iconography into your own image. Share the image with your Faith Formation leaders (or even your Small Group) and explain the iconography to them and how it helps to identify the particular Saint you've depicted.

Musical arts	Join the Music Ministry at the parish for a semester as one of the parish musicians (keyboard, cantor, or other instrumental). Write a 500-word article for the parish bulletin that tells the story behind a favorite hymn, chant, or song we sing at Mass (e.g., "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Now Thank We All Our God," etc.): who the composer was, why the music was written, and what the composer's intent was in creating the music for people to sing--among other possible angles. Coordinate with other classmates who are musically inclined and, in cooperation with the parish Director of Music: plan the music for a Mass, write out why you chose the music in relation to the Scripture readings for the day, and lead the congregation in singing the praises of God at a weekend Mass. You would need at least a keyboardist and a cantor. Note: This must be done with oversight from the parish Director of Music.
Working with Your Hands	Volunteer to help with groundskeeping at the cemetery Volunteer to help with maintenance at the parish Join the Liturgical Arts & Environment committee at the parish for a year Create blankets for homeless shelters
The Environment	Organize a tree planting program within the parish, and advertise for it in parish communications (e.g., bulletin, newsletter) making reference to Catholic teaching on stewardship of natural resources. Organize a vegetable gardening project on parish grounds to practice what the Lord teaches about sowing and reaping, and to practice good stewardship of natural resources. Share in the some of the produce, but also share the produce with those in need. Organize a clean-up event through the parish (maybe also in cooperation with the City) to beautify the natural environment and reduce pollution.
Law	Write a 500-word article for the parish bulletin that compares and contrasts the role of U.S. civil law in forming a just secular society, and the role of canon law (Church law) and Divine Law (God's law) in forming a just Church/religious society on earth.

	Prepare a short 5-minute presentation for your Small Group on the various levels of legislative documents in the Catholic Church (e.g., an Apostolic Constitution, an Instruction, a Motu Proprio, Canon Law, a Dogmatic Constitution, a Declaration, etc.) and the extent to which each type of legislation is "binding" on the faithful and Church leaders.
Athletics & Health	Write a 500-word article for the parish bulletin that tells how sports helps you: to build Christian character and values, to practice your calling to be Christ to others, and to experience God's gift of life through health, teammates, victory, defeat, and personal growth. Organize a group of teammates and, with an adult supervisor as a facilitator, share amongst yourselves how your faith and/or relationship with God as his beloved child helps you to cope with the stress of sports and the pressures to succeed. You could also share amongst yourselves how your Catholic faith shapes your sense of commitment and discipline, not only to the sport but to the team as well. Create a team sport or game that makes reference to elements of the Catholic faith, the struggle against sin, and how victory is won. Organize and play the game, possibly within your Small Group. Create a wall chart that illustrates how care of the body and mind reflects our call to be good stewards of God's gift of our body and mind, and how our health supports the Lord's mission in the world.
Journalistic Writing	Write stories about parish happenings for the monthly parish newsletter or bulletin. Investigate an issue in the global Church and write a report on the various angles of the issue.
Creative Writing	Write a short story of fiction that expresses or teaches a truth of the Catholic faith. Write a series of seven poems that expresses the mystery of each of the seven sacraments. Pick a hymn tune/melody and compose verses that match the meter of the hymn tune/melody. The verses could be for one of the liturgical seasons or celebrations (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Christ the King, All Saints, All Souls, etc.)

Education and Teaching	Arrange with the parish Faith Formation Coordinators to teach (or co-teach) a catechetical lesson to a class of elementary Faith Formation students. Prepare the lesson plan, coordinate teaching materials, and involve the students in their learning about the faith and Jesus. Afterward, spend a few minutes to discuss the experience with Faith Formation Coordinators and how God worked through you.
Addressing Injustice	Choose a topic of interest to you and write a report that describes the situation/injustice, why it is an example of injustice, and how the Catholic Church responds to it (both in theory and in practice).
History	Prepare a 5-10 minute presentation for your Small Group on the ministries of each of the Twelve Apostles, the geographical extent of their ministry, where they died, and where their relics or remains or kept. Write a 500-word article for the parish bulletin about some aspect of Church History that interests you (e.g., the Crusades, the Catholic Reformation, the relationship of the U.S. Founding Fathers to the Catholic Church, etc.).
Community Engagement	Participate in monthly Pastoral Council meetings at the parish
Finance and Money	Read pgs 13-40 in "ChurchMoney," by White and Corcoran (the parish will buy the book for you), on the relationship between money and mission in the Church. Prepare a 5-minute presentation on what you've learned and present it to either your Small Group or the Parish Finance Council (during a regular meeting of the Finance Council). Review the parish's current year budget and investigate how the parish's expenses support the Church's mission of evangelization, worship, education, etc. Prepare a simple spreadsheet that lists parish expenses, the amounts of those expenses, and what aspect of the Church's mission they support. Share what you've learned with either your Small Group or with the Faith Formation Coordinators. Identify, research, and make a financial contribution to an organization that serves the hungry and those in need.
Prayer and Worship	Join the Altar Server ministry at St. Gabriel

	Coordinate a youth group prayer service at a cemetery during November Join the Liturgical Arts & Environment committee at the parish for a year Organize a youth prayer group that meets before school Go to the funeral of someone and pray for the deceased person Serve as an assistant catechist for elementary grades for a few classes Assist with celebrating the annual All Souls' Mass of Remembrance Foster prayer among your family at home Organize Rosary walks with others around your neighborhood Request a Mass intention for someone going through a tough time Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down names of those you are praying for Commit to praying a weekly Holy Hour
Priesthood or Religious Life	Commit to praying Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, or Compline for one month Foster prayer among your family at home Organize Rosary walks with others around your neighborhood Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down names of those you are praying for
Theology or Biblical Study	Watch content on **formed.org** once a month and write a 400-word report for the parish bulletin Participate in Thursday night Bible Study at the parish Study the history of the development of the Bible and why Catholic and Protestant Bibles are different; write an article about it for the parish bulletin