

Dear Holy Family Parish:

Hello, my name is Taylor Black and I am a freshman at Staley High School. I am preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and wanted to share with you what I have learned on my journey.

We were asked to pick a sponsor and I chose my mom to help guide me. I have learned many things leading up to my Confirmation. We have learned about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and how they play a role in our everyday lives. I have also participated in various sponsor nights, senior high youth night and a confirmation retreat to help in my journey. I particularly enjoyed the Confirmation retreat which was held here at the church. The one memory that stands out was when we sat in a circle; the candles were lit and we prayed for family and friends. I found this to be very special. I also learned that for every mistake we make in life we learn something from it and it will only make us that much better in the future. Finally, it meant a lot to me that family and friends took the time to send me notes of encouragement for my Confirmation. I would also like to add that I have made some great friends along the way!

Confirmation means to me that I am becoming an adult. This sacrament is not the end of my faith life, but just the beginning.

In closing, I want to thank Rob Lickteig and the parish for their support and guidance along the way. I also want to congratulate my fellow candidates on receiving their sacrament as well.

Sincerely,

Taylor Black

Taylor Black

Dear Parishioners,

During this process of preparation for Confirmation, I have strengthened my relationship with God. The retreat taught me a lot about how to keep my relationship with God, even in hard times. In those rough patches, your faith may weaken, but God is always there. It also taught me that we are all like a piece in a giant puzzle, that is God. We are all different, but we were all made in God's image.

I have a lot of great memories from Senior High Youth Night. Rob was always able to tie a fun activity in with a lesson. For example, we made pizza one time, and the crust was the Father, the cheese was the Son, and the sauce was the Holy Spirit. I also had a lot of memories from 8:30 because a lot seemed to happen at that specific time.

Confirmation to me means that I am affirming my beliefs in the Catholic faith. It also means that I am becoming an adult in the eyes of the church. Thank you for all your prayers throughout this Confirmation process and thank you for your guidance and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kayla Dansby". The script is cursive and fluid.

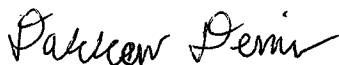
Kayla Dansby

Dear Holy Family,

There are many things I learned this year from confirmation class and from my sponsor. One thing that we learned about in class was the Holy Trinity. Rob had a pizza demonstration that helped me understand more how the Holy Trinity worked. Another thing I learned is how I could think about my thoughts and put that into a more meaningful prayer. One last thing that I will always remember, is from the retreat. We had a session from there where someone gave everyone a puzzle piece and it was supposed to teach us that we are all unique.

There are many things I remember from the Confirmation preparation. My favorite memory is the retreat. Even though we had to cut it down this year to 1 day, I learned a lot from this experience. To me, Confirmation means that I am taking a step further in my faith/religion. Thank you to all involved for guiding me through this unknown journey. I hope to continue to use what I have learned over the past year in my everyday life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darren D.".

Darren D.

Dear Parish family,

My name is Jay Elder, and I am one of the students getting confirmed as a Catholic this year. I am thrilled to officially join the Catholic Church, as it has been something that I've been looking forward to for quite some time now. I have learned a lot in this time of preparation for this sacrament. Before preparing for Confirmation, I didn't know much about who I was, who God was, and what exactly He does for me. I thought that God was just like a conscience, and He would guide me through a perfect life, giving me opportunities to learn lessons when I expected to, and any time I would end up getting in trouble or messing something up, I would get mad at Him and wonder why He didn't prevent it from happening. But, I have learned that He does provide me with opportunities to learn life's most important lessons, He does provide me with the help and guidance I need in unfavorable situations, and He is with me wherever I go. The lessons He's allowed me to learn have all happened in times and situations where I never would've expected to learn them. All of the recent lessons He's taught me have been very hard to live through and even harder to understand, but even in these times where I feel like it's life's biggest struggle to continue with whatever it is I'm doing, I still thank Him for giving me the ability to persevere and power through the struggles, because I know deep down, that God will never put something in my way that I can't overcome. I've had the same favorite bible verse as my sister, Jordan, ever since I read it when she put it on a drawing of hers, years and years ago. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." ~Joshua 1:9. This verse means much more to me now than it ever did, because I've matured a lot since the start of Confirmation prep. Now, I read this verse every single day of my life, because it means more to me. It shows me that God is always right there with me, through thick and thin. During all the easy times in life, He's there to tell me that I'm doing great. During the hard times, He's right next to me, with a hand on my shoulder, telling me that everything will be okay.

I've found myself praying a lot more recently. It's as if the people who I thought would always be there for me have all gone away, and all that's left to help me through these tough times in life, is God. Really, it isn't *just God* who's here for me, it's God and all the saints. Every night I will say prayers, but I've found myself praying lots during the day as well. I will pray to St. Sebastian before every soccer game or tennis match, I'll pray to St. Justin on the bus ride to another school for a debate tournament, before every round, and after every round, thanking him for every bit of luck and great thing my partner and I managed to do.

Confirmation is extremely special to me. Lots of people like to use the analogy that compares being confirmed to sitting at the big kids' table, but to me, it's much more than that. To me, it's like entering a new place with all new people, but instead of being the shy new kid that nobody wants to talk to because you're different, it's like joining a new community where everybody welcomes you and is excited for you, after a long wait for your arrival. For example, after the mass where all of the Confirmandi had the Rite of Entrance, where we were recognized in front of the entire church, I went to Pizza Shoppe with my family. After I had finished eating and as we were leaving the restaurant, a couple stopped me, shook my hand, congratulated me on being confirmed, and welcomed me into the church. It felt great enough as it was after being recognized at mass, but when other members of the church stopped me *after* mass, it felt that much better.

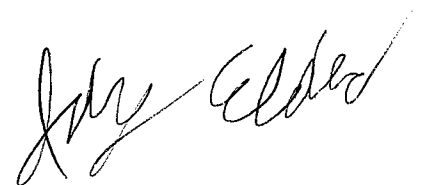
Picking a Confirmation name has been something I've looked forward to ever since I heard my brother talking about it when he got confirmed. I prefer thinking of virtues as opposed to names, when it comes to Confirmation names. At first, I wanted to choose the Patron Saint of Integrity,

Perseverance, and/or determination, but no official saint came up. After a long period of overthinking the different options, I simplified it down to the things that matter most to me. As seeing that I recently joined Park Hill Varsity Speech & Debate, I searched for the Patron Saint of debaters, and I came across St. Justin Martyr, who is the Patron Saint of public speakers, and he built a school of debate while he was still alive, making him also the Patron Saint of debaters. I immediately fell in love with the idea of the name, knowing that nobody else in my Confirmation class would choose this name. I could've taken the easy route, and gone with St. Sebastian, because I'm an athlete, but I feel like that wouldn't mean as much, because it wouldn't have taken as much work or thought. So, I ended up choosing St. Justin, and I couldn't be happier.

I would like to thank so many people for helping me through this time. I would like to thank D'orsay Fitzpatrick, who is like a mother to me in Senior High Youth Night, and Craig Richter, who is like a father to me during SHYN (and I'm still hoping that D'orsay and Craig will be the Mom and Dad of the weekend for next year's Confirmation Retreat). Rob Lickteig, who is the Youth Minister here, and is the reason I don't dread coming to church every Sunday night, because I know that the night will bring fun, food, and the Lord in unconventional ways that I enjoy. I want to thank all of the other people who are getting confirmed with me, but I'd especially like to thank Alex Hamre, Rachel Beffa, and Kori Smith, because they're the people who I will always go to when I need to talk to somebody my age about our faith. I would like to thank every member of the Holy Family Catholic Church for welcoming me into this new community of those who are confirmed, because it truly means a great deal to me. I don't know who that couple was, who congratulated me in Pizza Shoppe that night, but if you are reading this, please come see me, so I can formally thank you in person, in addition to this letter, because that meant the world to me. And finally, most of all, I'd like to thank my Confirmation sponsor, Joanie Jaromin. She's been by my side in my faith since birth, and hopefully, she's not going anywhere any time soon. I can't thank her enough for everything she's done for me, whether it be explaining my faith to me, who God is, what He can do, sewing my red curtains that hang from my window to this day, or just helping me with schoolwork. She has had a major impact on my life, and she's one of the greatest overall people that I've ever met. I knew from the moment my sister, Jordan, chose her Confirmation sponsor that I wanted Joanie to be my sponsor. I even told my brother that I had Joanie reserved as mine, in an effort to prevent him from taking my sponsor from me. There are many other people who I'd like to thank, but this letter is getting a bit lengthy, so I think I'm going to draw it to a close here.

Thank you everyone who has been by my side during this journey, I am very excited to officially join the Catholic church.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Elder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Jay Elder

Dear Parish,

As I am going through the journey to fulfilling the sacrament of Confirmation, I have learned a lot as a young catholic. The weekly youth groups have taught me a lot about the God and the Bible. The classes refreshed me on why we have Christmas and what Christmas is really about. The classes also went over The Holy Trinity on a deeper level. The classes also informed me where the Catholic Church stands politically during the presidential race. The sponsor nights also taught me a lot. I learned what Confirmation really means. I learned from my sponsor, who is my also my grandfather, what he had to do to get confirmed into the church. In Italy, he spent a week praying and spent a lot of time in the church. For preparation, I have been praying for guidance and help as I near Confirmation.

I would like to thank the Parish for guiding me in the right direction. I also give thanks to the people that have been sending prayers my way as I go through the confirmation process. A big thank you to Rob as well. He has made the whole journey interesting and enjoyable while informing me about my religion. I also want to thank my grandpa for being my sponsor and supporting me as I near Confirmation. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank he/she who has been mailing me and the other kids who are about to receive confirmation. You have been so supportive and I can't thank you enough.

Sincerely,

Michael Fletcher

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Fletcher".

Dear Holy Family Parish,

When I went into my first Confirmation Youth Night on a Sunday, I didn't really know what to expect. The only thing I knew about Confirmation, was that we had a sponsor and we picked out a Saint's name and attached it to our own. But I have learned from Youth Leaders and my sponsor that it is so much more.

My sponsor has taught me that Confirmation is a time when we are firming, strengthening, and renewing our Faith. I also feel that with Confirmation we are saying yes to loving, believing, and following God, and that we are willing to stand up for Him and our Faith when others want to tear it and us down. But, I know that I can't do this alone, that I'll need help from the Holy Spirit. I believe that the Holy Spirit is a light in front of us, in our mind, body, and soul to help us and give us strength to keep going until we reach our final goal: going to Heaven and being with Jesus and God.

I have learned that the Holy Spirit will give me gifts along the way, to help me to stay strong, even when I think of giving up. The gifts I feel the strongest connection with are Piety, Knowledge, Wisdom, and Right Judgment. I know that I will need help to attain these gifts and to learn how to use them properly in my life. That's where you, the Parish, and my sponsor come in. With the experiences of Faith from my sponsor and the prayers from the Holy Family Community, I know that I can complete my preparation and be confirmed.

All in all, I just want to thank the Holy Family Community so very much, for all your prayers and support through my preparation for this important part of my Faith journey. I am also thankful for being able to be Confirmed through Holy Family.

Love,
Kailee Ford
Kailee Ford

Dear Parish Community,

Here at Holy Family, I have learned about leadership. Leadership plays an important role in our everyday life. If you look at our parish you can see a team. Father Phil is the leader of our team and us, the parishioners, are his teammates. He tries to lead his team by preaching to us the word of God. Rob, the leader of our Senior High Youth Group, also leads us to our faith and is guiding us, along with our sponsors, on our path to being confirmed. The leadership also from the older kids sets an example showing you don't have to be an adult to be a leader. You just need to believe in yourself. During the retreat, we had two teen leaders. Even though they probably were nervous to lead this giant group, they had faith in themselves that they could be leaders. The leaders in our Holy Family community have inspired me to be a leader outside of our parish. In school, I try to be the group leader of projects and encourage others to do their best. I also try to be a leader on my club volleyball team because I want to help us succeed. Everyone knows that a team needs a leader, someone who has everyone's respect and they are also the person that people look up to for guidance. I want to strive to be a leader because I can also help others who want to be leaders.

One of my favorite memories from my journey of becoming confirmed was during the Confirmation retreat. Before dinner, or any meal to be exact we would sing two songs. One of the songs was "*Keep Your Head Up*" which is an inspiring song. I love singing before dinner. I also loved how we also had chores that we had to do on our placemat. The chores ranged from giving people high fives to screaming out that you love your parents. No matter how ridiculous the chore was you had to do it.

What Confirmation means to me is saying I will to God. I will live the life that He chose for me. I will spread the word of God. I will practice my faith in my everyday life. Confirmation is a promise that can never be broken between God and you.

Thank you, Holy Family for all the opportunities I have been blessed with. Thank you for all the gatherings that I have met new people at, but most of all thank you for helping me with my journey of faith!

Love,
Kristen Ford

Dear Parish community,

Over these last few months, I've learned so many faith changing things. I always assumed that I had to be perfect to be accepted by God. This was foolish; no one can be perfect but we all do our best and that's all that matters to God. His love is forever and forgiving.

Another great lesson is that we are all called to our own talents and we all have our own path. We learned this through the story of Saul, how he used to live a life of persecuting Christians. God had a different path for him. We most commonly know him as Paul, you know the person who wrote the "Brothers and Sisters," letters, showing how God will get you back on track.

One of the many good memories of this preparation was the "Is God Real?" presentation. It proved some of the most amazing things, going deep about God. We all know He's there keeping an eye out for us, but it's amazing how all of the pieces of the bible fit. For example, the sun going black and the earth shaking at the same time is something surely nothing we could prove unless we were there. But using technology, along with historical records, we can pinpoint that it did happen. And this solidifies that even with the world around us becoming more advanced, leading some to disband God, it only furthers His presence.

Confirmation to me is receiving all of Gods gifts and really taking my own place in our church. The cookie-cutter definition is "affirms Christian belief and is admitted as a full member of the church." But this leaves out so much. Reading this makes it seem like something that you can go through the motions, but we are receiving the gifts of God and blossoming in our faith. It isn't a one-and-done-thing, but something that resonates throughout your life as a greater relationship with God.

I'd like to end this with a thank you to everyone who makes mass, mass. Thank you Father for bringing the scripture to us and applying it to life now. Thank you choir and John for giving us a way to express our praise for God. Thank you ushers and greeters for making everyone feel welcome. Thank you sacristans, Eucharistic ministers, and lectors for delivering God's blessings, through word or gifts. Thank you catechists for guiding me on my journey. Thank you congregation for giving prayers and support throughout my faith journey. Above all thank you to all of my family who's love for God has strengthened my relationship with God.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Gaston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Drew Gaston

Dear Parish Community,

When my parents told me I had to go to youth group for my conformation, I expected it to be the most boring months of my life. I am here to tell you the exact opposite. These past months have been the most enlightening months of my life and have really changed the way I look at my faith. I have made so many new friends and have actually looked forward to every Sunday night when I get to go and spend time with my peers who are on the same journey as me. I have grown closer to my sponsor, and he has shared his faith and life experiences with me and has given me advice on how to go forward in not only my faith, but in life in general.

The best time I have had at youth group was on the retreat, which I expected to be corny and unorganized. It was the exact opposite. Everyone running it had something planned for every minute of the time we were there. There were no dull moments. My favorite activity during those two days were leading a blindfolded person around the church. This makes the blindfolded person have complete trust in the person leading them. I found myself not wanting the experience to end because I was having so much fun and was learning so much.

This conformation process has meant more and more to me as the months have gone on. At first, I thought conformation was just some unnecessary program that the church makes everyone go through. Now I know it is so much more than that. Conformation to me means reaffirming my faith and ideas about the church. I want to thank the Parish for supporting all of us in our faith journeys, and I want to ask all of you to pray for me as I continue my journey through the church. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aaron Hall

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

2/13/17

Dear Holy Family,

My name is Alexandra Hamre and I am a teen in your parish, Holy Family, who is going through the confirmation process. I could not have gone through this process without you!! Your support and prayers have helped me get where I am today and have helped me grow in my faith.

Some things I have done during my confirmation process include attending monthly meetings, attending a confirmation retreat, and being Anointed at a mass service. I am going to tell you about my fun weekend on the retreat!! As soon as I stepped through the doors of Holy Family to begin my faithful weekend, I immediately felt like I was home. We were welcomed by older teens, who had already been through the confirmation process, and were now there to help us go through our journey.

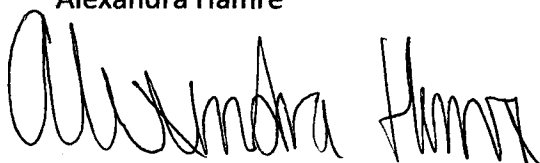
The first thing we did as a group was a game where everyone except one person had a chair to sit in. The one person who didn't have a seat would stand up and introduce themselves to us. Once they had introduced themselves they would say something like "everyone wearing jeans stand up," and everyone who had jeans on would stand up and scramble to find a new seat. The person who didn't find a seat during the scramble would have to tell everyone about themselves, and the game went on until we all knew who all our fellow peers were. Now that we knew everyone's name and a little bit about them, we could talk to each other about our faith!!

We also listened to our search team members (the teens who had already gone through the process) tell us about experiences when they had low faith, but how they looked for God to help them overcome their problem. This part of the retreat really spoke to me, because I realized that although they might have been going through something they, as adults in the Catholic Church, fought to find God and to praise him because of all the things He has done for us.

Some other activities we did, included making posters with magazine cutouts and drawings that would describe us and the things we liked. We played the cloud game, where we had to make an image on the ground with our bodies as if we were clouds. We also went to reconciliation, got letters from our loved ones, and going to Saturday mass for worship. This journey to be confirmed means everything to me. I am ready to take control of my own faith, grow into a messenger of God, and to grow in my faith. I want to thank you again for everything that you have done to make this journey for me, possible. I will never forget the impact your generosity had on our growth in faith.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Hamre

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra Hamre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dear Holy Family,

Through my Confirmation experience, I learned that being true to yourself is the key to a fulfilling life. The games during our meetings were instrumental in this discovery. I learned that you can have fun, even if you're doing something you don't really want to do. Even though I didn't know any of the other candidates, the classes helped me to connect with my Catholic peers.



I feel very fortunate that I have Paul Jaromin as my sponsor. My godparents were not available and I was concerned about a sponsor I didn't know, but Paul has been easy to relate to during this process and has helped me immensely. Paul made my experience more meaningful, just by his mentorship.

Confirmation to me means maturing or growing in the Catholic Church. It makes me feel more important in the church. Confirmation also means knowledge, before the Confirmation classes I was unaware about many aspects within the church.

I want to thank the congregation of Holy Family for supporting me during my Confirmation journey as I prepare to become a complete member of the church. The letters of encouragement have helped my focus during this time. As I reflect on what I've learned, I know Holy Family will always be there to support me during my faith journey.

I especially want to thank Rob Lickteig for making this experience not only significant, but fun at the same time. This time has gone by much quicker than I thought it would and I'm excited to be nearing the beginning of a new phase in my Catholic life.

Thank you,
Caden Jones

Dear Holy Family,

Going through this process of Confirmation has been a great journey and a life changing experience. I feel that by going through the preparation process for Confirmation, that I have grown stronger and deeper in faith. I have learned so many things from my wonderful sponsor, Cathy Barron and from the whole parish community. Something really important I took away from our Confirmation retreat was that it might be hard sometimes to stay positive but knowing that God is always there for you will make everything okay. This message was sent to me through music whenever we listened at the retreat to the song "Keep Your Head Up" by Andy Grammar. One of my favorite memories from this Confirmation process was choosing a Confirmation name. It was really cool getting to look at all of the saints, see what they symbolized, then pick which ones connected with you. What Confirmation means to me is that it is the moment where in the eyes of the church you are seen as knowledgeable in your faith and are treated like an adult in the church. Thank you all so much for keeping us Confirmandi in your prayers. I know I am really looking forward to March 13th and can't wait to take that next leap into the Catholic faith.

Sincerely,

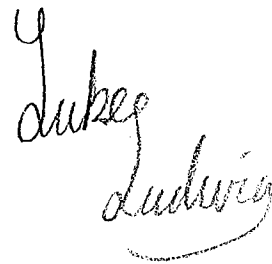
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Kaminski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Kaminski

Dear Holy Family,

I have learned a lot these past several months about my Catholic faith. During the youth nights, we always explored our faith and how it relates to the world. Our beliefs will be tested, and as we journey through life we will face the challenge of following these teachings. I know that prayer and the Holy Spirit can guide me to the path I need to follow. I must learn to trust and believe that God has an awesome plan for me even though I may not like the choices. During our retreat one of the activities involved putting a puzzle of Jesus together. I learned that each piece of the puzzle is its own unique design. These pieces represent each member of the Church. We are all special in our own way. But all pieces are needed to complete the picture.

What Confirmation means to me is that you're taking the next step into your religion. I am ready for that commitment. Thank you Holy Family for guiding me and supporting me as I went through this Confirmation process. Please keep praying for me as I continue to grow in my faith.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luke Ludwig". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

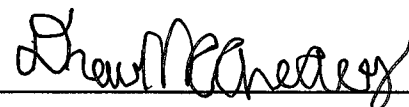
Sincerely,

Luke Ludwig

Dear Holy Family

I did enjoy listening to the guest speaker talk about how God is real. I did think it was interesting that he talked about historical events and showed how the bible is related to them. My grandpa told me that he didn't even know that, so that was cool that we both learned that. But I think the most important thing I learned that it's okay to question your faith. I questioned my faith last year when my Uncle Jon died. But I now know that was okay. I remember at the confirmation retreat and how much I thought I didn't want to go but I had such an amazing time. What confirmation means to me is saying that you are proud and ready to be Catholic. So, with that said, thank you Holy Family for taking me on this journey teaching me more about my faith. I had a great time learning about it. Please continue to pray for me as I continue growing in my faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew McAreavy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Drew McAreavy

Dear Holy Family Parish,

My name is Tanner Nelson and I am making my confirmation this year. I have learned many things as I have been going through all my confirmation classes. I have learned why people make confirmation and what confirmation means to the Catholic church. Through confirmation we find God in every situation throughout our lives. He always has a reason why we are in that situation, whether it's a bad or good situation. I have also learned that God will stick with us through our entire life.

I have also learned many things from my confirmation sponsor, Mr. David Pecha. He has taught me what the good things that are in life that I need to look for, as well as bad things are that I need to stay away from. He also taught me what his take of a good Christian is. Through my confirmation he has helped me learn many life lessons and has helped me grow into a better young adult.

One memory I have had throughout my confirmation preparation is the retreat we went on in mid-January. I had a great time and a lot of fun doing all the activities we did on the retreat. Some of the activities we did while on the retreat were talking about different life situations and what we thought about it with our groups. Another activity we did was making a poster about the stuff we enjoy doing and the different miscellaneous things we like. Lastly, I remember all the meals we ate together and the different activities that were written on our place mats that we had to do.

Confirmation to me is a sacrament that will strengthen my faith in the Catholic church. This sacrament allows me be an adult in the church and will let me make my choices as I profess my faith in the Catholic church. Through this sacrament I have come closer with my peers who are also going through confirmation.

I would like to thank my confirmation sponsor, Mr. David Pecha, my confirmation teacher, Mr. Rob Lickteig, as well as all of the youth ministers, my family, and Father Phil. Lastly, I thank the entire Holy Family Catholic Church for supporting me in the sacrament of confirmation.

Tanner Montgomery Sebastian Nelson

Tanner Montgomery Sebastian Nelson

Dear Holy Family

This year was a great year for me. I learned about many things, but one we talked about a lot was the fishers of men. When Jesus was speaking to his disciples, he saw them cast their fishing nets out. Then Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." I learned from this that we are all, or could be, fishers of men. We believe in Jesus and invite others to appreciate our religion as we do.

I also learned about the Holy Trinity and its meaning. I knew there were three parts. The Father, Son, Holy Spirit, but I never understood the meaning until this year. I think of the Holy Trinity as a tree. The leaves and fruits of the tree are at the top, they are the nutrition for the world, the Father. The roots are Jesus, they spread out all across the earth and keep things in order. And the two sides of the tree as the Holy Spirit, watching over and protecting us.

I have a lot of memories from this confirmation cycle. The one I will use for this letter is something we did during our retreat. One night, we gathered at the church in a circle and we were all handed a puzzle piece. We each gave our piece and it was a puzzle of Jesus. Rob told us we are all a piece of Jesus's puzzle, and that we are all unique in our own way.

Confirmation means a lot to me. I think of confirmation as my path to belonging to a church and my way to being a Catholic man.

I would like to thank Rob for making this year in confirmation fun and interactive. I would also like to thank the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Family community for their support of our confirmation.

Sincerely,

David Robert Francis Pecha

David Robert Francis Pecha

Dear Parish Family,

During my time in confirmation I have learned that to be a good Catholic you need to be strong in your faith and a good leader and spread the word of God joyfully. Knowing all of this really helped me grow in my faith my letting me know how to grow in my faith. One of my favorite memories from confirmation preparation was the retreat. During the retreat we did lots of fun activities that helped us learn that it's easy to connect with God and there's many different ways to do so. You Ydon't have to always give God lots of your time to show that you love him you can just help Hsomeone in need or do something nobody asks you to put that can help someone.

To me confirmation means that you have chosen to follow the way of God and you have devoted your life to doing the right thing even when no one's watching because God is always watching. Overall confirmation has given me the chance to connect with God in a way that I haven't before. It's shown me that connecting with God doesn't always have to be time-consuming. Give me a prayer before every meal or going to church once a week. And that's what I really love about confirmation. Thank you to everybody who has helped get me through to him for mission in a way that's enjoyable and meaningful.

Sincerely
Henry Reinsch,

Dear Holy Family,

My name is Kori Smith and I will be getting confirmed this year. Throughout this confirmation practice, I have accumulated many great memories and experiences. I have learned many things and I will hopefully continue to learn more and more about the Catholic faith. At the confirmation retreat, I learned that God is always with us. I knew as a child that God was always with me, but it wasn't until the retreat that I truly felt his presence. I enjoyed listening to testimonies and stories from the other confirmation candidates, team members, and adults.

I have had many great memories from this year, but I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Gospels. I love learning about the Bible, and reading all the readings. I have trouble understanding some, so when we learned about the Gospels at Senior High Youth Night, I had a blast! It was very interesting, and I feel as I grew as a Catholic. Another great memory was the Mass that we attended while at our retreat. I loved being involved in the mass by reading the prayers. It helped me truly engage in the Mass, and feel closer to God.

Confirmation means everything to me. I am so excited to further my faith and get closer to God. I feel as if the act of confirmation will require me to truly decide what I want to do with my life in the religious aspect. Being confirmed means that you are an adult in your parish. This means it is up to me to grow closer to God and pursue the Catholic faith. I am truly excited to be confirmed.

Holy Family, I thank you for welcoming me and my family into your parish. I am truly blessed to be a member of this parish. I ask that you pray for me as I continue in my faith. God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kori K. Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kori K. Smith

Dear Parish Community,

I had a lot of fun and learned a lot at the senior high youth nights. Every time we talked about new and interesting topics. We learned about The Books of The Bible and about Joseph and Mary's family trees. We also learned about different saints and holidays. I really enjoyed the meetings because they were always fun and were very interesting. I also really liked how everyone got a chance to contribute to the conversation. One of my favorite memories from my Confirmation preparation was the retreat. Even though we had it at the church instead of camping out it was a really great experience and I learned a lot. To me Confirmation means getting officially accepted into The Church and declaring that you yourself will take the responsibility to continue your faith journey. I just want to thank the people at Holy Family for being so accepting and open toward me and the other Confirmation candidates and being so supportive of us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Baxter Stone".

Thanks, Baxter Stone

Dear Holy Family,

It has been a true blessing to be able to participate in this year's preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. Over the last several months since September, I have attended Senior High Youth Night on Sunday nights, a day-long Confirmation retreat, and sponsor meetings every month. Throughout this time of growth, my faith has been tested. Yet I have been able to build my faith much stronger through the guidance of Rob Lickatieg, and my older brother Zach, who has been selected to be my sponsor.

Throughout this experience, I have learned many different things about my faith, religion, and even myself. First off, faith is the strength you have for believing in God, even though we cannot physically see Him. This is the most important aspect in the Catholic Religion because without faith, it is impossible to fathom the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is that light that burns within you, and really is what keeps your heart with God. The most important thing that my brother Zach has taught me is, that your faith depends on your will to believe that Jesus is really with you, every step of the way. Having faith will help you through the tough times and even the easy times.

Another thing I have learned through the Confirmation process, is that reading the Bible and listening to the scriptures at mass can help you understand the Catholic Faith so much better. The whole Old Testament is huge foreshadowing of what is going to happen with Jesus and the New Testament. One memory through the Confirmation process I've had, was the time we made a big puzzle of Jesus, during the retreat. The whole point of this activity, was to show that every one of us was made special/unique, just like each puzzle piece of Jesus was different, or unique in its own way.

The Sacrament of Confirmation as a whole, involves developing a stronger faith and understanding the scripture more. Confirmation helps you find that reason to show up to mass each week, not just to go to mass to get a piece of bread and some wine. Overall, Confirmation is about becoming a mature person of God's church. Thank you parish community, for this opportunity to become an adult in the church, and grow stronger in my faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Suchanick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Matthew Suchanick

Dear Holy Family,

My name is Michael Suchanick and I am one of the 28 teens getting confirmed this March. Every Sunday at 5:30 I have to go to Senior High School Youth Group. At Youth Group we have to do ice breakers, discussion, refreshments, and prayer. I have learned a lot from our Youth Group discussions. I have learned more and more about the bible throughout class. For example, I can now list all of the books from the New Testament in order. The order goes Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, Corinthians 1, Corinthians 2, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians 1, Thessalonians 2, Timothy 1, Timothy 2, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, Peter 1 Peter 2, John 1, John 2, John 3, Jude, and finally Revelation. My sponsor is my Grandma and she has helped me through the path of Confirmation by always being there for me and I know I can always turn to her for guidance with God.

My favorite memory from my Confirmation preparation is going on our retreat. The retreat got moved to the church because of the weather so it was a little different than I expected. I never thought I would have to sleep in one of the churches PSR classrooms but I did. It was all worth it because I felt like I really came closer to God.

Confirmation means a lot to me because it's when I get accepted as an adult in the parish community and also when I receive The seven gifts of the Holy Spirt. After being confirmed I know the Holy Spirit with always guide me to a great path in life.

I want to say thank you to the Parish community for sending all of your prayers to me during my Confirmation process.

Sincerely,

Michael Suchanick

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Suchanick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dear Holy Family,

As I am on my journey to being confirmed I have learned so much as to growing in our faith and that we learn the main points in the bible and getting deep into the bible.

During this process of confirmation, I really loved the time to just talk to our sponsors about any problem in our daily living, any struggles we have, concerns for anything, my sponsor would be there for me, and that once in a while we would laugh and joke around and just really connect with each other and even with the candidates and other sponsors that brings us all together and learn together about what being in the holy community really is.

What I think of Confirmation is, a piece of my puzzle of life and that this piece is what lets me be accepted to the holy community, it takes me where I can be part of the church become a full and true member.

Seeing familiar faces in the congregation and new faces is great to see, everyone smiling, praying, praising the lord with song and singing loud. No matter who's out there I'll be glad to meet you, let's talk sometime, it would be awesome to meet a new friend because we are all one family. I just want to Thank you for the time you give every Sunday, or Saturday, to be in the house of Jesus and being friendly to one another. I hope all of you have a blessed week and 'IF YOU'RE NOT SMILING, YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG'.

Paula Villavicencio

SINCERELY, PAULA VILLAVICENCIO ☺

Dear Holy Family Parish,

This year was very different because I started going to Senior High Youth Night. This was all new to me because I went to St. Charles. It is very weird because I didn't have to go to a class every Sunday night, I went to a religion class during the day at school. But now I get to go to SHYN. I personally think that these classes are better because Rob has taught me much more than my past religion classes. I have learned lots of things from SHYN, such as Jesus' family tree, I realized how little I knew about it. The size of the family tree is amazing, there are lots of people that lead up to the birth of Jesus.

Confirmation means a lot to my family and I. I feel that as I am getting confirmed I am becoming closer to God. It also means that I will become a full member of the church. Becoming a full member of the church is not something that everyone gets to do, which is why it means a lot to me.

Holy Family Parishioners, thank you for all of your support. You have given me the opportunity to become a full member of the church and become closer to God. Please continue to pray for me and the others being confirmed alongside of me so that we make the right choices in our faith and in our daily lives. I would also like to thank my sponsor, Madison Benda. Thank you for coming to all of my confirmation meetings. You didn't have to say yes to being my sponsor but, you did and you have helped me grow closer to God.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Winnike". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

From, Patrick Winnike.