

Congratulations to our 2021 Confirmands!



Michael Allan Chaffee

Michael is the son of Patty and David Chaffee. His family also includes sister Bethany Trippi and brothers Luke Trippi and Nathan Chaffee. He is a student at Johanna Perrin Middle School in Fairport.

Michael enjoys Xbox, wrestling, and spending time with friends. He is also a member of Boy Scout Troop 325. His BLC activities include confirmation class and Winter Weekend.

Michael has chosen Joshua 1: 9 (NRSV) as his Bible verse: *I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Michael explains why this verse is special to him: "I picked this verse because I heard it at Winter Weekend and it reminds me that God is with me wherever I go. This reminds me to not be afraid as I move forward into life. I have learned through the three years of confirmation that God loves you and church is an important part of life. Even after confirmation I know that my faith will be important even in hard times. I feel lucky that I grew up in a great congregation at Bethlehem."



Allison Christine Furst

Ally is the daughter of Karen and Mike and sister of Kelly and Tim. She attends school in Penfield.

Her activities include participating on the competitive dance team at Spins Dance Studio and playing for the Strikers soccer team. She is also involved in confirmation at BLC.

Ally has chosen Ephesians 4: 32 for her Bible verse: *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.*

This verse is special to Ally "because being kind to everyone you meet and everyone in your life is very important to me. I think that it makes a big impact on people if you are kind to them no matter how well you know them. You never know what people are going through. It is an easy thing to just be kind to someone and it could brighten their day! Also, forgiving people is important to me to grow as a person. If I hold grudges I feel that it holds me down instead of letting myself grow. Being forgiving and kind are important characteristics in my life and this Bible verse shows me that it is a good thing. Christ has given us the ability to forgive and be kind and it should be used."



Aderyn Paige Gantner

Aderyn is the daughter on Sara and Ryan and big sister to Ivy. She attends Martha Brown Middle School in Fairport, where she plays the saxophone in both her school concert and jazz bands.

Her interests include field hockey, reading, and hanging out with friends. She loves being outdoors, especially ATV, hiking, and boating with her family. She participates in confirmation class and Bell Choir at BLC.

Aderyn's Bible verse is Isaiah 43: 2 (ESV): *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*

This verse is special to Aderyn "because it shows that God is with us no matter what, even if it is just a small thing."



Rachel Elizabeth Meetze

Rachel is the daughter of Lisa and Chris and younger sister to Daniel. Her family also includes her cat, Kam. She attends Bay Trail Middle School in Penfield.

Her activities include cheer, tumbling, trampoline, and spending time outdoors with friends. A favorite place is the Outer Banks, where her family likes to vacation. She is active in confirmation at BLC. She enjoys spending time with her fellow confirmands and has missed the lock-ins and other in-person activities over the past year. She looks forward to being able to resume gathering face-to-face.

Rachel's has selected Joshua 1:9: *Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Rachel explains why this verse is special to her: "To me, this Bible verse tells me not to be afraid to fail - to fail at school, relationships, being a good person, or anything really, because God is with me everywhere and always. When I get into a difficult situation, I know I can count on God to be with me, guide me, and help me. No matter where I go or what I do, I know I can count on God to support me. I like the part about being strong, because my parents tell me I am a strong-willed person. Once when I was a toddler, I actually held my breath long enough to make my eyes roll back in my head and I passed out. God was with me that day and helped me pass out so I would stop trying to hold my breath and start breathing again automatically."



Jonathan Paul-Reyes Palermo

Jonathan is the son of Karen and the late Norm Palermo. His family also includes step-father James Riscignolo and step-brother Patrick Riscignolo.

He attends school in Hilton where he plays on both his school modified soccer team and the Hilton Heat travel soccer team. He is also active in Scouts. Jonathan serves as an acolyte at BLC.

Jonathan chose Philippians 4:13 as his Bible verse: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

"I like this verse because I think I have had good and bad events happen to me in my life and will have throughout my life. I know that God will continue to test me but, with his help it will only make me stronger.



Lauren Anya Salvador

Lauren is the daughter of John Salvador and Kristine Elliott and younger sister of Nate Salvador. She attends Bay Trail Middle School in Penfield. She plays soccer, runs track, and plays the clarinet. Lauren also enjoys painting and drawing. She participates in confirmation and serves BLC as an acolyte.

Ephesians 4:32 is the verse Lauren has chosen: *...and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.*

Lauren chose this verse "because I think that being kind and forgiving to other people and each other is important. That is how we as a community can support each other. When you are kind to someone, it can make a big difference, and that creates a positive change. Also, when you forgive one another it can lead to understanding and more kindness. This Bible verse represents all of that and it also shows us that we can forgive others just like God forgives us."



Evan Frederick Sousa

Evan is the son of Colleen and Fred and big brother to Corinne. The family also includes a cat named Poppy and a dog named Teddy. He attends Pal-Mac Middle School in Macedon.

Evan's interests include soccer and swimming. He plays for both the Pal-Mac modified soccer team and the Fairport Soccer Club; his favorite positions are defense and goalie. He also swims for the modified team at Pal-Mac and the Fairport Area Swim Team, where his strongest stroke is the backstroke. He enjoys playing outside and being active.

The Bible verse that Evan chose is Deuteronomy 31:6: *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

He shares: "To me this Bible verse means that you should never be afraid of anything that stands in your way because God is always by our side. There are times when I have been nervous, for instance, as a goalkeeper for soccer during tough games, when I had to change school districts because of COVID, and when my grandma was diagnosed with cancer. We should never let our fear control how we live our lives. Have no fear knowing God is near."



Olivia Bo-ri Strasser

Olivia is the daughter of Anne and Richard and younger sister of Luke. She is a student at Spry Middle School in Webster.

She participates in cross country, track and field, and Nordic skiing as well as Drama Club. She also likes music, reading, and baking.

Olivia selected Revelation 21: 3~4 (NIV) as her verse: *They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

She shares: "This verse is important to me because I read it at my grandfather's funeral and it gives me comfort."



Elizabeth Marie Wholley

Elizabeth is the daughter of Lisa and Brendan and younger sister of Meghan. She is a student at Johanna Perrin Middle School in Fairport.

She enjoys playing sports, especially soccer and field hockey, and is a member of her school orchestra. She likes being creative, especially with art. She also enjoys family time at the lake and hanging out with friends.

Elizabeth has served as an acolyte and has participated in hosting Coffee Hour at BLC for many years. In addition, she has volunteered at Gods Work. Our Hands by helping with yardwork at Advent House, gardening for fellow parishioners, and volunteering at Foodlink. She is excited to return to these events as well as volunteering in the future.

The Bible verse Elizabeth chose is Phillipians 4:13: *I can do all things through Christ whom strengthens me*”.

This verse is important her “because it shows that God gives us hope. It shows that God is always there for me and watching over me. This verse is a reminder that God will always be here for me in good and bad times. He gives us strength to persevere and face each day.”