



“Be Sealed”

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

St. John the Baptist Youth Evangelization

GRADE 9

Confirmation Folder
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Confirmation Prayer	3
Sacrament of Confirmation	4
Candidate Expectations	5
Prayer Requirements	6,7
Pledge of Commitment (Yellow Sheet)	8
Parent Pledge Form (Orange Sheet)	9
Guidelines for choosing a confirmation name/Saint Project	10
Application Form (Blue Sheet)	11
Choosing a Sponsor	12,13,14
Sponsor Endorsement Form (Green Sheet)	15,16,17
Sponsor Interaction Form (Pink Sheet)	18
Reference page for writing your letter to the pastor (Purple Sheet)	19
“My Act of Love” Service Expectations	20,21
Role of the Parents	22
Teachings of the Catholic Church	23,24
Ministry Interviews	25
My Act of Love Service Hour Recording Sheet	26

WELCOME!

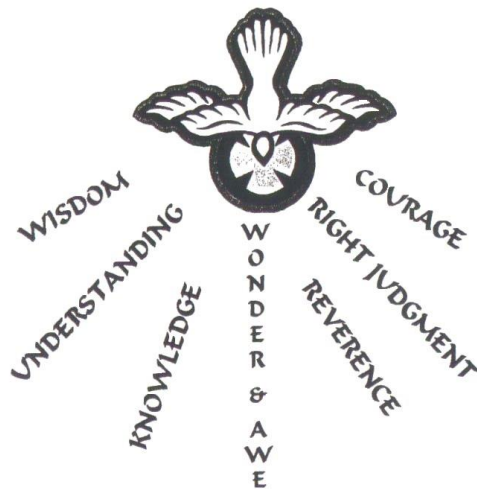
On behalf of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, we welcome your family to the **“Be Sealed”** Confirmation Program and pray that you and your son or daughter will have many growing experiences this year.

Confirmation completes the process of initiation into the Holy Catholic Church and sets the newly confirmed on the way of Discipleship.

Parents, you are the primary faith educators of your child. During this next year, your son/daughter will be doing much reflecting, sharing, praying, celebrating, caring and growing in the sacramental knowledge of our faith. The St. John the Baptist Faith Community is committed to supporting our candidates every step of the way.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide you.

Chris Wibbenmeyer
Coordinator of Religious Education



Prayer for Confirmation Candidates

God of all ages,
You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.
Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit
and bring to fulfillment the good work
that You have begun in them.
As I prepare my child for Confirmation,
make me an instrument of Your love.
Teach me to reverence what is holy in others,
and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel and help me to pass it on by
my example.
I pray that You will continue to guide me
and sustain me.
We praise you through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*God, our father, we ask you to bless all candidates
who are now preparing to receive the spirit of your
love in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May the gifts
within each one be touched by your Holy Spirit and
become blessings for our parish family.*

*Bless too, our parents, our sponsors, our catechists
and all those who have been the reflection of your
son's love for us. We ask this through Christ our
Lord. Amen.*

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In 1972, the Church published The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connection between the three sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

- ❖ In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.
- ❖ In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers.

Through these sacramental rites, the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

It is not enough for the candidates (those eligible and preparing for Confirmation) to sit back and learn about faith from the words of a catechist or from a book. They must go out and see for themselves how the Holy Spirit is at work in the community. Confirmation preparation is the chance for them to find how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are at work every day. This also helps the candidate to be open to receiving these spiritual gifts in a special way at their Confirmation.

Pentecost saw the Holy Spirit given to the fledging group of people that was the Church. Peter and the others had experienced both the presence of the Risen Christ and His Holy Spirit. These remarkable experiences fired them to begin immediately spreading the Good News that Jesus was Lord. He had broken through the chains of death and had risen from the dead. God's gifts are empowering, welcoming, merciful and loving. His power is available to everyone through the coming of the Holy Spirit.

CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS

Candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are encouraged to develop an intimate relationship with the Lord in personal prayer and experience a sense of belonging to the Christian community by proclaiming the Gospel through acts of Christian service.

Role of Candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- ♥ *Develop and maintain an active prayer life*
- ♥ *Listen attentively and participate willingly in preparation classes*
- ♥ *Respect other's point of view*
- ♥ *Ask questions – this helps develop a more mature understanding of Christian beliefs and makes your own commitment stronger*
- ♥ *Attend Mass weekly and receive the Sacraments regularly*
- ♥ *Invite a practicing Catholic to be your Confirmation sponsor*
- ♥ *Attend and actively participate in Confirmation Retreats*
- ♥ *Complete the required assignments, service hours and interview requirements*
- ♥ *Remain an active member of the Catholic community and continue to learn about the faith*

Rite of Enrollment

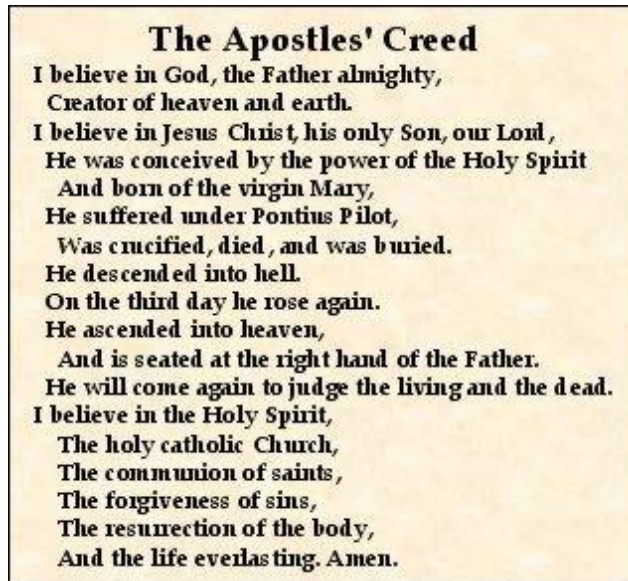
The Rite of Enrollment is a ceremony that will take place in the fall. Candidates who choose to enter into the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will make an official public pledge during the Confirmation Commitment Mass. Prior to the Rite of Enrollment, candidates are asked to seriously and prayerfully reflect on the candidacy requirements.

PRAYER REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must know the following prayers:

- ♥ The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- ♥ Hail Mary
- ♥ Glory Be
- ♥ Apostles Creed
- ♥ Act of Contrition
- ♥ Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Family prayer time is important. Candidates should be encouraged to lead the family in prayer daily.



Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who instructed the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant us in the same Spirit
to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*Prayer is the breath
of life
to our soul.*

-St. Teresa of Calcutta

Pledge of Commitment
RITE OF ENROLLMENT

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of Christ.

As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- I will approach my confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.
- I will attend and will fully participate in all TGIF classes.
- I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the program and show appreciation for their time and effort.
- I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me.
- I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation.
- I will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before my Confirmation.
- I will accept more responsibility in my family, parish, and community by putting my talents and gifts at the service of others.
- I will commit to daily prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope and love.

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to his plans for my life-plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents and aspirations, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me. I place myself in the loving embrace of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in asking for help in fulfilling this commitment.

Name of Candidate

Signature of Candidate

Date

Witnessed by:

Signature(s) of Candidate's Parent(s) / Legal Guardian(s)

PARENT PLEDGE FORM

Dear Parents,

Our Office of Religious Education records indicate that your son/daughter is at the age to prepare for confirmation formation, therefore seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring here in the Marion Catholic Community. Each parent is asked to sign a parent pledge form.

PARENT PLEDGE

(Please Print Legibly)

I, _____, the parent or guardian of _____
Hereby renew the commitment I made on the day of my child's baptism.

- _____ I accept the responsibility of training my child into the practice of the faith
- _____ I accept the duty of bringing my child up to keep God's commandments
- _____ I reject Satan, all his works, and all his empty promises
- _____ I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father
- _____ I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting

I hereby also promise to fulfill, to the best of my ability, the expectations of the parents of the confirmation candidate of the St. John the Baptist Confirmation program as required. By signing this document, I am truthfully saying that I have both read and understand what is expected of myself and my child. I choose to:

- _____ Faithfully strive to live out my sacramental covenant with God.
(I will seek to be an example of Christ in their daily life)
- _____ Diligently help my child complete all the requirements of the St. John the Baptist Confirmation program in a timely and acceptable manner
- _____ Spend time with my child helping them develop an active life of faith

X _____
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME AND SAINT REPORT

Each Confirmation candidate chooses a saint as a patron and confirmed under that patron saint's name. A ***patron saint*** is someone already in heaven whom we feel a connection, want to imitate, and from whom we request intercession throughout life.

The tradition of taking on a new name reflects a new role in life. This is evident throughout Scriptures, e.g. "Abram" was changed to "Abraham" which means "Father of Many Nations," and "Simon" was changed to "Peter" which means "Rock" because Jesus founded His Church upon him as the first pope.

When you choose a new name for your Confirmation, it should be the name of a Saint you have read and learned about, admire and want to imitate. You shouldn't choose a Saint because you like his/her name. You should choose a Saint you want to be like.

Practical Guidelines in Selecting a Saint

- You should be familiar with this saint's life. It is to be hoped that you see similarities between you and this saint and/or want to aspire to be like this saint.
- The saint you select should be someone you look up to as a hero.
- You should develop a personal devotion to this saint and build a relationship with him/her through constant prayer.
- You should try to learn about a lot of saints in order to make a good decision on choosing your patron saint. The more saints you are familiar with the easier it becomes for you to request their intercession. The saints are always eager and happy to help us.

Confirmation Saint Project

The following project is to be done as an early preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please put some thought and time into this project with the input of your parents, so that your preparation will directly involve your family.

Consider the following:

- *Who is my Confirmation Saint?*
- *Color photo of your chosen Saint*
- *When did my Confirmation Saint live?*
- *What did this Saint do that was special?*
- *Why do I want to live like this Saint?*
- *When is the liturgical feast day for my saint and when was he/she canonized?*
- *What symbol(s) are used to identify my Saint?*

For project specific information, please see separate sheet titled "Confirmation Saint Project"

Application for the Reception of the SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Parents: Please type or print clearly the information requested below. **Correct information** is important as this form will be used for the Confirmation Certificates and Parish records.

Candidate First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age on Confirmation Day: _____

Home Address: _____

School: _____

Home Parish: _____

Date of Baptism: ____/____/____

Baptismal Name: _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Location of Church: _____

Godparents: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

Sponsor's Relationship to Candidate: _____

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

At Baptism, you entered the Church with the support of your parents and godparents. On your behalf, they took the first step of initiating you into the Catholic faith. They promised to instruct you in the Catholic faith and guide you on the path.

At Confirmation, you stand on your own and renew the promises spoken on your behalf at Baptism. In the eyes of the Church, you are responsible and mature enough to assume this responsibility. During the preparation process you will choose a special person, your Confirmation sponsor, who will help guide you, stand with you and present you. This person will be your support as you prepare to receive the sacrament. Your sponsor is an adult whom will help you grow and live out your faith, both in preparation for Confirmation and throughout your life. Below are some guidelines to help you pick a sponsor as well as some questions to help discern if this person would be a good sponsor for you. Please take some time to think and pray about your sponsor as they will help guide you on your journey.

In accordance with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Confirmation Sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Your sponsor must be a faithful Roman Catholic who has celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
- Your sponsor must be at least 16 years of age
- Your sponsor must regularly attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation and give witness to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- Your sponsor must be free from all Canonical impediments
- Your sponsor **may not** be your mother or father as they already have the role of sponsoring
- Your sponsor should support and help your parent in this role
- Your sponsor is open to the Living Word of God in sacred scripture and the Church

- If your sponsor is unable to attend your Confirmation Mass a proxy may be used. The proxy represents the Sponsor and does not need to fulfill the Sponsor criteria.

Here are some questions to address when seeking a Sponsor:

- Is the sponsor baptized and confirmed and over 16 years old?
- If the sponsor is married, was he/she married in the Catholic Church?
- Does the sponsor attend Mass on Sunday?
- Does the sponsor follow the teachings of the Catholic Church?
- Will this person help you grow in your faith and love God and neighbor more?
- Get to know your sponsor. Where did they grow up, what did they study, what kind of jobs have they had? Get to know them as a person and have them share their life experiences with you. Talk to your sponsor about how he/she has developed his/her relationship with God. What have been peak experiences?
- Moments of conversion? How have they witnessed God's presence?
- Talk to your sponsor about his/her favorite ways and places to pray.
- Talk to your sponsor about how he/she witnesses Christ and proclaims the faith in word and deed.
- Talk to your sponsor about how he/she lives out his/her participation in the Church daily.

Marion Catholic Community CONFIRMATION SPONSOR GUIDE

Dear Sponsor,

Congratulations on being invited to serve as a Confirmation Sponsor! This is a great honor as well as a lifelong responsibility. Here is how Church Law defines your role:

Every person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament. (Code of Canon Law, canon 892)

The sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is meant to provide spiritual help to the candidate (Catechism 1311). He or she should be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate. The sponsor enters into a spiritual relationship with the candidate and acts as a spiritual parent and mentor. Therefore, it is both a great blessing and a responsibility to commit to the role of a sponsor.

Each candidate may choose **only one sponsor**; it may be either a man or a woman. A sponsor takes on a life-long commitment to help their candidate persevere in the Faith. According to the Code of Canon Law (892), "The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament." The Church states that it is desirable that the sponsor would be one of the person's godparents; however, this is not a requirement (893, §2). The sponsor needs to be a registered member of a Catholic parish in order to get the Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility signed by the pastor. Moreover, a sponsor must have intellectual and physical faculties to be a sponsor.

According to Canon 874, a sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 16 years old or older
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
- Must not be a parent of the one to be confirmed

This canon (874, §1, 1) also states that the sponsor must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." Therefore, the following persons are **not eligible** to act as a sponsor:

- Persons married outside the Catholic Church
- Persons who miss Sunday Mass and Holydays of Obligation and/or consider Sunday Mass and Holy days of Obligation optional
- Persons cohabiting without the benefit and grace of Catholic marriage
- Persons who neglect the religious education of their children
- Individuals who neglect to fulfill their "Easter Duty" that is, Communion at least once a year during the Easter season and Confession once a year if in the state of mortal sin
- Those who give public scandal in any way

In the event that the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation liturgy in person, a proxy, explicitly designated by the sponsor, who fulfills the above qualifications, may stand in for the sponsor during the liturgy. If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, he or she must notify the Religious

Education Office in advance. **A parent may not be a sponsor**, though they may act as the proxy if the sponsor cannot attend.

I attest that I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. I am a practicing Catholic; I attend Mass faithfully on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, fulfill my Easter duty, and live up to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. If married, I am validly married in the Catholic Church. I am aware of the serious responsibility of being a sponsor and I promise to give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayer, and by the Christian example of my daily life. I am 16 years of age or older. I am a registered and participating member of a Catholic parish.

SPONSOR ENDORSEMENT FORM / CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Office of Religious Education

Name of child to be

confirmed: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

I have been asked to be a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for the above candidate. I affirm that:

- I am at least 16 years of age.
- I am a practicing Catholic registered at a Catholic parish.
- I have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- I attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays and receive the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation.
- If married, I am validly married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the community life of the Church.
- I realize that I assume great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a sponsor and will faithfully fulfill the obligations connected with it. I will give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the Christian example of my daily life.

By my signature, I attest to be a practicing Catholic who seeks to be admitted as a sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic Faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as sponsor.

(Sponsor's Signature) (Date)

Sponsor Information:

Please print

First Middle / Maiden Last name Suffix

Address: _____

City State ZipCode

Date of Birth: _____ Home

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Sacraments

Baptism: Date: _____

Church: _____ City/State: _____

1st Communion: Date: _____

Church: _____ City/State: _____

Confirmation: Date: _____

Church: _____ City/State: _____

A sponsor must be canonically free to carry out this office. This means that Catholics in an invalid/ irregular marriage (not according to Catholic Church regulations) and those that are cohabitating (living together without marriage) cannot serve as a sponsor.

Place of Marriage:

Location (church/other): _____

City/State: _____ Date of Marriage: _____

Marriage performed by:

Priest ☐ Deacon ☐ Minister ☐ Judge ☐ Justice of the Peace ☐ Not Married ☐

If not married within the regulations of the Church, has your marriage been Convalidated? Yes ☐ No ☐

A sponsor must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and receives the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly. Based on these guidelines, are you in good standing with the Catholic Church? Yes ☐ No ☐

Sponsor's Church Attendance: Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Seldom ☐ Never ☐

If you do not attend Mass weekly,
please explain: _____

Name of church you now attend: _____

Address of Church: _____ City/State: _____ Zip _____

A sponsor must NOT be the father, mother, step-parent or custodial guardian of the one to be baptized.

What is your relationship to this child (ie: grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend, etc.)? _____

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Youth Evangelization

The portion below needs to be completed by the Pastor of the Sponsor's Parish

I hereby certify that _____ is a registered member or lives within the boundaries of this parish; is a practicing Catholic in good standing; and is eligible to serve as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for the above child to be Confirmed.

(Parish)

(Pastor's Signature)

(Date)

Please Affix Parish Seal Below

PLEASE RETURN TO:

St. John the Baptist
Catholic Church
Attn: Chris Wibbenmeyer
7428 State Route 119
Maria Stein, Ohio 45860

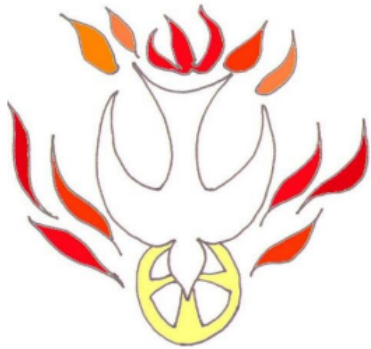
Page 3/3

SPONSOR INTERACTION FORM

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Please refer to the "40 Questions for Candidates & Sponsors" packet in this binder. It is important for you and your sponsor to develop a close relationship and interact with each other during this time of preparation.



St. John the Baptist Youth Evangelization
TEENS GROWING IN FAITH (TGIF)
Confirmation Preparation

40 CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES & SPONSORS

Name of Candidate _____

Name of Sponsor _____

Date Completed _____

Do you have any questions about the Sacrament of Confirmation?

LETTERS TO OUR PASTOR

REFERENCE PAGE

You are asked to write or type a letter asking to be admitted as a candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation. This page is a reference to use as you design your letter in your own words. The following are topics you might want to include:

Confirmation is:

- A sign of God's special love
- An invitation to deepen my relationship with God
- A time to deepen our involvement in the faith community
- A profession of faith by personally proclaiming our Baptismal vows
- An outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- An anointing with chrism - a sealing, marking or branding - as God's own
- An acknowledgement of spiritual maturity
- A lifelong challenge to live the way of Jesus, to develop a personal prayer life and become an active member of the Church throughout the world
- A lifelong challenge to build up the Body of Christ through worship, formation, evangelization, and service
- A call to be a sign of God's presence, peace and love to others

As a member of the "Be Sealed" Confirmation preparation program, I promise to strive to:

- Commit myself to Jesus and His Church
- Live a genuine Christian life and seek the help of faithful Christians when needed
- Enrich my faith through the study of Catholic doctrine and through participation in retreats and other faith activities
- Serve others by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy
- Participate regularly in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Assume mature responsibilities in my family, my parish, my school and my community

MY ACTS OF LOVE - GIVING OF MYSELF TO OTHERS

SERVICE EXPECTATIONS

Commitment to serving others is an integral part of the Confirmation preparation experience. To follow Jesus is to be of loving service to others. Jesus gave us examples of service throughout His life. On the night before he died, He assumed the role of a servant and washed the feet of His apostles.

Candidates are called to bear witness to the Gospel message by choosing and carrying out service experiences. Such an experience is a concrete action performed in answer to the Gospel's challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. It is hoped that these experiences can be the beginning of a lifelong effort to witness the Gospel message of service to others. Service means not receiving payment or reimbursement for your efforts.

The corporal works of mercy come to us from Matthew 25:34-40, where Jesus tells us that whatever you did to the least of these, you did it to Him. Below are some simple and some not so simple ideas to get your started. As Pope Francis said, "True power is service. The Pope must serve all people, especially the poor, the weak, the vulnerable." If he can do it, so can you! Here are some examples:

Feed the Hungry.

- Make sandwiches and pass them out to the homeless.
- Keep granola bars in your car to pass out to people in need at stoplights.
- Pick up leftovers at a local grocery store, bakery, or restaurant and deliver them to a food bank or homeless shelter.
- Take a friend out to lunch, your treat.
- Keep a list of local food banks and soup kitchens on hand to pass out to those you encounter around your town who could use such services.
- Volunteer at a food bank.
- Organize a Catholic Relief Services Food Fast and donate the proceeds to one of their charities.
- Serve at a soup kitchen.
- Prepare and take a meal to someone in your community who is seriously ill or welcoming home a newborn.
- Help out at a Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast.
- Give to or host a food drive.

Give Drink to the Thirsty.

- Pass out water bottles to the homeless.
- Have a "donations only" lemonade stand and use the proceeds to a local charity
- Pay for the coffee of the person behind you at a coffee shop.
- Take a cold glass of water to a neighbor doing yard work.
- Donate baby formula to a local pregnancy help center.
- Work a drink station at a local charity race.

Clothe the Naked.

- Go through your closet and give away what you don't need.
- Host a clothing drive and donate the items.
- Knit, crochet, or sew baby blankets for your local pregnancy help center.
- Knit, crochet, or sew scarves, hats, and gloves for your local homeless shelter.
- Score some sweet deals at garage sales and send the items to a foreign mission site.

Shelter the Homeless.

- Volunteer to do manual labor to help in the upkeep of a homeless shelter.
- Chaperone a youth group mission trip with Catholic Heart Work Camp, Nazareth Farm, Bethlehem Farm, and help maintain existing homes and keep those in need in their homes.
- Keep a list of local homeless shelters on hand to pass out to those you meet on the street.
- Become a mentor to a foster child.
- Send a care package with special treats to an orphanage.
- Help a family working towards adoption by hosting a fundraiser for them.
- Sponsor a child through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA).
- Donate to or volunteer with programs such as Christ in the City to further their efforts in working with the homeless.

Visit the Sick.

- Volunteer at a hospital.
- Volunteer to call Bingo at a nursing home.
- Send flowers or a card to someone you know who is in the hospital.
- Visit a seriously or terminally ill member of your parish.

Visit the Imprisoned.

- Lead a bible study at a local prison.
- Help with a communion service or Mass at a prison.
- Donate bibles and/or spiritual reading materials to a prison.
- Mentor a teen at a juvenile correction center.

Bury the Dead.

- Attend wakes and/or funerals of those you knew.
- Volunteer with a hospice program.
- Supply a dish for a funeral luncheon.
- Help a widow or widower in need with yard work or errands.
- Visit the cemetery and pray for the dead.
- Donate to ministries that offer free Catholic burials to those who are unable to afford one.
- Pray at an abortion clinic for the lives lost to abortion.
- Attend services for an inmate who was executed.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

“As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.” (NCD no. 119)

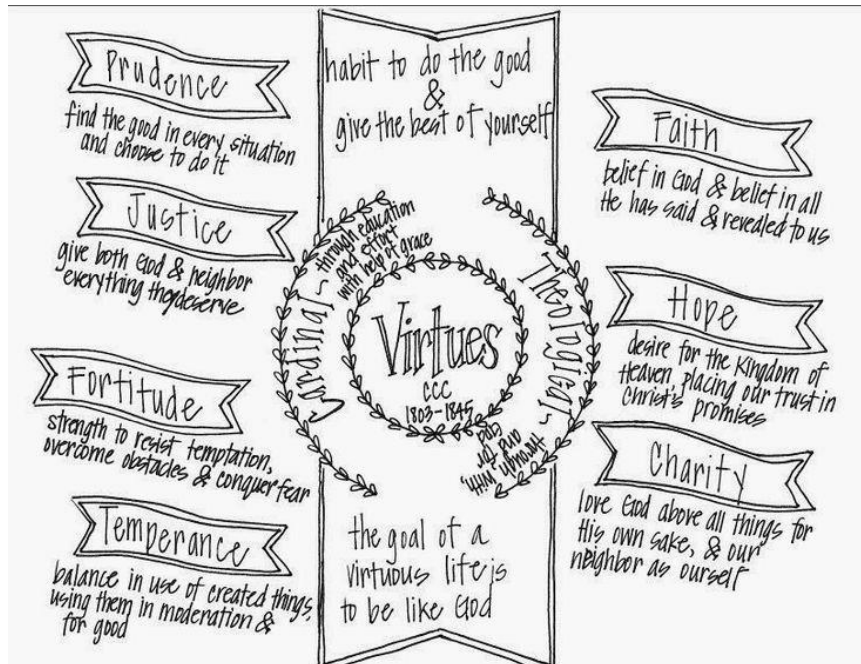
Parents, you play a vital role in your children’s continuing initiation into a full membership in the Christian community. Your model and encouragement is a key element in the formation process.

Parents should expect to:

- Worship with your family regularly
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate
- Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective
- Encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
- Pray for your child’s spiritual growth every day
- Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations
- Emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation
- Faithfully bring your teen (and when necessary yourself) to class, meetings, programs and prayer services that are planned to help your child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.




TEACHINGS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH



THE PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. Receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year in the case of grave sin.
3. Receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter Season.
4. Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. Provide for the needs of the Church.

See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*,
2042-43.



Holy Days of Obligation

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – January 1st
- Ascension – forty days after Easter
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – August 15
- All Saints’ Day – November 1
- Immaculate Conception – December 8
- Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ – December 25

The Works of Mercy



CORPORAL WORKS

- + FEED THE HUNGRY
- + GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY
- + CLOTHE THE NAKED
- + VISIT THE IMPRISONED
- + SHELTER THE HOMELESS
- + VISIT THE SICK
- + BURY THE DEAD

SPIRITUAL WORKS

- + INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT
- + COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL
- + ADMONISH SINNERS
- + COMFORT THE SORROWFUL
- + BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY
- + FORGIVE ALL INJURIES
- + PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART,
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

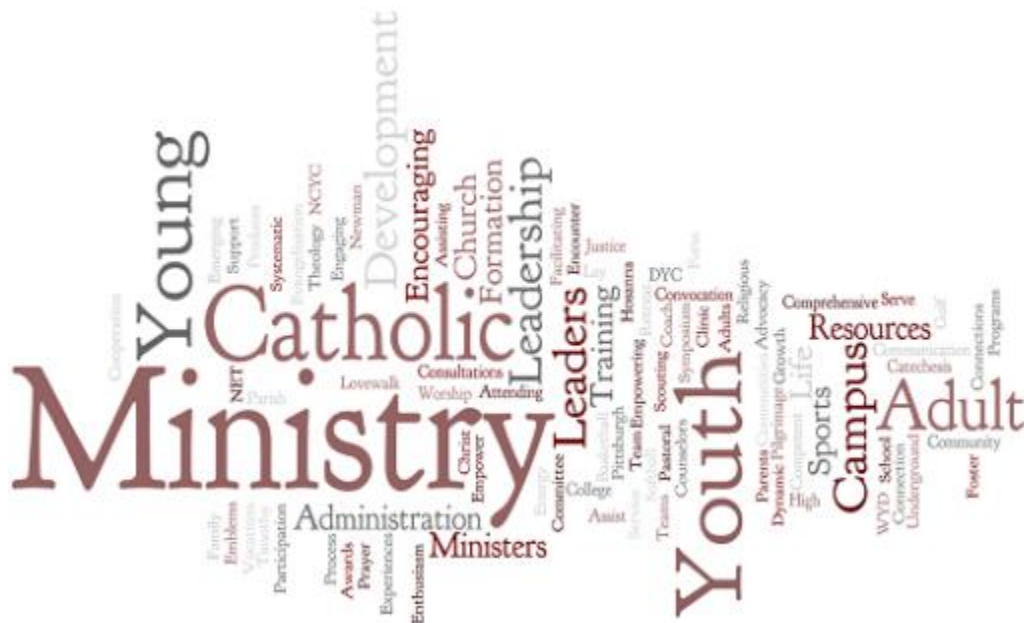
MATTHEW 5:3-10

MINISTRY INTERVIEWS

Candidates will start to think about ways to get more involved in the Church. It takes the part of everyone to build a strong community of faith. Candidates are asked to interview two people who are involved in the ministries of the parish. Some examples are:

- **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**
- **Usher**
- **Greeter**
- **Choir Member**
- **Lector**
- **Commentator**

Candidates should interview a person who is involved in a ministry of interest and one that the candidate has not previously participated in. Candidates should type up a short report after they complete each interview.



CHRISTIAN SERVICE “MY ACT OF LOVE” RECORDING SHEET

Christian Service is not about dotting i's and crossing t's; of checking off the "done" list and then moving on. Christian Service is a way of living and sharing God's love. Christian Service during confirmation preparation is a way of cultivating, growing, and nurturing a Catholic outlook of Service for those in need.



CANDIDATE'S NAME _____



TYPE OF SERVICE COMPLETED _____



DATE OF SERVICE _____ **#OF HOURS** _____

1. Describe the service project you provided.

2. Why did you choose this project?

3. What did you learn about participating in this project? (about yourself and others)

4. Compare your project to one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. How has it helped you understand your role in the Church?

5. How can you continue this type of service or a similar project after Confirmation?



Student Signature _____

I agree that my Act of Love was self-giving and I received no compensation for such act.



Parent Signature _____



Supervisor Signature _____
(non-relative)

Phone Number _____