

## AREAS OF PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

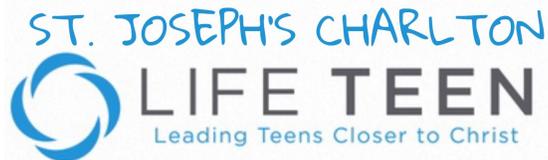
St. Joseph's offers our students more options/exposure than most parishes. Why? Because we have youth with varying needs and desires as they develop an independent relationship with Christ and His Church. In addition, we have been "called" by Christ to share with our teens how dynamic their Catholic faith truly is. We realize that this is unlike what many of us as parents were offered, but St. Joe's figures if our Lord sacrificed His life for our sins through unrelenting ridicule, scourging, and crucifixion we should probably put some effort into deciphering this reality in relation to our lives. Of course, we can only offer, the rest is up to you (the main educators) and your children to participate in and be open to Jesus' invitation. The main components are:

- ❑ **MASS:** Matthew 26:40 "Could you not spend one hour with me?" That is what Jesus was asking his apostles in the garden on his last night. He asks us this same question every time we decide for something other than him on Sundays. Jesus instructed all of us the night before his sacrificial death: "Do this in memory of me." If you are having a hard time getting to Mass, let us know how we can help. You can find Mass times on line at [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) if you have a busy weekend or away and can't make it to St. Joseph's.
- ❑ **CATECHESIS:** The students should be attending regularly in 9-10<sup>th</sup> grade so that they have some idea what their faith is about before they get confirmed in it. This is approximately 40hrs per year. (Compare this to nine weeks of a sport season which is about 90 hrs.) We do offer some make up opportunities if Sunday nights become a problem.
- ❑ **FAITH ENCOUNTERS:** The teens are frequently reminded that they should encounter their faith in a way other than Mass/class. According to studies, retreats are the second-best way to learn and experience your faith, second only to teaching it. Some of these experiences also let the kids participate in "the greater Church".  
**ONE "Real World" experience is required for Confirmation. Examples include:**
  - ❑ Steubenville East Youth Conference - held at UMASS Lowell
  - ❑ Mission Trip, Camp Sunshine, Haiti, Cardboard City, March for Life
  - ❑ Co-Teach 1<sup>st</sup> Lights or Edge for 6 classes OR be a Crew Chief at Vacation Bible School (VBS) which is offered during the summer. (See Sr. Agnes for details)
  - ❑ Diocesan or other retreats that might become available
  - ❑ Attending all nights + discussions of Parish Mission **if deemed appropriate**
  - ❑ Anyone who is currently serving in a ministry such as altar servers, choir, ect
  - ❑ Any one who has achieved the Catholic awards for Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
  - ❑ If you are a Catholic school student, let's talk about what you might have already done.
  - ❑ *As always, we are very flexible and open to suggestions. Note that the "Overnight Confirmation Retreat" does NOT fall under the "Real World" section.*
- ❑ **OVERNIGHT CONFIRMATION RETREAT WEEKEND (REQUIRED)** - DECEMBER 4-6, 2020. Students arrive Friday evening and go home Sunday afternoon.

- ❑ **PRAYER:** We will be providing many opportunities within the body of the program to learn about the many ways to pray. We hope that you will be praying on your own, with your sponsor and family through this journey. It is our hope that you will come to know your basic prayers...**The Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Apostle's Creed, and Act of Contrition** as well as become comfortable with **personal prayer** and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.
- ❑ **STEWARDSHIP PROJECT:** Since we are called to serve one another, we ask the teens to share some of their God given time, talent, and treasure. We will require each confirmation small group to collectively design/implement a way to serve people in need. This can include food drives, soup kitchen, visiting the elderly, drives for the homeless, and more! If for some reason you cannot participate/attend your particular small groups service project, you will be asked to join another groups project.
- ❑ **CHOOSING A SAINT NAME:** A Confirmation name is that of a saint whose life symbolizes for you what it means to live as a Christian. In October, during one of our regularly scheduled classes we will discuss how to choose a patron saint for confirmation. Those who want to begin thinking about the process now can look up saints by topic on the following websites: <http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>, [www.catholic-forum.com](http://www.catholic-forum.com) and [www.catholicity.com](http://www.catholicity.com). Throughout the year, each week a few students will explain to the group why they have chosen the saint they picked. The sponsor's name along with a sponsor certificate from his or her parish (unless the parish is Saint Joseph) will also be due by Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ❑ **CHOOSING YOUR SPONSOR:** A sponsor is a confirmed and practicing Catholic **other than a parent**. The sponsor is a representative of the whole Church and its philosophy that our faith is interactive and dependent on God and one another. The sponsor is the candidate's "spiritual faith partner" for this journey and therefore agrees to share, pray, support, and present their candidate for the sacrament. We ask the sponsor to come to a few gatherings such as the Enrollment Ceremony and communicate with you one on one. We understand that they might not be able to attend everything, so please feel free to have your parent proxy. **\*\*Please note that your sponsor will need a sponsor certificate from the parish where they are currently an active member.** Please have the sponsor put their candidate's name in the upper right corner of the certificate.
- ❑ **PRAY & CONSIDER A SPONSOR:** Think about who you might like to mentor you along this journey. And then use the basic minimum guidelines for being a practicing Catholic below. If they cannot check off all of these, then ask your potential sponsor if they are willing to start fresh. Otherwise, you might want to pray about finding another sponsor. Any of the CORE are willing to help you too! We strongly urge you to choose your godparent if they are still practicing their Catholic faith, to signify the unity of the two sacraments of initiation.

**Guiding Questions:**

- \_\_\_ Are they 16 or older, not a parent, and already confirmed?
- \_\_\_ Do they try and follow the commandments that God gave to Moses?
- \_\_\_ Do they go to Mass on Sundays, not just major holidays?
- \_\_\_ Do they believe that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Christ?
- \_\_\_ Do they use the gift of Reconciliation (Confession) at least once a year or more?
- \_\_\_ Do they observe Lent and its days of fasting and abstinence?
- \_\_\_ Are they using their God given gifts to help the needs of others or the church?



**2020-2021 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM**

St. Joseph's Parish, 10 H. Putnam Ext, Charlton, MA 01507

**Must be completed online** (Please check website or email for link)

**Candidate Name First/Last:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Saint Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Name First/Last:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's First Name AND Maiden Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*SPONSORS MUST NOT BE A PARENT\*\***

**Sponsor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sponsor Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Parish City State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please provide a baptismal certificate for your teen if they were NOT baptized at St. Joseph Church. You can call the church where they were baptized to obtain this record. Please ask them to mail a copy of the baptismal certificate to: St. Joseph Parish, PO Box 338, Charlton City, MA 01508, ATTN: Deacon Bill Shea.\*\***

**If you were baptized at St. Joseph/Charlton, please give approximate date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Not Baptised at St. Joe's Name of Parish/Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list ONE retreat/real world experience** you've completed or plan to this year (refer to Faith Encounters on the Areas of Preparation form): \_\_\_\_\_

**DUE BY SUNDAY, December 13th:**

- Confirmation Candidate Information Form - filled out online (This online form includes a place for baptism/communion and current picture to be submitted. Also there are sections for the Saint Paragraph and Small group Service Project Reflection).
- Two Pictures - one from Baptism OR First Holy Communion AND a current picture. Submit via online form. Or emailed to [lifeteen@stjosephscharlton.com](mailto:lifeteen@stjosephscharlton.com) if issue. No physical copies please.
- Saint Paragraph - Who, What, When, Where, Why you chose them, Fun Fact
- Small Group Service Project - Reflection or Plan - What you did, how you did it, what did you learn, where/how did you see Christ?
- Sponsor Certificate IF they are NOT at St. Joseph's in Charlton- stating that your teens' sponsor is an active parishioner at their parish. Your teens' sponsor will need to contact their parish and ask their pastor for a sponsor certificate. Please make sure that your teens' name is written on the certificate in the upper right-hand corner.
- Copy of Baptism Certificate - IF student was NOT baptized at St. Joseph in Charlton.