

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION PACKET 2020-2021

Welcome, Confirmation Student. We are delighted that you are taking this important step in your faith journey. This is a time for you to explore your faith and ask all of the questions you would like answered. We are here to help you learn about every aspect of the faith that you want to explore. As the weeks go by you will notice that we focus mainly on the yearly calendar called the liturgical Calendar as one guide to our topics selections. Our whole faith revolves around the liturgy or the Mass. This helps us each year to celebrate the moments in the Roman Catholic faith we hold dear to us as a Catholic community. Each week is another opportunity to understand an aspect of our faith on a deeper level. As you grow older and have gained life experiences good and bad, you will understand the celebrations from a different point of view. Take this time to learn as much as you can, but realize you will always be learning and experiencing as you live your life. This is just the beginning of your faith journey. As it is said in the Liturgy, we are on a Pilgrim's Journey. It means we take what we can and keep growing and moving closer to the Journey's End, Heaven.

May the Lord grant you the gift of faith. May you accept and grow with that gift every day.

IMPORTANT INFO & DATES TO REMEMBER

(Please read entire document to the student also.)

The date for the Sacrament of Confirmation: TBD, at 7:00 pm, at St. Joseph Parish Activity Center (PAC). Students need to be in the double classroom at 6:15.

Please note: all the dates for confirmation are scheduled by the Bishop's office, in keeping with the Bishop's schedule. We have no choice in the date assigned to the Parish.

Rehearsal for Confirmation: ___TBD___, 7:00-8:00 pm at the PAC. Candidates and sponsors are required to be at the rehearsal. Confession will be available after practice and a pizza party and social time will follow Confession. (Remember that candidates are to be free of sin before Confirmation.)

PARENT MEETING AND COMMITMENT:

- **Parent Meeting:** Tuesday, September 3, 2020, at 7:00 pm-8:30 pm at the PAC (parent only)
- **Commitment Mass:** Sunday, October 20, 2020, at **11:00 am Mass** at the PAC, parents, and candidates are required to attend.

RETREAT(S)*:

- **6th, 7th & 8th Grade Retreat** – Friday January 29, 2021, at 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm with Net Ministries at the PAC.
- **Confirmation Retreat** – Saturday, January 30, 2021, from 9am-5pm with Net Ministries at the PAC

*Non-parishioners: nonrefundable Registration and Retreat fees: \$150/student and retreat fees if in 8th grade \$65. Retreat fees are not reduced for catechists or aides.

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CLASS ATTENDANCE

Sacraments Policy: Students in the year before sacramental preparation begins (1st and 6th grades) and the year of the sacramental preparation (2nd, 7th, and 8th grades) **must have a minimum of a 75% attendance record the entire year.** If a student's attendance less than 75%, a pastoral conference with Father Trapp will be required to determine if the student is ready to move to the next grade level.

SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Sunday Mass is vitally important to your spiritual growth. During the weekly Sunday Mass, we hear the Word of God and we are nourished by the gift of the Eucharist. The Lord thought it was so important that he made it a commandment. So not participating in Mass is a sin. Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is making a commitment to live as a Catholic Christian for the rest of your lives. Sunday Mass is to be the center and the beginning of our week. The Mass provides for us a time of giving thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Just as the Mass gives us gifts of Grace, I will give you a gift of candy if you have read this and can answer one question I have. Mass is our moment of time and our way as members of a community to be thankful for the blessings and graces that God has given us.

Consider that you are receiving a gift at Confirmation, the gift of the Holy Spirit. Sunday Mass puts you into the right "*Disposition*" to receive the great gifts of the Holy Spirit. To just show up and be confirmed by the bishop, without regularly participating in Sunday Mass, now and in the following years of your life, is not making an effort to have a commitment to one's faith and not acting in respectful way of receiving the desired gift.

SERVICE HOURS:

Service hours are an important component in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Service hours provide the opportunity of giving loving Christian witness. Our lives as Catholic Christians are to be spent in service to the Gospel, performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and living by the Precepts of the Catholic Church. Service hours are a reminder to us to put the needs of others before our own needs.

A total of 30 service hours is required. Your service is to be divided into 3 categories with a total of (10) ten service hours in each category. These categories are for home, community, and church. This is to be arranged with at least two (2) different service projects, totaling ten hours in each for: home, community, and church. Please ***do not repeat*** the same project twice. (i.e. if you mow the lawn at home you cannot list mow the lawn for church, or community.) **We no longer accept babysitting as a service for home. We want these experiences to be outside of normal chores to help the family.**

When a service project is finished, please fill out the form enclosed in this packet. It is to be signed by the supervisor of the project. If you have any questions about if a project can count towards service hours, please ask. Keep them all to hand in on the due date with your writings.

IDEAS FOR SERVICE

(These are suggestions only & not a full list of possible service hours):

Home: (Check last year's Christmas bulletin for more Church ideas.)

- Help clean house or yard work around the house - *without pay*
- Make dinner for the family
- Elderly neighbor or grandparents: yard work or household chores

Community

- Helping with civic organizations (*Boy/Girl Scouts, The Plain City Food Pantry, Clothes Thrift Shop*)
- Helping in a school
- Blessed Week Ever Summer Camp (Completes 9 your hours for Community. Find one hour on your own.)

Church

- See the Christmas Bulletin from the last two years for a list, not comprehensive, but close.

Services hours are to be completed by Sunday, February 21, 2021. Turn all your service project reports into your teacher on the due date with your Writings.

CONFIRMATION WRITING:

To insure you are properly prepared to be presented to the Bishop we are asking you five questions. In preparation for Confirmation, you are to write a two-page essay briefly talking about your spiritual life. ***This writing is due on Sunday, February 21, 2021.***

The essay is to contain and give detail in the following areas:

1. Talk with your parents about the day of your baptism and why they wanted you baptized.
2. Why is the Gift of the Eucharist at the Mass important to you?
3. Who is the saint you have chosen for your confirmation (Saint) name and why you wish that saint for a role model in your life. (Make sure you fully research your saint for the interview with Father. He does ask questions. More detailed instructions to follow.)
4. To write about your favorite passage of sacred Scripture that you studied in preparation for Confirmation.
5. Why you chose the person to be your confirmation sponsor and the importance of their Christian witness that they have given to you.

**** Confirmation Essay is due: Sunday, February 21, 2021.**

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

Prior to Confirmation, interviews with Father Trapp will be conducted. All interviews must be scheduled through Sign-Up Genius or with Maria Vonada at the parish office (614-873-8850) in advance. Students should be prepared to answer questions that Father Trapp will ask. A parent or sponsor must attend this interview. The following dates and times have been allotted for the interviews:

Monday, March 8, 3-5pm and 7-9pm

Wednesday, March 15, 3-5pm and 7-9pm

Wednesday, March 17, 3-5pm and 7-9 pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION INFORMATION:

Baptismal Certificate

Each candidate is to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate so that your church where you were baptized may be notified that you have been confirmed. If your baptism took place at Saint Joseph in Plain City, there is no need to give a copy of your baptismal certificate. This information can be found in the Parish Registry. (If you have any doubt as to whether the office has a copy of your Baptism Certificate, please call Maria Vonada at 614-873-8850.)

Confirmation Saint Name

Each candidate should choose a confirmation name. Confirmation names must be that of a saint of the church. The choosing of a new name is a sign of your new identity in Christ, and the desiring of a particular saint to help you live out your Christian life. You may retake your given name as your confirmation name if it is a saint's name.

Confirmation Sponsor

To show the connection between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the church suggests that your confirmation sponsor should be one of your baptismal godparents. You are free to choose a totally new sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

When choosing your sponsor use this year to spend time with other adults in your life that are catholic. This should be more than your family and your grandparents. The Catholic faith is a worldwide community. This is your chance to be a part of the larger church. Expand your circle of Catholic friends.

If your sponsor is unable to attend the confirmation, a proxy sponsor may be used to stand in for your sponsor.

Parents can not be a sponsor for their own children.

Parents can not act in proxy for a sponsor for their own children.

The following requirements must be fulfilled to be a sponsor for confirmation:

1. Must be a baptized Catholic, fully initiated in the Catholic faith (received First Holy and Communion and Confirmation.)
2. Over the age of 16.
3. Must be practicing and living the Catholic faith: Regularly attending Sunday Mass.
4. If married, having a validly recognized marriage by the Catholic Church.
5. A proxy sponsor must fulfill all of the requirements as the pointed sponsor.

Sponsors for Confirmation must provide a letter from their parish stating that they are:

1. Registered members of the Parish and regularly practicing their faith.
2. If married, having a validly recognized marriage by the Catholic Church.
3. Signed by the Pastor with the seal of the Parish Church.

All parishes provide a form letter stating this information. In most cases, the parish secretary takes care of this information for the Pastor. They will understand what you mean when you ask for a letter to be a Confirmation Sponsor.

Sponsor Information is due on: ***Sunday, February 21, 2021.***