



St. Joseph the Good Provider
52 West Street, P.O. Box 284, Berlin, MA 01503
Confirmation Preparation



Guidelines: As you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is important for you to personally reflect on how well you have been living out your baptismal call to be Christ's presence in the world. Have you ever asked yourself: Am I truly a living sign of Christ in the world? Do I see Jesus in those I encounter? Do others encounter Jesus in me?

If you haven't, these next several months of preparation will be the perfect time to really focus on these question and the ways you may need to challenge yourself to make service more of a priority in your life! If you have, these next several months will help you to grow into an even stronger disciple of Jesus.

What this activity and reflection will help you do is to examine your everyday life, your actions, your choices, and your responses to the needs of others and to honestly see where you need to become more Christ-like.

Over the course of the next several months, you are asked to serve others using the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and Gifts of the Holy Spirit listed below as guidelines as well as the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching and then reflect on your experience.

Some of the works may seem very straightforward, like "Feeding the hungry". Others you may need to think about a bit more, for example, "Help the imprisoned" may refer to those in prison, but it may also refer to those who may be homebound (unable to leave their home due to illness, age or ability). It would be great to talk to your parents and sponsor about how to make these works of mercy part of your life.

Although you should strive to do as many of the works as you can, as much as you can, you are asked to write a short reflection each month highlighting just ONE of the ways in which you were Christ's presence to someone in need. It would be AWESOME to try to do all 14 of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy over the months of preparation

Corporal Works of Mercy

- + Feed the hungry
- + Give drink to the thirsty
- + Shelter the homeless
- + Clothe the naked
- + Care for the sick
- + Help the imprisoned
- + Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- + Share knowledge
- + Give advice to those who need it
- + Comfort those who suffer
- + Be patient with others
- + Forgive those who hurt you
- + Give correction to those who need it
- + Pray for the living and the dead

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

Gifts of the Holy /Spirit

Holy Spirit, divine Consoler, I adore You as my true God, with God the Father and God the Son. I adore You and unite myself to the adoration You receive from the angels and saints.

I give You my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which You never cease to bestow on me.

O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me the gift of holy **Fear of The Lord** so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

Grant me the gift of **Piety**, so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe your divine precepts with greater fidelity.

Grant me the gift of **Knowledge**, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.

Grant me the gift of **Fortitude**, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.

Grant me the gift of **Counsel**, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter.

Grant me the gift of **Understanding**, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this miserable world.

Grant me the gift of **Wisdom**, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next.

Amen.



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Choosing Your Sponsor
Please chose a sponsor by October 1, 2020



What does the word “sponsor” mean?

The word “sponsor” comes from the Latin word *spondere*, which means to "give assurance, promise solemnly" By definition “sponsor” means:

- ◇ one who presents a candidate for baptism or confirmation and undertakes responsibility for the person's religious education or spiritual welfare
- ◇ one who assumes responsibility for some other person or thing
- ◇ The word “sponsor” also comes from the same root word as the word “responsible.”

Basic Church requirements to be considered as a sponsor:

To be qualified to be chosen as a Confirmation sponsor an individual must:

- ◇ Be at least sixteen years old (by date of Confirmation)
- ◇ Have been initiated in the Catholic Church through the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist and be in good standing with the Church
- ◇ Display a visible commitment to living out the Catholic faith and have the ability and intention to carry out his/her responsibility as a spiritual guide in your life.
- ◇ If your sponsor is not a member of St. Joseph’s Parish a letter is needed from the parish they belong to stating they are a Catholic in good standing.

Other considerations when selecting a Confirmation sponsor:

- ◇ A sponsor CANNOT be a parent of the one to be confirmed.
- ◇ Each Confirmation candidate may only choose ONE sponsor
- ◇ Because the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely connected, Church teaching states that it is “desirable that the godparent at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation”, however the selection of a special sponsor is also permitted.
- ◇ If your sponsor is unable to attend the actual Sacrament of Confirmation, another adult (including a parent), may stand in his/her place as a proxy. The name of your sponsor will still be noted in the official Church record of your Confirmation
- ◇ Things to think about before you ask someone to be your sponsor:
 - Your sponsor should be willing and able to participate in your formation for Confirmation.
 - The person you choose as your sponsor should be someone that you admire and respect and who actively lives out the beliefs of our Catholic faith.
 - Your sponsor should be someone that you trust and feel comfortable turning to for help, advice and guidance, especially in regard to your spiritual life.
 - Your sponsor should be someone who, through his/her example, shows you what it means to be Catholic and who will take an active role in your preparation for Confirmation.
- ◇ After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor DOES NOT END! You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service.
- ◇ PRAY! Spend some time asking God for guidance on who to choose as your sponsor.



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Confirmation Saint Project

Due: 18 October 2020



Choosing Your Saint

1. Pray! Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to your saint.
2. Research. Learn about our faith's wonderful witnesses to love and true life. If you need help feel free to ask. Below are some websites to start doing research on your Saint. I encourage you once you find your Saint (or once your Saint reveals themselves to you) to find books and other extra resources available on your Saint.

- a. (A-Z List of Saints) www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php
- b. (A-Z List of Patronage) www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php

What To Do Once You Have a Saint

1. The project should be on poster board 14 x 16 or 16x 20 (if you need poster board, I can provide one for you).
2. Include your personal info: Name, Date of Baptism, (picture if possible), Date of First Communion (picture if possible)
3. Saint info, include the following:
4. Picture, name, typed paragraph on the history of your Saint,
5. Typed paragraph about why you picked this Saint and
6. How you hope to follow this Saint to Jesus (what do you admire about this Saint)
7. Bible info, include the following:
 - a. Your favorite Bible verse,
 - b. At least one paragraph explaining how this passage has impacted your life.
8. Catholic info, including:
 - a. What do you love about being Catholic?
 - b. What is confirmation?
 - c. Why do you want to be confirmed?



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PRE-CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW



These interview questions are designed to assess your understanding and readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This “Pre-Confirmation Interview” will also provide us with an opportunity to answer your questions and encourage you as they make your final preparations to receive the sacrament.

1. How would you describe your journey toward Confirmation? What have you enjoyed about grade 9? What have you found challenging?
2. How have you grown during these months of preparation?
3. Have you experienced any changes in your relationships with those around you?
4. Has your relationship with God changed? In what ways?
5. If you were to meet someone who had never heard of Jesus, who would you say he is? How would you describe your relationship with him?
6. What are some things you like about being Catholic? Are there things about the Church that you find challenging or difficult? Are there things you find inspiring?
7. What is prayer? How do you pray?
8. What is the Bible? What role does Scripture play in your life?
9. What is sin? What are some things you can do to avoid it?
10. Can you name the sacraments? How do the sacraments help you live out your faith?
11. What is the Eucharist? Has your understanding of and participation in the Mass changed in anyway?
12. What is Confirmation? Why do you want to receive this sacrament?
13. How will you live out your faith as a confirmed, adult member of the Church? What talents or gifts has God given you that will help to build his kingdom?
14. What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Can you name the Fruits of the Holy Spirit? How are they related? Why are they important?
15. What saint name did you choose? Why?
16. Who is your Confirmation sponsor? Why did you choose him or her?
17. What are some ways you can discern God’s will for your life?
18. What are some things you can do to continue to grow in your faith?
19. If someone asked you how to get to heaven, what would you say?
20. Do you have any questions before receiving Confirmation?



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Candidate Commitment

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
 Jeremiah 29:21

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 sessions and activities.
- ◇ 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:(Print) _____

Signature of Candidate: _____

Date: _____

Witnessed by:

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