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Checklist and Timeline

- ❑ Confirmation Information Sheet returned to church secretary by **Dec 1, 2020** (any changes MUST be communicated to secretary. This information is used for the Confirmation programs)
- ❑ Sponsor Documentation for Confirmation returned to church secretary by **Dec 1, 2021**
- ❑ Candidate and Sponsor Discussions (suggested weekly)
- ❑ Letter to Bishop requesting Confirmation completed and turned in to teacher by **Nov 15, 2021**
- ❑ Saint Research Paper completed and turned in to teacher by **Nov 15, 2021**
- ❑ Service and Activity Expectations complete prior to Confirmation
- ❑ Interview with Father complete prior to Confirmation

OVERVIEW OF CONFIRMATION

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION, AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation. A sacrament is an external sign that gives you grace from God. Confirmation, as it is a sacrament of initiation, completes your membership in the Catholic faith. It is NOT graduation from the Church, but rather just the opposite, a link that creates a closer bond with the Church. It is a sacrament of spiritual strengthening.

You need Confirmation because it completes the graces you received at Baptism. It gives you the Holy Spirit; it seals you with the Holy Spirit and helps you to bear witness to the Christian faith in your words and actions.¹ It commits you to the Church and her mission and empowers you to be a soldier for Christ.

AM I AN ADULT IN THE CHURCH AFTER CONFIRMATION?

Prior to popular belief, receiving the sacrament of confirmation does not “make you an adult” in the Church, but it is a sacrament that bears with it maturity and deeper commitment. Because you are more closely bound to the Church and Christ, you have more responsibilities regarding defending the Church and living a Catholic Christian life. After Confirmation you will be fully initiated into the Christian community, as a full member of the Church, your responsibilities increase and more is expected of you. To assist in these new demands, you will be given the Holy Spirit so you do not have to rely on your own strength.

HOW MUCH DO YOU CARE?

“Here I am Lord, send me!”

If this is your response to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, then this year of preparation will be filled with great spiritual growth for you. Pray for the grace to embrace all of the trials and joys that Christ has for you.

“I will do it, but I don’t have to like it”

If this is where you are at, then you are willing to make the effort and that is the first step. You may be surprised at how much joy you find in participating in the life of Christ and his Church. To have a positive experience, I encourage you to have a positive attitude!

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1316.*

“Anoint me or whatever and let me go already!”

Chances are you are here because your parents have brought you to be here against your will. We thank your parents. They are fulfilling the commitment they made at your baptism to raise you in the Catholic faith. Throughout this year, you will be asked to do a number of things that, if you are willing to open your heart, will bring you into an encounter with Christ. You will have to enter this year by giving up the “graduation” attitude. We want you to want to choose Christ.

EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION

- Special out-pouring of the Holy Spirit
- Brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace
- Unites us more firmly to Christ
- Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- Makes our bond with the Church more perfect
- Gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly and never be ashamed of the Cross
- Permanent mark on your soul

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

After you are confirmed, you will be a full member of the Catholic faith, so to prepare you for that, this time of preparation will aim at leading you more toward an intimate union with Christ, more lively familiarity to the Holy Spirit, and to awaken a sense of belonging to the Catholic Church. Please see the Confirmation Expectations for expected activities to choose from to help you grow and prepare for Confirmation.

SELECTING A SPONSOR

All Confirmation candidates are asked to select a Confirmation sponsor. The role of a sponsor is to “see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.”²

The sponsor must be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

² Code of Canon Law, 892.

- Must be chosen by the Confirmation candidate
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be a Confirmed Catholic and already have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and lead a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith and the role of a sponsor.
- Must be in good standing with the Catholic Church
- Cannot be a father or mother of the one to be Confirmed
- Cannot be a boyfriend or girlfriend.

It is preferred that one of the Confirmation candidate's Godparents be selected as the sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, but this is not required.

You and your sponsor must fill out the required paperwork and return it to the DRE by the date indicated. There will also be times during the year that you will be asked to meet with your sponsor.

SAINT REFLECTION PAPER

Another aspect of preparation for Confirmation is the selection of a saint name. As Catholics, we look to the saints as examples of faith. In our own journey toward salvation, we look to the Saints to aid us in our personal struggles against sin and temptations. The Saints are a part of the Body of Christ, the Church, just as much as the person sitting in front of you at Mass. So in order to get to know these members of the Church better, you will be required to write a reflection paper about a saint. You may still keep the name you were baptized with at your Confirmation, but you will be required to write a reflection paper about a saint.

MASS ATTENDANCE

It is important for your spiritual growth and strengthening to participate in Eucharistic liturgies. It is also a mortal sin to miss Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation. If for some reason you miss Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation, you must go to confession before you may receive Communion again.

- Holy Days of Obligation include:
 - January 1 – Mary, Mother of God
 - Easter Sunday
 - August 15 – Assumption of Mary
 - November 1 – All Saint's day
 - December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 - December 25 – Christmas day

INTERVIEWS

You will have to have an interview with Father George before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. More information will be given at a later date. These are nothing to be nervous about; it is a chance to get to know you better and to evaluate where you are at in your Catholic faith and your readiness to be confirmed.

PARENTS ROLE

The role of the parent(s) is vitally important in their child's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Father and the teachers cannot possibly relay all the faith information and things they need to know in that limited amount of time (although I will make a valiant effort). In order for them to be ready to LIVE their Catholic faith on a daily basis, we need you to help.

❖ How you can help:

- Talk with your child about Confirmation class
- Pray with them and/or as a family
- Pray for them
- Make it easy for them to attend Mass by going with them, or giving them the means to get there
- Talk with them about school and their struggles
- Guide them to make good moral decisions

Your child needs your support and guiding hand to enable them to be a good, faithful Catholic! You are also invited to attend Confirmation classes with your child at any time.

Service and Activity Expectations:

Confirmation: Becoming a Full Member

of the Catholic Church

Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. . . . We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service. (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Jesus asks us to serve him in any way that we can. This can be by using our talents, giving our time, and/or sharing our treasures. As a soon-to-be full member of the Catholic Church, we want to give you opportunities to find your passions for Jesus and how you can serve Him.

These are some activities that you are highly encouraged and expected to do before Confirmation (please do at least 7):

- *Proclaim (4 times minimum)
- *Song Leader or Choir Member (4 times minimum)
- *Altar Server (4 times minimum)
- *Usher/Greeter/Gifts (4 times minimum)
- Retreats (as many as you can- these are great opportunities for growth!)
 - o **Options available as of this printing:**
 - **Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, all weekend retreats have been cancelled at this time. Virtual retreats may be available and will be announced as they are offered.**
- VBS Volunteer
- Knights of Columbus supper
- Cookie Sale helper
- Fall Auction helper
- Funeral helpers (at least 2 funerals)
- Plan and execute a fundraiser or offer your time to a local charity (Lifecare Pregnancy Center, Roseau Food Shelf, etc.)
- Other acts of service to be discussed with DRE

*Contact Shelly to be put on the ministry schedule

Sponsor/Candidate discussion questions

- **Questions for the Sponsor**
 - Take a few minutes to share your faith story with your candidate
 - How have you come to know God more personally in your life?
 - How have you seen God working in your life?
 - What was your Confirmation experience like?
 - Do you pray? What does your prayer look like?
- **Questions for the Candidate**
 - Describe your relationship with God.
 - Do you know God in a personal way? Do you feel close to God? Why or why not?
 - Do you pray? When and how do you pray?
 - How have you seen God working in your life?
 - What is your experience of Confirmation like so far?
- **Questions for the Sponsor**
 - What are some struggles you face in your relationship with God?
 - What do you value most or like most about being Catholic?
 - Why is your Catholic faith important to you?
 - What is your favorite bible passage or story? Why? (take time to look up and read the passage)
 - How have you seen God working in your life or someone else's life?
- **Questions for the Candidate**
 - What are some struggles you face in your relationship with God?
 - What do you value most or like most about being Catholic?
 - Why is your Catholic faith important to you?
 - What is your favorite bible passage or story? Why? (take time to look up and read it)
 - How have you seen God working in your life or someone else's life?
- **Questions for the Sponsor**
 - Did your life change after Confirmation?
 - What do you feel is the call of Christ in your life as a Confirmed member of the Catholic Church? How do you live out that call?
 - What are you doing to be a responsible member of the Catholic faith after Confirmation that you did not do before?
- **Questions for the Candidate**
 - With does it mean to you to become a Confirmed Catholic? How do you think it will change your faith?
 - How do you think you will live out your Catholic faith life after Confirmation? How are you living out your Catholic faith life now?
 - How do you want Confirmation to make a difference in the way you relate to God and the Catholic church?
 - Why are you being Confirmed?
 - What will you do to be a responsible member of the Catholic faith after Confirmation that you did not do before?
- **Questions for the Sponsor**

- What are you looking forward to most about this year with your candidate?
- What would you have done differently at your Confirmation that you would like to pass onto your candidate?
- **Questions for the Candidate**
 - What do you enjoy most about this year of Confirmation preparation?
 - Why have you chosen this person for your sponsor? (tell them why you selected them as your sponsor)

Discussion questions and study on The Holy Spirit

Take time to open your discussion together in prayer

- How has the Confirmation process been going so far? What are you enjoying most about this time of preparation?
 - What have you learned about your Catholic faith that you did not know before Confirmation?
 - What do you value most about being Catholic?
 - Are you excited about fully entering the Catholic Church? Why or why not?
 - What do you not yet understand about your Catholic faith?
 - What can you do to prepare yourself for Confirmation? How can I as your sponsor help?
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The first time you received the Holy Spirit was at your Baptism. At Confirmation you will receive the “seal of the Holy Spirit.” This means that you will receive the Holy Spirit in a new way. This time is designed to help you discover Who it is exactly you will be encountering at your Confirmation, and what to expect from Him. Using your CCC and Bible look up and discuss the different passages. They will help you to understand what the Church and Scripture teach about the Holy Spirit and what you will be the result from the “seal of the Holy Spirit.”

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit “proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and Son he is worshiped and glorified.” The Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son. The love between the Father and Son is so intimate, that it takes on the form of another person, the Holy Spirit.

- **According to the CCC, who is the first to awaken faith in us? (CCC 684)**
- **In what ways do we see the Holy Spirit working in the Church today (CCC 688)**
- **What are some of the symbols of the Holy Spirit? (CCC 694-701)**
- **What symbols are you familiar with?**
- **Where have you seen or encountered these symbols (i.e. paintings, sculptures, Scripture)?**

The Holy Spirit in Scripture

The Hebrew word for “spirit” is *ruah*, which means, “wind,” “breath,” or “spirit.”

Look up these Scripture passages.

- **What word in the English language is used to refer to the Holy Spirit?**
- **Where do you see the Holy Spirit present?**
- **What is the work of the Holy Spirit in this Scripture, what is He doing?**
- **What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from this passage (how is he described, what symbols are used to describe Him)?**

Genesis 1:1-2
Genesis 2:7
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Joel 2:28-32
Luke 1:26-38
Matthew 3:13-17
John 14:16-17
John 19:30
Matthew 28:18-20
Acts 2:1-4 (this is the Scriptural reference for Confirmation)
Acts 2:32-33
Romans 5:5

Do you see any themes that are repeated in reference to the Holy Spirit in these passages? What are they?

- **What other Scripture passages do you know, not listed here, that refer to the Holy Spirit?**
- **Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to us as a gift. What Scripture verse from above references that? When did Jesus give us his Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit comes to us with 12 fruits and 7 gifts.

- **The CCC 1830-1832 lists the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. What are the 7 gifts, what are the 12 fruits? What is the difference between a gift of the Holy Spirit and a fruit of the Holy Spirit? Why do we need both?**

(Gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord)

(Fruits: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity)

Listed below are Scripture passages that list the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Questions to discuss after reading *each* Scripture passage:

- **Does the Scripture passage refer to the gifts or fruits of the Spirit?**
- **What do you learn about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit?**
- **What do you learn about the role that the fruits and gifts of the Spirit are to have in your life?**

Isaiah 11:1-5
Galatians 5:16-25
2 Corinthians 6:4-10
1 Timothy 4:11-16
2 Peter 1:3-10
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- **After reading these Scripture passages, why have the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit been given to us? What do we need them for?**
- **Which gifts of the Holy Spirit would you like to receive and/or grow in at your Confirmation? Why? How would you use that gift?**
 - **For the Sponsor: What gift(s) of the Holy Spirit did you receive at your Confirmation? How are you using that gift?**
- **Which fruits of the Holy Spirit would you like to grow in as a result of your Confirmation? Why?**
 - **For the Sponsor: What fruits of the Holy Spirit did you grow in as a result of your Confirmation?**

- **Are there any gifts or fruits of the Holy Spirit that you do not understand? If so, which ones? Look for answers to your questions in the Scripture passages, and CCC.**
- Take time to close your discussion together in prayer
- Set up a time to meet with each other – go out for lunch, go to mass together, go to a movie together, etc. Commit to staying in contact.

Wisdom: CCC 1830-1831 – with the gift of wisdom you see God at work in your life and in the world. For the wise person, the wonders of nature, historical events, and the ups and downs of our lives take on a deeper meaning and purpose.

- Wisdom enables you to know the purpose and plan of God.
- This gift helps you to see yourself and others as God does
- Wisdom is believing in God’s plan, while we only see a few of the card, God has the whole deck.
- Wisdom is praying for guidance and being willing to listen to and accept the answer.
- Wisdom is knowing how and when to use the gifts in your life
- It is having the ways and thoughts of God

Understanding: CCC 1830-1831 – with the gift of understanding, you can comprehend how you need to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. A person with understanding is not confused by all the conflicting messages in our culture about the right way to live.

- The gift of understanding empowers us to penetrate into the deeper meaning and beauty of Creation, Scripture and Jesus.
- Understanding is seeing and feeling with the heart – seeing and feeling Jesus in others.
- Understanding is seeing more deeply – getting past the tough parts of now. Problems are only opportunities with thorns on them.

Counsel or Right Judgement: CCC 1830-1831 – with the gift of counsel, you know the difference between right and wrong, and you choose to do what is right. A person with the gift of counsel avoids sin and lives out the values taught by Jesus.

- The gift of counsel empowers us to know the right decisions to make in our life – to choose good and avoid evil.
- Counsel is looking for deeper meaning behind events.
- Counsel is knowing when to try harder.

Fortitude (courage) : CCC 1830-1831 –with the gift of fortitude or courage, you overcome your fear and are willing to take risks as a follower of Jesus. A person with courage is willing to stand up for what is right in the sight of God, even if it means accepting rejection, verbal abuse or even physical harm or death.

- Fortitude is the courage to live out your faith, to live as Jesus calls us to live, to live in obedience to his commandments.
- Fortitude ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in doing good
- Fortitude is not being afraid to do what is right. It helps us stand up to peer pressure.
- Fortitude is witnessing to the faith in your everyday life.

Knowledge: CCC 1830-1831 – with the gift of knowledge, you understand the meaning of God’s revelation especially as expressed in the life and words of Jesus Christ. A person with knowledge is always learning more about the Scriptures and teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Knowledge is knowing our God and being in a relationship with him, knowledge should always lead to a greater love of God.
- Knowledge is the power to see that everything comes from God, is pointing to and leading to God.
- Knowledge is seeing as the Spirit sees.

- Knowledge is being guided by the Spirit – letting go and letting God.
- Knowledge is focusing on what really counts and keeping our priorities straight.

Piety: CCC 1830-1831 – with the gift of piety or reverence, you have a deep sense of respect for God and the Church. A person with reverence recognizes he or her total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust and love.

- Piety is having devotion to God.
- Piety is also referred to as the religious sense in people – people that do religious things
- Piety is the moment when the Holy Spirit touches our hearts in a profound way
- Piety awakens in us the mystery of God
- Piety is knowing that God is near, seeing him in simple everyday things; nature and friends.
- Piety is knowing Christ lives in me – I am His hands, his voice – radiating his spirit.
- Piety is focusing on God in prayer
- Piety is a desire to pray and a desire to be close to God. This gift makes prayer easier.

Wonder and awe or Fear of the Lord: CCC 1830-1831 – with the gift of Fear of the Lord, or wonder and awe, you are aware of the glory and majesty of God. A person with the gift of the fear of the Lord knows that God is the perfection of all that we desire: perfect knowledge, perfect goodness, perfect power and perfect love.

- Fear of the Lord is awe and reverence before God; it is being aware of how great our God is and how good our God is and having that wonder and that awe for our God.
- Fear of the Lord is an awareness of the splendor of God. It is not being afraid of him or fearful of him. It is the feeling that we would feel around someone important.
- The closer we are to God the more we are aware of our sinfulness and God’s holiness. The farther away from God that we are, the less aware we are of our sinfulness and God’s holiness.
- Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security – there is comfort in knowing that there is someone bigger than we are.
- This gift makes it more difficult to sin because you do not want to offend God.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit: CCC 1832

- The fruits are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity
- The fruits of the Holy Spirit are perfections that come in us as a result of the presence of the Holy Spirit and from living a Christian life
- The fruits of the Holy Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the “first fruits” of eternal glory.
- These come with hard work and are a result of our labor – they are fruit and do not just come naturally from having the Holy Spirit. They take time to develop and grow, just like fruit on a tree takes time to grow, mature and become ripe.

Litany to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, *inspire us with the horror of sin.*
 Holy Spirit, *come and renew the face of the earth.*
 Holy Spirit *shed Your light in our souls.*
 Holy Spirit, *engrave Your law in our hearts.*
 Holy Spirit, *inflame us with the flame of Your love.*
 Holy Spirit, *open to us the treasures of Your graces.*
 Holy Spirit, *teach us to pray well.*
 Holy Spirit, *enlighten us with Your heavenly inspirations.*
 Holy Spirit, *lead us in the way of salvation.*
 Holy Spirit, *grant us the only necessary knowledge.*
 Holy Spirit, *inspire in us the practice of good.*
 Holy Spirit, *grant us the merits of all virtues.*

Holy Spirit, *make us persevere in justice.*

Holy Spirit, *be our everlasting reward.*

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,

Send us Your Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Pour down into our souls the gifts of the

Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.

Come Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Your faithful

And enkindle in us a fire of Your love.

Let us Pray

Grant, O merciful Father, that Your Divine Spirit enlighten, inflame and purify us, that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who with You, in the unity of the Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

Saint Reflection Paper

Saints were people that did ordinary things in extraordinary ways. They were people that struggled with temptation, and sin, but overcame it with God's grace. They are a sign of hope to us, that we too, can overcome our sin, and that we do not need to give into temptation. They are an example to us of the mercy of God; we can make mistakes and God loves and forgives us. Some saints were terrible sinners but experienced the mercy of God and became great saints.

Your saint report is a **REFLECTION** paper on information you read and researched about your saint. It is **not** a report about your saint's life.

Your paper could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- The name of your saint, when he/she lived and his/her feast day
- Why did you select this saint/name for Confirmation?
- An interesting story about this saint
- What impressed you most about this saint?
- Are there any correlations between this saint's life and your life? (i.e. the saint's parents were divorced). Why is this connection or correlation significant to you?
- How could the intercession of this saint help you in your everyday life? i.e. St. Anthony is the patron saint of lost things and he could help you because you lose things often
- Do you have any stories of how the intercession of this saint helped to answer a prayer of yours?
- Are there any famous prayers to this saint and do you pray them?

Again, it is important that this is not merely a report on your saint, (i.e. a paper that relays facts about his/her life) but rather your reflections, thoughts, and reactions after reading about your saint. Show that you have researched your saint and reflected on them in your paper.

Places to find out information about saints:

www.catholic.org

www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm

www.vatican.org

www.csn.net/advent

www.lifeteen.com

www.christusrex.org

www.catholicgoldmine.com

Books to check out:

Butler's Lives of the Saints

Saints of America by Rev. M.A. Habig, OFM

Saints by Elizabeth Hallam, editor

Saints for Confused Times by John Garvey

Pocket Dictionary of Saints by John J. Delaney

The Saints of Ireland by Hugh De Blacam

Patron Saints by Michael Walsh

Encyclopedia of Saints

Catholic Encyclopedia