

**CONFIRMATION - 2021
CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES**

**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
CLIFTON, VIRGINIA**



CANDIDATE'S NAME _____

September 2019

Welcome to St. Andrew the Apostle Sacramental Program for Confirmation.

This booklet explains all the requirements necessary for your child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is essential that the confirmation candidate, sponsor, and parents collectively participate in the two year Confirmation preparation process. By working together with the catechists and priests of the parish, the pastor and the diocese can be assured that the candidates are properly trained and well disposed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please review the material in the handbook and mark the deadline dates on your calendar. Your cooperation in accurately completing the forms and returning them to the religious education office in a timely manner is greatly appreciated.

Please work with your children to learn their prayers and the material covered in their Confirmation Study Guide. The greatest prayer is the Mass. It is so important for your family to attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Mass attendance is vital to the formation of your child. Each child will take a midterm and final exam and must receive a 70% or higher, be able to write or recite the Apostle's Creed, and will be interviewed to determine their readiness for the reception of the Sacrament. It is key for the faith to be lived in the home and for you work with and pray with your children.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation does not mean that one is "*choosing to be Catholic.*" We become Catholic through the Sacrament of Baptism. Additionally, this sacrament is not a "*graduation*" from religious education. On the contrary, through this sacrament, we are commanded by Christ to "*go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*" The Sacrament of Confirmation gives us a strengthening of baptismal grace and helps us to proclaim and defend the Faith! Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit, His actions, His gifts, and His biddings, in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. Confirmation is the beginning of a life that is to be lived for Christ.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. It is my pleasure to serve you.

In Christ,

Patty Laing

Director of Religious Education

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*Come, Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of Your faithful,
and kindle in us the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created,
and You shall renew the face of the earth.
Amen.*

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Under the direction of Bishop Burbidge, it is our firm desire that all Catholics know and live the Catholic Faith to the fullest. The students will receive a Confirmation Study Guide which includes questions Bishop Burbidge has provided with three main focus areas: Faith, Worship and Witness, as well as reflections for the candidates to consider. The Confirmation Test will be taken from points in the Study Guide. Students **MUST** pass the Confirmation tests with a grade of 70% or better and be able to write or recite the Apostles' Creed.

Faith ~ God is revealed to us through Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Worship ~ We encounter God through prayer and the Sacraments both as the Body of Christ and as individuals who have been baptized into life in Christ.

Witness ~ We live in the world as disciples of Christ who are called to share the Good News through service and evangelization.

1st Year (7th Grade) Requirements

Date Turned into the RE Office

- Letter of Intent – due Oct. 22, 2019, pg. 29 _____
- Confirmation Record Form – due Oct. 22, 2019, pg. 30
Baptismal Certificate or Profession of Faith must be attached _____
- Attend Confirmation 7 Retreat on Sat., Oct. 19, 2019 _____
- Sponsor Interview – due Feb. 11, 2020, pg. 27 _____
- Sponsor Promise – due Feb. 11, 2020, pg. 28 _____
- Saint Report – due Mar. 24, 2020, Guidelines, pg. 18 _____
- Confirmation Pre-Test – May 11 & 12, 2020 _____

2nd Year (8th Grade) Requirements

- Service Hour Form – due Sep. 29, 2020, pg. 20 _____
- Service Hour Experience Forms (4) – due Sep. 29, pgs. 21-24 _____
- Letter to the Pastor – due Oct. 27, 2020, pg. 26 _____
- Sponsor Eligibility Letter – due January 26, 2021 _____
- Gown Order Form – due Mar. 24, 2021, pg. 16 _____
- Attend Confirmation 8 Retreat – Spring 2021 _____
- Confirmation Test – Spring 2021 _____
- Confirmation Flower Donation Form (Optional), pg. 14 _____
- Family Priest Attendance Form (Optional), pg. 14 _____

PARENTS' DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. Through the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God.” (CCC 2223, 2225, and 2226).

As a parent, you have *the primary role* in the sacramental preparation process for your child. You will help your child grow in the faith as you prepare him/her for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. *Your attendance at Sunday Mass is vital.* Even more importantly, your interest, example, witness, and prayers make a difference in your child’s decision to receive the Sacrament.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✠ Prepare your child for the decision to be confirmed through instruction, example, and prayer.
- ✠ Complete the Confirmation Record Form.
- ✠ Attach a copy of your child’s baptismal certificate or Profession of Faith form to the Confirmation record form. If your child was validly baptized in another denomination, please provide us with a copy of the Catholic Profession of Faith certificate or First Holy Communion certificate. If you do not have such a certificate, please contact the parish at which your child received First Holy Communion and request that they issue one to you. Parents of candidates who were baptized or made a Profession of Faith at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish do not need to provide us with a certificate. The record form found on page 28 will allow us to verify your child(ren)’s baptism in the parish office.
- ✠ Assist your child in ensuring all class assignments are completed (including the selection of the Confirmation saint name, completion of the saint report, and the selection of the sponsor). Please assist the candidate as necessary with the materials presented in the classes. The candidate must take and pass ALL Confirmation related tests administered during their 7th and 8th grade Confirmation preparation period. (See religious education calendar for scheduled dates of tests). A Confirmation pre-test will be given as part of the seventh grade curriculum in their classrooms. The Confirmation test will be administered to 8th Grade students in their classrooms prior to Confirmation. Students **MUST** pass the Confirmation tests with a grade of 70% or better. *If your child has any special learning needs, please advise the religious education office so we may best serve your child and accommodate him/her as necessary.*
- ✠ Ensure your child fulfills the required service hours and attends the mandatory Confirmation retreat. It is important that the service hour requirements and experience forms are completed by the required date. Opportunities to complete these requirements take place at the parish and are assigned by class, as appropriate.
- ✠ The pastor of St. Andrew’s parish uses a three-tier approach to ensure the faithful are properly instructed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation; *spiritual, intellectual and physical*. The physical is accomplished through the faithful completion of ten hours of spiritual or corporal works of mercy; the intellectual is accomplished through the faithful taking and successfully passing of the Confirmation tests; and the spiritual is accomplished through attendance at Confirmation retreats and ten contemplative prayer hours. He deems all three areas to be of grave importance and that each area provides sufficient data to ensure that our students are properly instructed. Students who have a conflict with Confirmation retreats at St. Andrews may attend a different diocesan retreat. *It is the parent’s responsibility to find an alternate available retreat.* Go to www.arlingtondiocese.org for assistance.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE’S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

“A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in a state of grace, have the intention of receiving the Sacrament (of Confirmation), and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial (Church) community and in temporal affairs.” (CCC 1319, on the responsibilities of the Candidate for Confirmation)

Each candidate, with the help of his/her parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, one of the baptismal sponsors be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express clearly the relationship between baptism and Confirmation and makes the function of the sponsor more effective.

Confirmation is the last of the Sacraments of Initiation and perfects the baptismal grace. The Confirmed are expected to worship God by taking part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, to receive the Sacrament of Confession often and to receive the Eucharist as often as possible. A confirmed member of the Church is expected to strengthen and support the Body of Christ, the Church, by prayers and good works. Furthermore, the newly confirmed are encouraged to continue their religious studies by attending the high school youth group and/or volunteer as an aide for religious education classes. Many students are told that once they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation they no longer are required to attend religious education classes. This is a sad state of affairs. If parents really feel this is necessary they should also consider taking the child out of secular school as well. If an 8th grade education is sufficient for religion (which is for the good of a soul that never dies), it must certainly be sufficient for a secular education in public school (which is for the good of a body that will die). Parents please re-consider your decision if you decide to end your child’s religious education after Confirmation.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✠ Attend and participate in weekly scheduled Religious Education classes.
- ✠ Select a patron saint’s name as a Confirmation name. Candidates are required to write and submit a report on the chosen saint. We encourage female students to choose a female saint and male students to choose a male saint. See procedures under *Guidelines for Saint Report*. (See page 18)
- ✠ Participate in the Confirmation retreats. If a candidate does not attend the Confirmation retreats offered at St. Andrew’s parish, he/she must find and attend another Confirmation retreat within the Diocese of Arlington within their seventh grade year and prior to the date of the Confirmation Mass for eighth grade students.
- ✠ Study for and pass ALL Confirmation related tests administered during the 7th and 8th grade sacramental preparation.
- ✠ Select a sponsor and turn in your sponsor interview sheet by indicated date. See page 6 to ensure the sponsor you wish to select meets the requirements.
- ✠ Perform a minimum of 20 hours of church service as outlined in this handbook.
- ✠ Complete the four (4) Service Hours Experience Forms.

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A SPONSOR

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers this advice: The Sponsor for Confirmation is one who, fittingly, is a spiritual help to the Candidate” (CCC 1311, on the role of the Sponsor for Confirmation). Sponsors take on a life-long commitment to help their candidates fulfill the obligation for this sacrament. A sponsor should be actively living out the Catholic Faith and serve as a role model for you.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO STAND AS A SPONSOR:

- † Persons married outside the Church
- † Divorced persons who have remarried outside the Church
- † Persons co-habiting without the benefit of Catholic marriage
- † Persons who neglect the religious education of their children
- † Persons who themselves have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation
- † Persons who have not completed their sixteenth year
- † Individuals who neglect to fulfill their “Easter Duty” . . . that is Confession and Communion at least once a year during the Easter season
- † Those who give public scandal in any way
- † Persons who habitually miss Sunday Mass
- † In the event that the Sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation ceremony in person, a proxy may stand in place of the Sponsor. If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, the Religious Education Office **MUST** be notified in advance.

A parent may not be a sponsor, though they may present their child to the bishop in the event of a last minute unexpected change of plans.



IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Please be advised of the following policies in place at St. Andrew’s parish:

APOSTLES’ CREED

- † Students at St. Andrew’s parish **MUST** know and be able to write or recite the “Apostles’ Creed” prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

DRESS CODE

- † The students will be wearing red robes over their clothing.

Boys: Please ensure that boys wear neckties. They are **NOT** to wear jeans or tennis/athletic shoes.

Girls: Please wear dresses (no spaghetti straps). Dresses should be at or below the knees and shoulders must be covered. Do not wear tennis/athletic shoes or slacks/pants of any type.

Sponsors: **PLEASE BE SURE YOUR ATTIRE IS MODEST.** If you have to ask yourself the question of whether your attire is modest or not, it probably isn’t!

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

- † Please do not block the view of others or stand in the church aisles to take pictures or videos. The bishop will be in Msgr. Hannan Hall after the Confirmation Mass for photo opportunities. *Please DO NOT stand in the sanctuary (altar area - including the steps) at any time before, during, or after the Mass to take pictures.*

GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE PROJECTS

Jesus served those in need not to feel good about Himself, but to make a connection with each person. It is in this way that we come to understand that all of us are “one” in the “Body of Christ”. Service is not just a job to be done to fulfill a requirement, but is a life-long commitment to care for others as Christ cares for us.

All 20 hours of service must be for the Catholic Church. The hours will be divided:

a. 7th grade class service projects (5 hours awarded)

Each class will be assigned a specific service project to address the needs of a specific ministry. Examples: Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home, Poor Clare Sisters, Diocesan Seminarians, Guadalupe Free Clinic, etc. The seventh grade teacher and assistant will work with the students to complete this service by assigning each student a specific responsibility associated with the project. The teacher will also be responsible for signing the student’s service form for this project when complete.

b. Religious Education Service (5 hours awarded)

Each student will be responsible to sign up via the Religious Education Office for various options available to complete this part of their service. Sign up is on a first-come first-served basis.

You may also sign up to assist the House of Mercy located in Manassas. To find out volunteer times please call them at 703-659-1636 or visit their website at www.houseofmercyva.org.

Students should complete these hours while in the 7th grade or in the summer prior to their 8th grade year.

Students who are on-going members of the Junior Legion of Mary, Parish Choir, Boy or Girl Scouts, Trail Life, Altar Boys, or those participating in a Life Chain, Pro-Life March, or Pro-Life Walks or other like organizations, may use these hours in place of the Religious Education service listed. Check with the Religious Education Office.

c. Contemplative (Prayer) Service Hours

Ten contemplative service hours will be required to complete the student’s preparation for Confirmation.

1. Praying before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for one hour equals two (2) hours of service. Your parents will sign your booklet once this requirement is completed.
2. Praying the Stations of the Cross at St. Andrew the Apostle during Lent is two (2) hours of service. Your parents will sign your booklet once this requirement is completed.
3. Attending the Parish Holy Hour and Rosary in October is two (2) hours of service. *Check-in with any RE teacher on that evening.*
4. Praying the Novena for the Poor Souls in Purgatory (see page 9) in the month of November is two (2) hours of service. Your parents will sign your booklet once this requirement is completed.
5. Praying the St. Andrew’s Novena during Advent is one (1) hour of service (page 10). Your parents will sign your booklet once this requirement is completed.
6. Praying the Most Holy Rosary (5 decades) is one (1) hour of service. Your parents will sign your booklet once this requirement is completed.

A total of 20 service hours for the Catholic Church is needed to meet your Confirmation requirements. Ten (10) service hours from 7th grade Confirmation class service projects and participation in religious education services (or other specific services listed above) and ten (10) contemplative service hours from the list above.

Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way and enables us to profess our faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ. The sacramental grace of Confirmation helps us to live our faith loyally and to profess it courageously. After Confirmation one should continue to study the Catholic faith even earnestly than before, so to obtain the ability to explain and defend the faith. The Catholic laity should then participate in the work of the Catholic Church (apostolate of the hierarchy). The work of the Catholic Church is to win souls for Christ by bringing them into the Church He founded. In order to prepare Confirmation candidates for their lifelong work of bringing souls to Christ and the Church He founded (The Catholic Church). All service hours must be completed for the Catholic Church.

We applaud those individuals volunteering for groups not associated with the Catholic Church. It is very kind to volunteer for activities in your local community such as: tutoring/mentoring children, volunteering at the public library, working the concession stand at soccer games, etc. However, these activities do not directly promote the cause of the Catholic Church, the salvation of souls. For Confirmation, we are interested in developing the Catholic community. When people work together friendships are often formed, these friendships generate a sense of community within a parish. Once a sense of community is established, the members of the Church can look upon one another as a support in their quest for attaining heaven. Participating in the ministries of the Catholic Church helps students to appreciate the Catholic faith, as well as to learn more about it.

Our hope for the Confirmation Candidates is that they remain good Catholics their entire life. Those students (Confirmation candidates) that remain faithful to attending Mass every Sunday and receiving the Sacrament of Penance regularly are *usually* the ones active in parish ministries, or those with an active prayer life. By participating in a variety of parish activities while preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, one can better discern God's plan for how they are called to support the Catholic Church. The fifth precept of the Church is to contribute to the support of the Church. This means that one should not only support the Church financially (when able), but also support the Church by volunteering to help ministries that have been organized in the Church. Supporting the Catholic Church also involves prayer and spiritual growth. As each member of the church grows spiritually, the Church is strengthened through an outpouring of God's grace. Prayer for the Catholic Church and for all to see God's truth is imperative in today's society.

There are numerous opportunities to earn service hours.



MYSTERIES OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

JOYFUL	SORROWFUL	GLORIOUS	LUMINOUS
(Monday & Saturday)	(Tuesday & Friday)	(Wednesday & Saturday)	(Thursday)
Annunciation	Agony in the Garden	Resurrection	Christ's Baptism
Visitation	Scourging at the Pillar	Ascension into Heaven	Wedding at Cana
Birth of Christ	Crowning with Thorns	Descent of the Holy Spirit	Proclamation of the Kingdom
Presentation	Carrying of the Cross	Assumption	Transfiguration
Finding in the Temple	Crucifixion	Crowning of Our Lady	Institution of the Eucharist

NOVENA OF PRAYERS FOR THE POOR SOULS

O most gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the souls of Thy departed servants. Be not severe in thy judgments, but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames. And do Thou, O Merciful Savior, send Thy holy angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen.

- V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
 R. *And let perpetual light shine upon them.*
 V. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
 R. *Amen.*

A NOVENA FOR THE POOR SOULS

Sunday

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Blood which Thy divine Son Jesus shed in the Garden, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and especially that one which is the most forsaken of all, and bring it into Thy Glory, where it may praise and bless Thee forever. Amen

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Eternal rest, etc.

Monday

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Blood which Thy divine Son Jesus shed in His cruel scourging, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and among them all, especially that soul which is nearest to its entrance into Thy glory, that it may soon begin to praise Thee and bless Thee forever. Amen

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Eternal rest, etc.

Tuesday

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Blood of Thy divine Son Jesus that was shed in His bitter crowning with thorns, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and among them all, particularly that soul which is in the greatest need of our prayers, in order that it may not long be delayed in praising Thee in Thy glory and blessing Thee forever. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Eternal rest, etc.

Wednesday

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Blood of Thy divine Son Jesus that was shed in the streets of Jerusalem, whilst He carried on His sacred shoulders the heavy burden of the Cross, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and especially that one which is richest in merits in Thy sight, so that, having soon attained the high place in glory to which it is destined, it may praise Thee triumphantly and bless Thee forever. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Eternal rest, etc.

Thursday

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Body and Blood of Thy divine Son Jesus, which He Himself, on the night before His Passion, gave as meat and drink to His beloved Apostles and bequeathed to His holy Church to be the perpetual Sacrifice and life-giving nourishment of His faithful people, deliver the souls in Purgatory, but most of all, that soul which was most devoted to this Mystery of infinite love, in order that it may praise Thee therefore, together with Thy divine Son and the Holy Spirit in the glory forever. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Eternal rest, etc.

Friday

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Blood which Jesus Thy divine Son did shed this day upon the tree of the Cross, especially from His sacred hands and feet, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and particularly that soul for whom I am most bound to pray, in order that I may not be the cause which hinders Thee from admitting it quickly to the possession of Thy glory, where it may praise Thee and bless Thee for evermore. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Eternal rest, etc.

Saturday

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Blood which gushed forth from the sacred side of Thy divine Son Jesus in the presence of and to the great sorrow of His most holy Mother, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and among them all, especially that soul which has been most devout to this noble Lady, that it may come quickly into Thy glory, there to praise Thee in her, and her in Thee, through all the ages. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Eternal rest, etc.

On Every Day of the Novena

V. O Lord, hear my prayer;
R. *And let my cry come unto Thee.*

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant unto the souls of Thy servants and handmaids the remission of all their sins, that through our devout supplications they may obtain the pardon they have always desired, Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Eternal rest, etc.

SAINT ANDREW NOVENA

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment
in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.
In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God!
to hear my prayer and grant my desires,
through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ,
and of His Blessed Mother. Amen

*It is a pious custom to recite the above prayer fifteen times a day
from the feast of St. Andrew, on November 30th, until Christmas.*



NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Begin by reciting the following prayer...

O Holy Spirit, Divine Consoler! I adore you as my True God. I bless You by uniting myself to the praises You receive from the angel and saints. I offer You my whole heart, and I render You heartfelt thanks for all the benefits You have bestowed and do unceasingly bestow upon the world. You are the author of all supernatural gifts and who did enrich with immense favors the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, I beseech you to visit me by Your grace and Your love, and grant me the favor I so earnestly seek in this novena...

State your request here...

O Holy Spirit, spirit of truth, come into our hearts: shed the brightness of your light on all nations, that they may be of one faith and pleasing to You. Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

Recite the prayer of the appropriate day...

DAY ONE

O Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your seven holy gifts. Enlighten our understanding that we may know You. Give us wisdom that Your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it. Grant us the gift of counsel that we may always perceive what is right. Fortify us that we may always be capable of fulfilling Your Divine Will. Inspire us with the spirit of learning that we may be able to penetrate more deeply into the truths that You have revealed. Let our hearts be steeped in the spirit of childlikeness that we may bring You joy. Let us have proper fear of God that we may never grieve You or wander from the path of goodness. Give us the fullness of Your gifts that we may glorify You. Look with compassion upon us, O Holy Spirit, and grant us the favor we seek in this novena...

State your request here... if it be in accordance with Your Holy Will. Amen

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY TWO

O Holy Spirit, make me faithful in every thought, and grant that I may always listen to your voice, and watch for Your light, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You, and ask You by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced feet of Jesus, looking at His Five Wounds, trusting in His Precious Blood, adoring His opened side and stricken heart, I implore You adorable Spirit, helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace, now and always, and grant us the favor we ask in this novena...

State your request here... Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY THREE

Heavenly Father, You have called me to be a member of the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. I ask You to give me these gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, that I may understand the follies of this world; understanding, that I may grasp more fully the meaning of my existence and the purpose of all things in the world; counsel, that I may always choose the proper way; fortitude, that I may remain faithful to You under the pressure of temptation.; piety, that I may revere You in all I do, think or say;

fear of the Lord, that should the motive of love fail me, I may quickly be awakened to the eternal consequences of my deeds. Visit me by Your grace and Your love and grant me the favor I so earnestly seek in this novena...

State your request here... Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY FOUR

O God, Who today by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, give us, by the light of the same Holy Spirit, a love for what is right and just and a constant enjoyment of His comforts. Pray, Holy Spirit, that I may strive to learn more of my faith; that I may ever be conscious that reason in all its human magnificence is capable of grasping, but a glimpse of the reality that is God. Pray that I may accept as the motto of my life: "All for the greater glory of God" and grant me the favor I so earnestly seek in this novena...

State your request here... Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY FIVE

Come, O Spirit of sanctity, from the glory of heaven and send forth the radiance of Your light. Father of all the poor, light and peace of all hearts, come with Your countless gifts. Consoler in desolation; refreshment full of loveliness, come dear friend of my soul. In weariness send repose; breathe gently cool refreshing breeze; console the desolate who weep alone. Light of Beatitude, make our hearts ready; come enter our souls. Without Your grace, man stands alone; he cannot be good or sure. Cleanse what is soiled; heal what is wounded; moisten what is arid. Bend the stubborn will; warm the cold heart; guide the wandering footstep. O Holy Spirit, we beg You to give us grace through Your sevenfold power and grant me the favor I so earnestly seek in this novena...

State your request here...

Give us merit for the present, and one day beatitude when we have finished our earthly journey. Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY SIX

O Father in Heaven, I beg You to send the Holy Spirit. May Your Holy Spirit remind me when I am apt to forget Your law, Your love, Your promises. May Your Holy Spirit strengthen my memory to recall frequently Your sanctity, omniscience, wisdom, and goodness, faithfulness, and love. May Your Holy Spirit encourage me when I am slothful; strengthen me when I am weak; enlighten me when I no longer can help myself. Breathe into me, O Holy Spirit, that I may do what is holy. Stir me, that I may love what is holy. Strengthen me, that I may preserve what is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may never lose what is holy and grant me the favor I so earnestly seek in this novena...

State your request here... Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY SEVEN

Come, Holy Spirit, creator of all things: come visit our hearts with Your power. Fill with grace, friendly guest, the hearts which You have created. You are called the Consoler, gift from the hand of God, source of life, light, love, and flame, highest good. You are the pledge of sevenfold grace, finger of the Father's hand, promised us by Him, and You make our tongues speak the truth. Cast light on our senses, pour love into our hearts. Grant our weak bodies strength that they may never grow weary of doing good and grant me the favor I so earnestly seek in this novena...

State your request here...

Keep the enemy far from us, give us peace always, let us willingly follow in Your footsteps that we may be far removed from sin. Grant that through You we may grow in knowledge of the Father and of the Son, and that we may ever strongly believe in You, the Spirit of both. Praise and honor be forever to the Father on the highest throne, in the risen Son of God, in the Consoler. Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY EIGHT

O Holy Spirit, life and light of the Church, give us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, and prayers better than our own prayers, and powers beyond our own powers, that we may love and live, imitating Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Come to us, Holy Spirit, come with the Father and the Son and grant me the favor I so earnestly request in this novena...

State your request here...

Vouchsafe to dwell within our souls and quickly make our hearts Your own. Quench in us the fires of hate and strife, the wasting fever of the heart. From perils guard our feeble life and to our souls Your peace impart. Let voice and mind and heart and strength confess and glorify Your name and let the fire of charity burn bright and other hearts inflame. Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

DAY NINE

O Lord, Holy Spirit, grant me sight to see the wondrous promise of divine love; insight to see my own weakness; delight in Your divine presence in my soul which You have made Your temple through sanctifying grace. I pray, O Holy Spirit, that I may be not doubting; that I be spared the pain of being alone without trust or hope in Christ; that my prayer may always be "My Lord and my God!" I pray that I may acquire a sense of retreat to prayer and recollection at various times in my daily life; for prayer is the bond that joins us to Christ. I pray that I may be aware of the physical needs of the poor and that I may share what I can with them in the charitable works of the Church. I pray, O Holy Spirit, that You will in Your mercy grant me the favor I have sought in this novena...

State your request here... Amen.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

CONFIRMATION FLOWER DONATION FORM
DUE APRIL 13, 2021
(OPTIONAL)

Flowers may be donated in memory of a family member,
for a special intention, or made in the family name

Print the name(s) as you would like it to appear in the program

Return this form with your donation to the Religious Education Office

FAMILY PRIEST ATTENDANCE FORM
DUE APRIL 13, 2021
(OPTIONAL)

Yes, we have a priest in our family who would like to concelebrate the First Holy Communion Mass with the pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church.

Name of Priest: _____

Name of Parish: _____

Diocese: _____

If not the Diocese of Arlington, please attach a letter from the Diocesan Bishop stating that the priest is in good standing.

Name of Student: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

GOWN ORDER FORM

DUE MARCH 9, 2021

NOTE: If you turn your form in early, you may want to add some growth room. The information below is required to ensure that your child will have a Confirmation gown that fits properly.

Please Print all Information

Last Name

First Name

M.I.

Home Phone Number

Parent email

Height

Weight

GUIDELINES FOR SAINT REPORT

SAINT REPORT DUE MARCH 24, 2020

Each Confirmation Candidate is required to write a saint report featuring the saint whose name they have chosen and is listed on the Confirmation record form. Hopefully, the candidate has chosen a saint that they can emulate as they grow in the faith. They may select a certain saint who parallels their life situation or one after whom they are named. The candidate should not just pick a saint because they like the name; they should read about the saint and learn why the saint's life was heroic in virtue. It is encouraged, but not mandatory that girls choose a female patron saint and boys chose a male patron saint. Our patron saints assist us through our lives so please prayerfully consider selecting a saint that will inspire and guide you towards your ultimate goal of sanctity.

Reports must be:

- * Handwritten in legible writing. No typed papers will be accepted. If you have questions, please contact the RE office.
- * Be at least five paragraphs
- * Have a cover page which includes the name of the saint, name of the Confirmation candidate, name of the teacher, and date and time of class.
- * Have biographical information and should include the following:
 - + Date and place of birth and death
 - + Description of saint's service to God and others
 - + Feast day of the saint
 - + Symbol of the saint, if available
 - + Patronage of saint
 - + Devotions to saint
 - + Why candidate chose the saint
- * Bibliography (tell where information about this saint was retrieved, i.e. Butler's Lives of the Saints, Catholic Encyclopedia, etc. (DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA AS A REFERENCE). As a *suggestion*, you may use sites such as: www.ewtn.com/saintsholy or www.newadvent.org/cathen
- * The Reports may not be plagiarized (copying someone else's work) or written by parents.

SERVICE HOURS FORM

DUE SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Service Hours Form and the four (4) Experience

Forms must be stapled and turned in together on the above DUE date.

Name of Candidate: _____

Date	Nature of Service	Hours	Verification of Service Hours
	Parish Holy Hour & Rosary	2	Signature of DRE/Admin Assistant
	Poor Souls Novena	1	Signature of Parents
	Saint Andrew Novena	2	Signature of Parents
	Class Project	5	Signature of 7th Grade Teacher or Assistant Teacher ONLY
	Religious Education Service Or Other Service For Catholic Church	5	Signature of person who is in charge, i.e. choir director, priest (altar boy), etc.
	Private Holy Hour	2	Signature of Parents
	Stations Of The Cross	2	Signature of Parents
	Recitation Of The Most Holy Rosary (Five Decades)	1	Signature of Parents

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

Be specific and do not respond with “yes” or “no” answers.
Please use another sheet of paper to complete answers.

DUE FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Confirmandi's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

- 1) How do you pray?
- 2) Who has been influential in the growth of your faith?
- 3) Have you ever had to defend your faith? When? How?
- 4) Are you active in your Church? How?
- 5) What do you find to be the most rewarding part of your faith?
- 6) Do you still do community service? What?
- 7) Have you sponsored anyone else? Who and why? How have you helped them?
(Be specific)
- 8) Do you have any childhood memories of your faith, Church, or holy days of obligation?
What are some of them?
- 9) What Catholic devotions have helped you pull through the tough time(s) in your life?
- 10) Is there a time that you did not practice your faith? What were the circumstances?
- 11) What do you find to be the most rewarding part of Mass?
- 12) Is there anything that you don't understand or don't agree with concerning matters of faith? What and why?
- 13) How do you see God working in your life?
- 14) How do you see God working in "my" life?

SPONSOR PROMISE
DUE FEBRUARY 11, 2020

As a Confirmed Catholic who participates regularly in the sacramental life of the Church, I am willing to take time to help

Print full name of candidate

understand the joys and obligations of Confirmed Catholics. I promise to communicate regularly with this young person and be the support and guide that the Church expects all sponsors to be.

I understand that I must obtain a “**Sponsor Eligibility Letter**” from my parish of membership indicating that I am eligible to be a Sponsor because I am a registered Catholic who participates in Sunday Mass weekly, by receiving the Eucharist as often as possible and Penance as necessary, and by being open to the Word of God as revealed in Scripture and taught by the Roman Catholic Church.

Sponsor’s signature: _____

Print sponsor’s full name: _____

Date: _____

Please return to:

St. Andrew the Apostle
Office of Religious Education
6720B Union Mill Road
Clifton, VA 20124

CONFIRMATION LETTER OF INTENT

DUE OCTOBER 22, 2019

In renewing my baptismal vows, I profess my Catholic Faith in the Creed and renounce Satan. It is my intent in both Faith and practice to embrace the *entire* law of Christ contained in the Catholic Church; which includes being faithful to the teachings of the Holy Father in regards to issues of faith and morals (i.e. issues such as abortion). I promise to follow the precepts of the Church both now and after Confirmation.

Precepts of the Church

1. To assist at Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation.

The holydays are: Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary | 40 days after Easter – Ascension Thursday | Aug. 15 – Assumption of Mary | Nov. 1 – All Saints’ Day | Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception | Dec. 25 – Christmas

2. To fast and abstain on the days appointed.

The Church’s current regulations in the U.S. require fasting and abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; and abstinence from meat on the Fridays during Lent. Every Friday is a day of sacrifice. We are obliged to make a sacrifice every Friday. This could be the traditional practice of abstinence from meat or another sacrifice.

3. To confess our sins at least once a year in the Sacrament of Penance.

4. To receive Holy Communion worthily during the Easter Season.

To receive Holy Communion worthily, one must: observe the Eucharistic Fast of one hour before receiving Holy Communion | Be in the state of grace | Believe that Holy Communion is the true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

5. To contribute to the support of the Church.

6. To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.

As the parent of a Confirmation Candidate, I promise to fully assist in my child’s preparation for the sacrament. I promise that my child will continue to study the Catholic Faith and will regularly attend Mass and receive the Sacrament of Penance before and after Confirmation.

Confirmation Candidate’s Printed Name

Confirmation Candidate’s Signature

Date

Parent’s Signature

Date

CONFIRMATION RECORD FORM**DUE OCTOBER 22, 2019***Please Print***Confirmation saint name:** _____**TAKEN FROM YOUR SAINT REPORT****Name as it appears on the baptismal certificate:**

(_____) _____ /_____/_____
Phone # **Date of Birth** **Place of Birth (City, State)**

Father's full name _____**Mother's full maiden name** _____

This form *WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED* if a complete mailing address is not given.
 Addresses from foreign countries are required.

Church of Baptism or Profession of Faith*:

Street Address: _____**City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____**Country:** __________
Date of Baptism_____
Date and Church of 1st Holy Communion**Sponsor's relationship with Confirmandi:** _____

Please attach a copy of the student's baptismal certificate to this form.

If a child made a Profession of Faith, please attach a copy of the certificate.

* A child would make a Profession of Faith if he/she was baptized in another denomination. Therefore, the Profession of Faith would be made at his/her First Holy Communion. The certificate can be obtained at that Catholic Church.

St. Andrew baptism: The date of baptism will be used for verification.

A translation is required if the baptismal certificate is in another language.