

CONFIRMATION RESOURCE BOOK

For Families in the
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program
with a student in their second year
of Confirmation Preparation
(typically 8th grade)



FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

920 Granville Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60068
www.mswparish.org

Mrs. Dolly Pointner
Ms. Gretchen Spoo

847.825.3153 x 28
847.825.8763

dpointner@mswparish.org
gspoo@mswparish.org

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit...”

John 15:16

Confirmation Session Calendar Year II (8th grade) 2020-2021

October 26, 2020	Parent Zoom Meeting – 6:15 pm
November 1, 2020	Confirmation Paperwork and Fees Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Robe and Material Fees-Candidate Commitment {Page 4}-Service Commitment Letter {Page 5}
December 18, 2020	Confirmation Paperwork Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sponsor Interview {Page 8} and Sponsor Eligibility Certificate {Page 9}-Confirmation Sacramental Registry Information Form {Page 10}-Robe Order Form {Page 14}
January 5, 2021	Confirmation Paperwork Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Letter Requesting Sacrament to Father Derek Ho {Page 12} is due
February 2, 2021	Confirmation Paperwork Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Service Reflection is due
February 2021	Confirmation is typically celebrated in February at MSW. Due to COVID, Confirmation liturgy details have not yet been determined.

All dates are subject to change. These dates are in addition to regular CGS Sessions.



Dear Families:

During our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Zoom meeting on October 26, the following pages will be outlined for you. If you are not able to watch the Zoom live, it will be posted on our website. In addition, this resources book will be posted on our website. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

We are very excited to welcome you as you prepare for Confirmation! It is about so much more than all of this paperwork. As Catechesis of the Good Shepherd families, we will continue to use your child's monthly atrium time to prepare for Confirmation. Over the years, the atrium environment and the work undertaken by your child has helped their relationship with God to unfold. Preparation for the sacrament emerged more essentially beginning in 7th grade, and will culminate with more work, meditations and preparation in the months prior to Confirmation in late winter.

It was not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that the LORD set his heart on you and chose you; for you are really the smallest of all peoples. - Deuteronomy 7:7

There are some essential questions posed by the adolescent which we seek to explore in the Level IV atrium:

- Why? Why does God choose the small?
- Freedom. What does it mean to have freedom?
- How does the life and teachings of Christ relate to me? (i.e the "human" side of Jesus)
- How are saints people, and how am I being sent out like them?

Ultimately the teens express: "Let me do it myself. Let me think for myself."

Your teen's CGS catechist will be working with the CGS families to further demonstrate the materials and meditations designed to facilitate preparation in the atrium. Supporting resources will be forthcoming. Limited (but exciting) community service and field trips are being planned for confirmandi and their families. Please watch your email for more details.

The attached pages outline the family-focused tasks and preparatory forms in this packet:

- Choosing a Confirmation sponsor who meets specified criteria
- Confirmation saint name (saint project info to be shared in CGS session)
- Service Commitment form and reflection information
- Sacramental Commitment and Request forms
- Letter to Father Derek outline

It's no surprise that Confirmation and its preceding preparation will look a little different this year. As we all seek to find the "good" in these troubled times, we notice a greater focus and support of the domestic church. Embrace this journey to Confirmation with your teen and your family. It is the most important inheritance you will build for them. May the Holy Spirit enlighten, guide, strengthen, and fill you with His grace as you embark on your journey. You are guaranteed my prayers.

Dolly Elliott Pointner, Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization



THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

The Church teaches that parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. If you feel like you are not equipped for this role, you are not alone - have no fear! We are here to help you. Please call us anytime with your questions. The best things you can do to prepare your child are also some of the best things you can do for yourself. Some suggestions are:

- Attend Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently.
- Pray with your child.
- Witness to your own faith in your words and actions.
- Guide your student's choice of a Confirmation name and a faith-filled sponsor.
- Encourage and participate in service projects with your son or daughter and help them to understand what their gifts and talents are so that they might commit them to Christian Service.
- Discuss material the catechist has presented and ask your student if they have questions. If they do and you don't have all the answers, be honest about it and ask us to help!
- Have your family join your candidate in praying the Confirmation Novena 9 days before Confirmation.
- Serve as models for your child by being committed Christians.
- Discuss the Sacrament of Confirmation and its meaning.
- Take part in ongoing formation to help renew your faith so you can effectively guide your child.
- Build an atmosphere of trust and understanding.
- Nurture your child in their faith development.





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 29:11

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 attend Mass every Sunday and on all Holy Days of Obligation.
- I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.
- I will attend and will fully participate in all CGS 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 session who are on the journey with me.
- 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)

This signed form is due by November 1, 2020



SERVICE COMMITMENT LETTER

Dear Confirmation Families:

Please spend some time in prayer with your Confirmation Student to help them discern the gifts and talents God has given them and how they might be able to use them to serve others.

Confirmation students will be required to discern how they will serve during Year I and Year II of Confirmation preparation. Please review service suggestions on Page 6 in the Confirmation Resource Book or make an appointment to meet with me for further discussion. I am happy to help discern what gifts God has provided for which He is calling the Confirmation Candidate to share.

It will be the responsibility of the parents to ensure the Confirmation Candidate follows through on the commitments throughout the year. For example, someone may commit to serving at 5 different events. The parent and candidate must be tracking the progress of this commitment.

This completed service commitment form is due to me by November 1, 2020. Once this commitment form is turned in, I will review it for approval. The only items that will not be approved are those that do not support our Catholic values or simply are a half-hearted effort. I will email a copy back to the parents if the service commitment is not sufficient or does not support our Catholic values. An approved hard copy will be returned to the family within a week or so after that.

The student will be required to stay on track to complete their service and write a service reflection (approximately 250 words) describing the service they performed and how it affected not only those served, but how it affected the student as well. This service reflection will cover all of the service performed on the service commitment and will be due before Confirmation of each year they are in our Confirmation program. This service reflection should be returned with a copy of this letter (that has been pre-approved by me).

The goal is for the focus to be on the quality of the service and how well suited it is for the student. Again, it is the responsibility of the parents to prayerfully help their students learn what their gifts are and how they can use their gifts to help others. For families that find it difficult to discern gifts and are still exploring how God may be calling them, a good guide is for a student to spend a minimum of 10-15 hours per year with service opportunities for which they feel called.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Dolly Elliott Pointner, Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization

CONFIRMATION SERVICE COMMITMENT DUE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2020

We have prayed with our student and they will serve as follows: _____

_____.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Year I / Year II Parent/Guardian Signatures: _____
(circle one above)

Date Approved: _____ Signature of Director Approving Project: _____

REMEMBER YOUR 250 WORD REFLECTION ON THE SERVICE IS DUE BY FEBRUARY 2, 2021



APPROVED ACTS OF MERCY FOR SERVICE

At Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish

These items can be prepared by Confirmandi and brought to the Parish Office to be distributed. Please contact Mrs. Pointner at dpointner@mswparish.org or 847-825-8763 for more details.

- ⊕ Make cards or care packages for the homebound at Thanksgiving or Christmas.
- ⊕ Make rosaries for the First Communicants and pray for them.
- ⊕ Make cards for those who have lost a loved one in our parish this past year.
- ⊕ Write letters to our Seminarians in the Archdiocese.
- ⊕ Make cards for RCIA members to encourage them on their journey to becoming a Catholic and welcome them into the parish community at Easter.

Other Locations

- ⊕ Heather's House, 450 O'Connor Drive, Des Plaines, IL for cleaning, yard work, etc. to help single mothers. Many other opportunities with Aid for Women. Contact Jacque Anderson at janderson@aidforwomen.org or 312.574.0387 to see how you can help.
- ⊕ Make and decorate cards (Get Well, Christmas, Valentine's) for the sick or for the elderly and deliver them to a local hospital or nursing home.
- ⊕ Volunteer at a soup kitchen, food pantry, or homeless shelter.
- ⊕ Have a clothing drive or food drive for a local Food Pantry or Catholic Charity Resale Shop.
- ⊕ Write letters to our military.
- ⊕ Make cards for those in prison.
- ⊕ Make sandwiches for the homeless and pass them out in the city with adults.
- ⊕ Aid for Women-pregnancy support-have a baby drive to collect diapers, wipes, etc.
- ⊕ Feed My Starving Children -pack meals for the poor-in Aurora or Schaumburg-must register-it fills up fast (website www.fmsc.org).
- ⊕ Mission of Our Lady of the Angels-serve the poor by handing out food the First Saturday of the month from 9:00 am-Noon (website www.missionola.com/outreach_AssistPoor_FoodPantry.html) or call to see what other projects they need help with-located at 3808 W. Iowa St. Chicago, IL. 60651. Contact Father Bob 773-486-8431.
- ⊕ PORT Ministries -Outreach activities for the needy -in Chicago (website www.theportministries.org). Contact 773-778-5955 or info@theportministries.org.
- ⊕ Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa's nuns)-they run the soup kitchen everyday from 8:00am-11:30am, except Thursday - in Chicago -773-847-8771.
- ⊕ Special Olympics - 630-377-7250.

Projects to do at Home and in your Neighborhood

- ⊕ Cook and deliver meals to a neighbor or relative who is sick or who just had a new baby.
- ⊕ Help an elderly neighbor with chores-raking leaves, shoveling snow, writing out their Christmas cards, with their email etc.
- ⊕ Help a working parent by visiting or playing with younger children after school or on weekends to give the parent a break.
- ⊕ Volunteer to help with teams of younger children in extracurricular programs you participate in.

Projects to do with your Catechist and CGS Group

- ⊕ Talk to your catechist about group opportunities they are planning

Please Contact Mrs. Pointner at dpointner@mswparish.org or 847-825-8763 to discuss your personal gifts and how else you might be able to use them and to obtain approval for that service.



The Role of the Confirmation Sponsor

The most important role of a Confirmation sponsor is to walk with the candidate and guide them as they prepare to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament of Initiation.

Confirmation sponsors are like spiritual coaches or mentors. They affirm the candidate's strengths and point out ways for the candidate to grow and become better in the practice of faith. The Confirmation Sponsor accompanies the candidate on their faith journey, not just toward Confirmation, but through life. A Confirmation sponsor participates in the candidate's preparation and presents the candidate to the Bishop during the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The candidate must choose just one sponsor.

Some of the ways the sponsor helps prepare the candidate:

- ⊕ Meet or talk by phone regularly to pray, share, and discuss the candidate's faith journey.
- ⊕ Attend Mass on occasion with the candidate.
- ⊕ Participate in service with the candidate.
- ⊕ Arrange times to have important talks suggested by the catechist/teacher.
- ⊕ Attend a religious retreat or study the Bible with the student.

How to Choose Your Sponsor

Choosing a sponsor for Confirmation is an important task. Think about choosing someone who is an active, practicing Catholic; someone who is enthusiastic about the Catholic faith; and someone who is easy to talk to and be around. Here are some suggestions to help make the choice:

- ⊕ Think about the qualities a practicing Catholic should exhibit and the qualities that are important to you.
- ⊕ Think about people who are good examples for you.
- ⊕ Ask yourself if one of your godparents would be a good sponsor.
- ⊕ Talk with your parents, or catechists, about who would be a good choice.
- ⊕ Remember, sponsors **cannot be your parents**. They must be at least sixteen years old. They must be practicing Catholics and have already received Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. If married, they must be validly married in the Catholic Church.
- ⊕ Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- ⊕ Talk with the person you select and explain why you chose him or her and what their responsibilities will be.

Following is a great video by one of the Chosen presenters,
Father Mike Schmitz, about what constitutes a practicing Catholic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrGW5G8QcQ4>

As soon as you have chosen your Sponsor, please complete a **Sponsor Interview** {Page 8} and have your Sponsor sign it and answer the **Sponsor Eligibility Questions** {Page 9}. In addition, make sure you complete your Sponsor's information on the **Confirmation Sacramental Registry** {Page 10}.



SPONSOR INTERVIEW

Candidate's name: _____

Sponsor's name: _____

Your Sponsor will help you to grow in faith not only this year, but throughout your life. Set up a time to interview your Sponsor and ask them the following questions:

What was it like growing up Catholic?

Why are they Catholic?

What do they like about being Catholic?

Who did he/she choose for their Sponsor and why?

What was his/her Confirmation name?

Why did your Sponsor choose this name?

What are the Sacraments your sponsor has received?

What is one thing he/she remembers about their Confirmation?

What is their favorite Gospel story and why?

Who are their favorite saints and why?

Why is he/she willing to be your Confirmation Sponsor? (Tell them that you are relying on them to help you shape your faith.)

Candidate Signature

Sponsor Signature

Candidate must complete this side of the form and sponsor must complete the other side of the form. Both Candidate and Sponsor must sign the form and return it to the: Faith Formation Office, Mary, Seat of Wisdom, 920 Granville, Park Ridge, IL 60068 before December 18, 2020.



SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE

Sponsor Must Complete this form. It must be returned to the Faith Formation Office,
Mary, Seat of Wisdom, 920 Granville, Park Ridge, IL 60068 before December 18, 2020

SPONSOR FOR: _____, to be Confirmed in 2021
(Name of person being baptized or confirmed)

FROM THE CODE OF CANON LAW: Sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and/or Confirmation must be Catholics at least 16 years of age who have been baptized and confirmed and have already received the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Sponsors must practice a life of Faith in conformity to the teachings of the Catholic Church (Cans. 874 and 893).

Whereas, I, _____
(Sponsor's first and last name- please print)

I HEREBY AFFIRM my faith in Christ and His teachings and my fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

I HEREBY AFFIRM that I practice my Catholic Faith by joining in the celebration of Sunday & Holy Day Mass and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.

IF MARRIED, I affirm that my marriage has been celebrated in the Catholic Church.

IF SINGLE, I affirm that I am living a chaste life and not cohabitating with another person.

IF I HAVE CHILDREN, I affirm that my children are being or have been educated in the Catholic Faith.

I AFFIRM that I am a registered member of _____ Parish and fulfill my obligation to my Church to the best of my ability.

I AFFIRM that I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

I DO, therefore, by my signature, attest to the truth of these statements and affirm that I meet all the necessary requirements to act as a sponsor:

Sponsor's Signature

Print Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Email: _____

Sponsor's Telephone: _____

DATE: _____



CONFIRMATION SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY INFORMATION

Due in the Faith Formation Office By December 18, 2020

CHILD'S NAME:

FIRST

MIDDLE

LAST

CHILD'S AGE AT TIME OF CONFIRMATION (estimated 2/2021): _____

PARENT'S FULL NAMES:

FATHER:

FIRST

MIDDLE

LAST

MOTHER:

FIRST

MIDDLE

MAIDEN NAME

HOME ADDRESS OF PARENT/CHILD: _____

CONFIRMATION NAME CHOSEN: _____

SPONSOR'S NAME:

FIRST

MIDDLE

LAST

TO BE COMPLETED BY FAITH FORMATION OFFICE:

CHILD'S DATE OF BAPTISM: _____, _____
(MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR)

(CHURCH OF BAPTISM)

(CITY & STATE OF CHURCH OF BAPTISM)



Choosing a Confirmation Name

The candidate is able to choose a Saint's name at Confirmation. If your baptismal name is that of a recognized Saint of the Catholic Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. While you may choose to select a Confirmation name that differs from your baptismal name, using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship that exists between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. However, if your baptismal name is not that of a recognized Saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation and should be the name of a recognized Saint of the Catholic Church. Names of Saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Be sure to list your Confirmation Name on the [Confirmation Sacramental Registry](#) {Page 10}.

Importance of Names

Parents often spend many hours thinking about what to name their children. Names are often chosen to honor a relative or a Saint who is revered by the family or culture. While it is customary to use the names of Saints as baptismal names, the Church now permits other names at baptism. However your baptismal name was chosen, it is now a part of your history and identity.

Names are important in our religious tradition as well. In the Old Testament, God promises David: "...and I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth" (1 Chronicles 17:8). The prophet Isaiah, speaking in God's name, proclaims to King Cyrus, "it is I, the Lord ... I call you by your name" (Isaiah 45:3-4). In the New Testament, Jesus tells the disciples that their names are written in heaven (see Luke 10:20) and both the Letter to the Philippians (4:3) and the Book of Revelation (21:12-14) refer to names being written in the book of life.

A Confirmation Name

Taking a new name at Confirmation can be symbolic of a new or deeper stage in your faith life. There are several Scripture stories of people whose names changed after they experience a conversion: Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul. Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity for you to reflect on how you want to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you choose a name other than your baptismal name, choose the name of a Saint who you admire and whom you want to be your patron. You should choose a patron Saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that that person led. Here are some websites to help you learn more about the Saints:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>

<http://www.catholic-saints.info/>

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints>

SAINT PROJECT TO BE PRESENTED IN THE ATRIUM

CATECHIST WILL PROVIDE DETAILS



REQUESTING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Every student preparing for Confirmation is required to write a letter requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to Father Derek Ho stating your desire. Letters should be typed, free of spelling and grammar errors, and follow these guidelines:

Greeting

Begin your letter as follows: *Dear Father Derek Ho,*

Body of the Letter

- Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.
- Paragraph 2: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other Sacraments, your service projects, your saint report, who your sponsor is and why you chose him/her, and so on.
- Paragraph 3: Describe how you will believe the Sacrament of Confirmation will help you continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Tell what it means to you to be a disciple.
- Paragraph 4: Tell a bit about yourself including what is important to you and how you spend your time.

Conclusion

End your letter with: *Respectfully submitted,*

Type your full name and sign the letter above your typed name



CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

**MUST COMPLETE THIS LETTER AND TURN IT INTO
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE BY JANUARY 5, 2021**



{Page Intentionally Blank}



Confirmation Robe Order

Please fill out the order form below and **return it no later than December 18, 2020**. If you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office 847-825-8763 or gspoo@mswparish.org.

Student name (first and last name)

Program Student is Enrolled in – ie (MSW School, TNT, CGS)

Please provide the following details:

Height: _____



NOTES

