

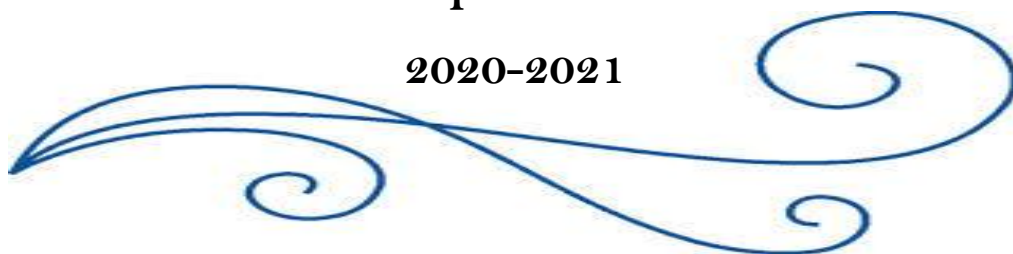
Level 7

Confirmation Prep.



Year 2 Preparation Booklet

2020-2021



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Office of Faith Formation

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.*



*Let us pray. O God, Who did instruct the hearts
of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise,
and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*



September 2020

Dear Confirmation Families,

Welcome to year 2 of your son/daughter's Confirmation preparation at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Confirmation preparation involves a time of learning, serving, reflection and fun! We are looking forward to continuing to share with you this journey of faith, begun for your child at their Baptism.

In addition to their weekly online classes, Level 7 students will need to complete several extra Confirmation assignments, contained in this booklet. Assignments are to be completed at home over the course of the school year, under the guidance of parents and/or Confirmation sponsors. **Assignments need to be submitted by the due dates indicated on the following page.** As you can see, this year's commitment involves the whole family, and we ask you to be supportive of what your son or daughter is being asked to do.

As we are forming these young people in the Catholic Faith, a primary focus for them should be coming to **Mass** on the weekends. This is absolutely crucial, since this time of "coming-of-age" in their Faith solidifies our young people's attitudes toward religion -- attitudes that they will take with them into adulthood. If Mass & Religion are not made to be priorities now, they probably will not be in the future, either. We understand that some families are remaining quarantined because of the current health risks, however, we ask those who are out and about to make Mass attendance a priority. It is only at Mass that we have the amazing privilege of receiving Jesus, truly & physically present in the Eucharist! We ask you to allow your child this opportunity to meet the Lord at Mass each week, so he can speak to their heart and strengthen them during these difficult times.

Communication is the other point that is crucial during this time of online learning. This year, the parish will be sending monthly communications through email, Remind text messaging, and our parish website (steas.org/faith-formation). We ask you to please make sure you are checking your messages on a regular basis, and to contact us with any questions or concerns that may arise. **If there are issues impacting your child's learning, it is important contact me right away and not wait to see if things change.** In the same vein, if the parish notices that a student is struggling or has fallen behind with their assignments, we will contact you to address this.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in these matters. In closing, I invite you to consider the following words and embrace them as your own:

"As the primary educators of their children, parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children" (National Catechetical Directory, no. 119).

May God bless our young people and you, their families, as you embark on this second year of preparation for Confirmation. May it prove to be a time filled with learning, blessing, and growth for all of you.

In Christ,

Sarah Goodman

Director of Faith Formation



7th Grade Confirmation Assignments

2020-2021

| Assignment | Description | Due Date |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Confirmation Sponsor Form | Choose your Confirmation sponsor and submit the sponsor form found on the religious ed. website, under "Documents." | Fri. Dec. 4, 2020 |
| Saint Report | Choose your Confirmation saint name and write a brief report about the saint you have chosen as your patron(ess). | Fri. Jan. 29, 2020 |
| Letter to the Pastor | Write a brief letter to our pastor Fr. Sikorski, describing your reasons for wanting to be Confirmed as a Catholic. | Fri. March 26, 2021 |
| 6 Hrs. of Community Service | Volunteer 6 hours of your time to serve our local community. | Wed. September 1st, 2021 |

*Please use the forms found blow.
If you have any questions or concerns, call the religious ed.
office at 631-737-8*

GUIDELINES FOR LETTER TO THE PASTOR

Before the celebration of Confirmation, the pastor is required by canon (church) law to know that the candidates are being properly prepared. He should also know that you have a desire for and knowledge of the Sacrament. To help him meet this responsibility, we ask you to write a brief letter to him.

Please type your letter on a piece of good paper, sign your name at the bottom, and place it in an envelope with the candidate's name on the front. The letter should be at least two or three paragraphs, and is to address at least 3 basic questions:

- **What have you learned about the Sacrament of Confirmation?**
- **What does it mean for you personally?**
- **Why do you think that you are ready to receive this Sacrament (i.e. how have you prepared)?**

Be creative in your letter! See some sentence starter examples below...

- I am (introduce yourself)...
- In my preparation for Confirmation, I have learned that through this Sacrament God strengthens my faith through a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit.....
- I am ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation because...
- The Confirmation name I have chosen is....because....
- I have asked....to be my sponsor, because....
- I know that when I am sealed with the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, this will help me to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and join in building up the Church. Here is what I plan to do to share in that mission...
- After Confirmation, I intend to be an active parishioner and continue to live out my faith in these ways...

EXAMPLE LETTER TO THE PASTOR

(Date)

Reverend Allan Sikorski
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
800 Portion Rd.
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Dear Father Sikorski,

(Write your reasons for requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. What have you learned about this Sacrament? Why do you want to be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church? How are you preparing to be Confirmed? You might also wish to say a little about your Confirmation name, Confirmation sponsor, and/or community service activities.)

Sincerely,

(Candidate's Signature)

(Parent's Signature)

(Sponsor's signature, if available)

***Remember, letter is to be submitted to the church office by
Fri., March 26th at the latest!***

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

In the book of the prophet Isaiah we read, "**I have called you by name: you are mine**" (Is. 43:1). When your name was spoken aloud during your Baptism, it became a part of your identity as God's child and a member of the Catholic Church. A great deal of thought went into your parents' choice in naming you. You may be named after a relative, a special family friend, or a saint your parents admired. Your name may have a special meaning that drew your parents to choose it.

Now that YOU have decided to become Confirmed, you have the opportunity to choose an additional name for yourself as you enter Catholic adulthood. Here are some guidelines to help you in choosing this name:

- You may choose to add a new name at Confirmation, or you may choose to re-affirm the name given at your Baptism.
- The name you choose **must be a Christian name** -- the name of a saint or one of the great men or women of the Bible who have gone before us in Faith. This saint will be your special patron(ess) throughout your whole life.
- Some choose the name of their Sponsor, parent, Grandparent or other person who has been an example of Catholic life & Faith to them.
- Some choose a name/saint that reflects a certain virtue or value that they strive for, or whose life they greatly admire.
- Girls may choose the name of a male saint if they wish, or boys may choose the name of a female saint. If desired, the name may be converted to the form of the alternate gender (e.g. "Dominic" to "Dominica").
- Spend time in prayer before making this choice, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. This is a very important decision that should not be made lightly.
- "Do NOT choose a name just because the person is popular or famous or because the name sounds good. The name you choose is for life! So it should be after a person whom you really admire for their Christian life of goodness, charity and holiness.....It's not just about a name you like but a person whose whole life shows how a true friend of Jesus really lives." ~ Bishop Edward Scharfenberger

SOME RESOURCES FOR CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME

Books:

- *A Saint for Your Name* (boy's and girl's editions), by Albert. J. Nevins
- *A Saint's Name* (look up a name and find a list of saints with that name)
- *Picture Book of Saints*, by Father Lawrence Lovasik, S.V.D.
- *Sixty Saints for Boys*, by Joan Windham
- *Sixty Saints for Girls*, by Joan Windham

Websites:

Butler's *Lives of the Saints* (online Benziger edition)

- <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/lots/index.htm>

Catholic Online:

- <https://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php> (alphabetical list of saints)
- <https://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php> (list of patron saints)

Life Teen:

- <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

St. Teresa Parish (Auburn, CA):

- <http://stteresaauburn.com/girlsnames.htm> (female saint names)
- <http://stteresaauburn.com/boysnames.htm> (male saint names)

Who is Your Sponsor?

7th grade students are asked to choose their **Confirmation sponsor** this Fall. The role of a Confirmation sponsor is to serve as your spiritual mentor & supporter throughout your whole life. The person you choose should be someone who shows you a good example of what it means to be a Catholic. It should be someone you admire and look up to for their faith in Jesus Christ and their life of Christian service & prayer. Lastly, it should be someone with whom you have regular contact, so that they can take an active role in guiding you on your faith journey.

Once you have chosen your sponsor, you need to spend a little more time with him/her to really get to know more about his or her own spiritual journey. You may feel that you already know a lot about this person, however, there is always more that you can learn!

To that end, we ask you to set up a time to meet with your sponsor to "interview" him or her this Fall. It would be best to meet in person, but if this is not possible because your sponsor lives out of town, you can do the interview over the phone (or as a last resort through email).

On the next page, you will find some suggested questions to use for your sponsor interview. **When you interview your sponsor, please bring a copy of the Confirmation sponsor form found on steas.org/faith-formation (under "documents"). Your sponsor will need to sign this form, and will also need to get the signature of the pastor at his or her home parish (to witness that he or she is an active Catholic).**

**Sponsor forms will be due at the church office by
December 4th at the latest!**

QUESTIONS FOR SPONSOR INTERVIEW

1. Were you baptized as a baby, or did you become Catholic as an adult?
2. Who first taught you about the Catholic faith? Parents, grandparents, teachers?????
3. What name did you choose when you were Confirmed? Why?
4. Do you have a favorite saint (or saints)? What is it about his/her life that you admire, or that has helped you be a better Catholic?
5. In what ways do you feel that celebrating Mass each week strengthens and nourishes you to live your life as a Catholic?
6. Do you have a favorite prayer? Why, in your opinion, is prayer so central to having a good relationship with God?
7. Do you try to participate and/or volunteer at your parish or in the community? If so, why did you choose this particular area to serve?
8. Who has been a good role model for you and shown you what it means to live as a Catholic? How has this person helped to deepen your faith?
9. Have you ever had a time in your life when you felt especially close to God, or a time when God touched your life in a special way? Would you tell me about it?
10. Were you happy that I asked you to be my Sponsor? Why?



CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT



Service is an integral part of the mission of the Catholic Church. It is not an extracurricular activity, but a way of living out our Faith in Jesus Christ. Hopefully, as you prepare for Confirmation, you will come to understand more fully that all Baptized Catholics are called to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the world today by serving others in our community.

This year, we ask our 6th and 7th graders to complete 6 hours of community service in our community. Students will have until **September 1st, 2021** to complete their hours. **Please use the form below to record your service hours.**

Our goal here is for you, the Candidate, to recognize and celebrate the gifts YOU were given by God, and how they can be used to serve our community. We hope you will pray for the day when those gifts will be further blessed by the Holy Spirit at your Confirmation.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Record of Confirmation Service Hours

(a minimum of 6 hours needs to be completed by Sept. 2021)

Name: _____

| Activity | Date | How Long? | What did you do? | Supervisor's Signature |
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