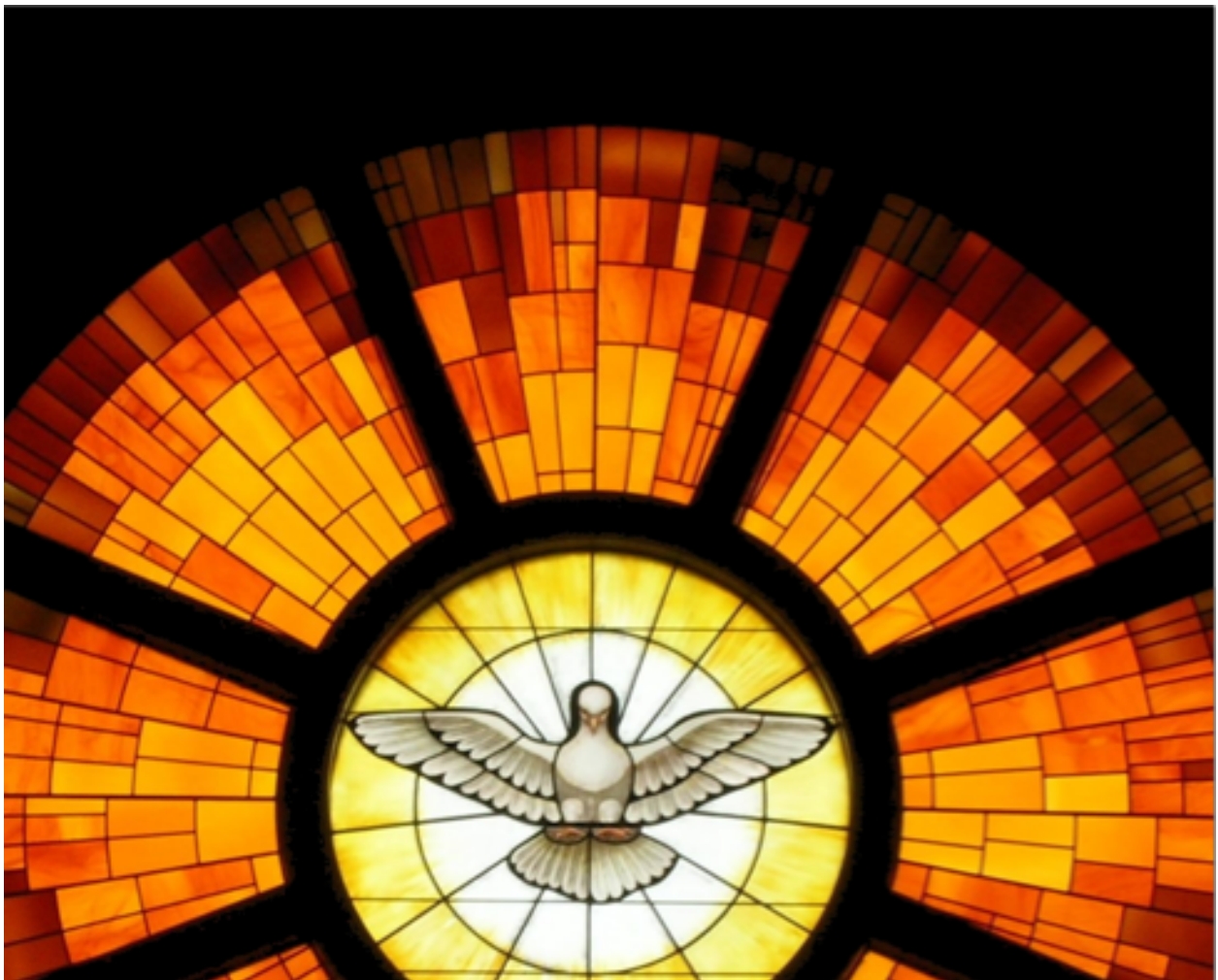


All Saints Confirmation Prep

2021-2022

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8



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Table of Contents

Overview of Confirmation	4
Overview of Program Requirements	5
Expectations of Candidates	6
Expectations of Parents	7
Initial Registration Materials	8
Confirmation Events	9
1-on-1 Meetings	10
Sponsor	12
Saint Project & Presentation	14
Spiritual Practices & Devotions	16
Ministry & Mission	18
Mass Attendance	24
Reconciliation	25
Letter to the Bishop	26
Retreat	27
Confirmation Rehearsal & Mass	28
Notes	29
Preparation Check List	30

Overview of Confirmation

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament instituted by Christ in His promise to send the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-21) and attested to in the early Church (Acts 8:19), in which the Bishop (or Priest appointed by him) invokes the gift of the Holy Spirit upon a baptized person and anoints them with holy chrism; the effect of which is the increase and strengthening of the grace the person received at their baptism.

What are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- It roots us more deeply in our identity as true sons and daughters of God our Father.
- It unites us more firmly to Christ
- It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, courage, right judgment, piety, & wonder and awe of the Lord) in our hearts.
- It binds us more perfectly to the Church which is Christ's Body.
- It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith in word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303)

Why do we prepare for Confirmation like this?

"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. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands."

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1309

All the elements of our Confirmation program are intended to be means by which our Candidates are led "toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit" so that they may be "more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life."

Service projects, retreats, prayer & devotional practices, attending Mass every week; all of these things are asked of our Candidates with the above goal in mind, because it is through these channels that we grow closer to God who transforms us into saints!

Overview of Program Requirements

What must be turned in right away?

- Confirmation Information Form (online) - **Due November 14, 2021**
- Copy of Candidate's Baptismal Certificate - **Due November 14, 2021**
- Confirmation Sponsor Oath of Qualification - **Due November 14, 2021**

What events and programs must I attend?

- Class Participation & Attendance - ongoing
- Saint Project Presentation - **Sunday, October 31, 2021**, Church Gymnasium
- Confirmation Re-Orientation - **January 13, 2022**, Fellowship Hall, **5PM English, 7PM Spanish**
- Retreat (\$175) – **April 8-10, 2022**, at The Pines Catholic Camp
- Confirmation Practice - TBD (youth and sponsors)
- Confirmation Mass - TBD (arrive one hour before)

What projects and activities must I work on throughout the year?

- Saint Project (**Due Sunday, October 31, 2021**)
- Spiritual Practices & Devotions (ongoing with a reflection due at your last class)
- Service - Ministry & Mission (ongoing with reflections due at your last class)
- **Weekly Mass Attendance**
- Reconciliation (ongoing, necessary prior to receiving Confirmation)
- Letter to Bishop Burns

How do I keep track of all of this?*

- On the All Saints website I have designed a live attendance/progress/form submission tracker.
- It is automatically up-to-date with my own records and is available at your convenience.
- This tracker can be accessed on the ASYM Faith Formation tab, or on the Confirmation Homepage, or directly at www.allsaintsdallas.org/checkprogress

Expectations of Candidates

Part of the purpose of Confirmation preparation is to prepare youth to “be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1309) Therefore, the youth participating in this program should strive to fulfill certain expectations asked of them to better enable them to assume the responsibilities associated with living out their faith.

Youth are expected to:

- SEEK TO BE CONFIRMED BY YOUR OWN DECISION AND FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.
- PRAY DAILY. Without seeking to be close to God in prayer, much of the other things expected of our youth will make little difference in the end. Pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, and fear of the Lord) to help you as you prepare for Confirmation and live out your life as a Catholic Christian.
- ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAY. The Eucharist is the center of our lives as Catholic Christians because that is where we encounter Jesus in a way that is unlike any other. It is critical that we attend Mass on Sundays to worship God and honor his commandment to “keep holy the Sabbath.”
- ATTEND CLASS ON A REGULAR BASIS, either through the Religious Education program on Sunday afternoons, religion classes at All Saints School, or through a home study program. You are expected to attend at least 80% of your classes.
- TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETING ALL EXPECTATIONS OUTLINED IN THIS BOOKLET. It is your responsibility to find a sponsor, complete and present your saint project, keep track of your attendance at Mass, seek out and participate in the Works of Mercy (service), write your letter to the bishop, regularly participate in Catholic spiritual practices and devotions, complete your Confirmation Record Booklet, and schedule your discernment interview.
- ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MEETINGS. These are the meetings where necessary information will be discussed and questions answered regarding the Confirmation program and key theological concepts associated with the sacrament. It is imperative that you attend these meetings.
- ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT. A retreat can be a life changing experience and all youth are expected to attend a Confirmation-specific retreat prior to being Confirmed.
- GO TO CONFESSION BEFORE CONFIRMATION.
- ATTEND CONFIRMATION PRACTICE with your sponsor in order to properly prepare for the Confirmation Mass.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE OR UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS MAY RESULT IN CONFIRMATION BEING DELAYED UNTIL A LATER TIME.

Expectations of Parents

As parents, it is a great honor, privilege and responsibility to be entrusted by God with the souls of your children. Our Church teaches that the education of children in the faith by parents “happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel” and that “family catechism precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith” (Catechism #2226).

To this end therefore, we encourage all parents to view this time of Confirmation preparation as an opportunity to develop and strengthen their role as the primary educators and spiritual leaders of their children. Thus, we ask and encourage you as parents to commit yourselves to the following expectations for the benefit and support of your own spiritual life as well as that of your child(ren).

Parents are expected to:

- **PRAY DAILY.** Without seeking to be close to God in prayer, much of the things we may do as parents will make little difference in the end. Pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, and fear of the Lord) to help you aid your child in their faith journey as they seek to grow closer to the Lord.
- **ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAY.** Worshiping the Lord together is so important to the life of a family. The family is the “domestic church” and a “center of living and vibrant faith” (Catechism #1656). Please attend Mass on Sundays to pray for your family, yourselves as parents, and your children.
- **ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MEETINGS** In order to help your child(ren) through this preparation process, it is important that you are well informed about the program and the theology of Confirmation. It is imperative that you attend these meetings with your child(ren).
- **TRY TO ATTEND AN ADULT FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITY OR EVENT** at some point during the year. Our parish will offer various events for adults throughout the year but there are also many other sessions hosted by other parishes in our community that would be excellent as well! Please strive to attend at least one, either together as a family or just for yourself.
- **HELP YOUR CHILD(REN) ON THIS JOURNEY.** Most of the requirements of this Confirmation program can be fulfilled by the youth if they take the responsibility and initiative. But sometimes they may need a reminder, some help, or guidance. Help them to remember to pray by praying with them. Help them to serve by serving with them. Help them to get to Mass by going with them.

Initial Registration Materials

These items are due no later than November 14, 2021

Confirmation Information Form

This form contains all necessary initial information we need to ensure that your sacrament is recorded properly. It should be completed online.

Copy of Candidate's Baptismal Certificate

This will be necessary for us to properly record your sacrament information here at the church and ensure that your church of baptism is notified of your reception of Confirmation here at All Saints.

Confirmation Sponsor Oath of Qualification

To be a sponsor for Confirmation, one must meet certain requirements outlined in the Code of Canon Law. To ensure that all people selected to be sponsors fulfill these requirements, we ask that they affirm that they fulfill these qualifications by signing this document. More information about these qualifications and requirements can be found on page 10.

Confirmation Events

Confirmation Re-Orientation

*Tuesday, January 13th, in the Fellowship Hall
5:00PM – English // 7:00PM – Spanish*

This meeting will serve as an opportunity to re-group and re-focus. We will also address specific questions related to the Confirmation Retreat (and additional forms will be available), as well as the Confirmation practice and ceremony. Sponsors are also invited and encouraged to attend. Both meetings will cover the same information.

Family Confession & Adoration Nights

October 7th & January 27th – 7:00 p.m. to 8:30pm, in the Church Sanctuary

As preparation for Confirmation inherently involves a commitment to prayer, we will gather as a group for a night of praise & worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We will have several priests available to hear confessions as well (it is necessary for all Candidates to go to Confession before receiving Confirmation).

1-on-1 Meetings

Why are we doing 1-on-1 meetings?

This is a new practice as of the 21-22 school year, though it has a precedent. In the past, we had “Discernment Interviews” just before receiving the Sacrament, to gage whether a Candidate was spiritually and intellectually ‘ready’ and personally willing to receive Confirmation.

These 1-on-1 conversations take the best of that practice and make it something more useful, productive, enjoyable, and fruitful for Candidates and Catechists. This meeting will take place in the Spring of the Confirmation Year 1 (don’t worry about that one) and the Fall of Confirmation Year 2. This allows much more time than the old setup for actually discerning readiness and willingness to receive Confirmation. This plan also builds up personal, individual connections between Candidates and a Ministry Team member or Catechist, which will hopefully be a source of welcome, information, and personal discipleship- things which are desperately needed within good preparation for Confirmation.

What are these meetings like?

These meetings will be very casual conversations for around 30 minutes. A member of our Ministry Team (most likely Andrew) or a catechist will talk with the Candidate about the Candidate’s faith journey, his/her desire to be Confirmed, any questions the Candidate has about the Teachings of the Church or how to live as a faithful Catholic, and more along those lines.

These meetings will take place either at All Saints Church or All Saints School, or virtually.

- All Saints Church:
 - Downstairs in the KLC atrium, or
 - In the Youth Room upstairs
- All Saints School:
 - In the center atrium of the School, or
 - In the Chapel
- Virtually
 - Over Zoom

While these meetings are meant to be personal, Safe Environment Guidelines will **always** be carefully followed:

- A second cleared adult will be within sight of the conversation
- Parents are fully welcome to be within sight of the conversation
- Virtual calls will be recorded

How do I schedule this meeting?

A sign-up can be found on the Confirmation Homepage. I have dates and times scheduled throughout this semester at the different locations. Please sign up as soon as possible, even if you are signing up for a later date. Please be sure to double check the location of your meeting. Only ASCS students will be able to meet at ASCS, but all candidates will be able to meet at the Church.

The signup will not allow signups less than 2 days in advance and will not allow edits or cancellations less than 1 day in advance. Please do your best to prepare for that now and to be present at least 5 minutes early for your meeting. If extreme circumstances prevent you from coming and the signup has already locked-in, please contact me directly (see p. 2).

Sponsor

Why must I choose a sponsor for Confirmation?

The Confirmation sponsor is someone who will serve as a positive Catholic role model to help you grow in your faith and who will present you to the bishop during the Confirmation Mass. You should choose someone who is strong in their Catholic faith who can help you grow closer to God. Ask them to turn in the necessary documentation. They should attend at least the Confirmation practice and Confirmation itself, but are welcome to attend any other events or meetings as well.

What is the role and responsibility of a Confirmation sponsor?

“...it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament” (Code of Canon Law 892). A sponsor is someone who can help the Confirmation Candidate grow in their faith and serve as a guide and example of Christian life.

What qualifications must one meet in order to be a sponsor?

The Code of Canon Law states that one must meet the following requirements to be a sponsor:

- Be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Be at least 16 years old
- Not be a parent of the candidate
- Be a Catholic in good standing who is not bound by any canonical penalty
- Be one who leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken

In order to illustrate the unity of Confirmation & Baptism, it is desirable that, if possible, one of the candidate’s godparents also be the sponsor for Confirmation, while this is not strictly necessary.

How are these qualifications verified?

To verify that the above qualifications are met we ask that the person you choose to be your sponsor sign an “Oath of Qualification.” It is imperative that sponsors fulfill the above-mentioned criteria and so are asked to affirm that by signing this document. If they cannot, in good conscience, sign this document, please take steps to find someone to be your sponsor who can.

A copy of this document is provided in your folder or can be downloaded at the Confirmation Homepage.

Once completed, your sponsor should actually mail it to the address indicated by **November 14, 2021**.

How does my sponsor help me prepare for Confirmation?

Your sponsor will serve as a spiritual role-model for you. As such their primary responsibility is to pray for you and with you, and to help you live a Christian life.

To help facilitate this, you and your sponsor will meet/call at least 3 times leading up to your Confirmation. You will read and pray together through Have Faith by Michael Carotta, completing one section for each meeting.

You will be given two copies of the book – one for you, and one to physically give/send to your sponsor.

Beyond those meetings and the conversations they will entail, below are some further ideas for what you can do together:

- 1) Attend Mass together
- 2) Go to Eucharistic Adoration together
- 3) Go out to dinner or coffee and each discuss the question, “Why are you Catholic?”
- 4) Pray the rosary together
- 5) Interview your sponsor about their faith journey
- 6) Ask for prayers, and pray together

Please Note: Because many of the people who will be sponsors live out of state, we do not require that they attend specific events at All Saints beyond the Confirmation practice and Mass. All sponsors are, however, especially welcome at the re-orientation meeting in January, the Adoration and Confession Nights, and other large events!

It is the responsibility of each Confirmation Candidate to communicate with his or her sponsor and to involve them in their preparation process through activities like those mentioned above.

Saint Project & Presentation

What is the Saint Project?

You should research and choose a saint to be your patron who you can connect with and whose name will be used for you at Confirmation. You should then create a project in order to learn about and teach others about your chosen saint. This project can be a written report, Power Point presentation, short film, poster or display board, costume w/ monologue, or some other creative project. You will then present your saint project to the elementary RE classes and other parishioners. Lastly, you should fill out the Saint Profile in your Confirmation Record Booklet.

Why must I choose a Saint for Confirmation?

One of the traditional practices at the time of Confirmation within the Church in the United States is to choose a saint to be one's patron and spiritual role model. All candidates should research and choose a saint with whom they have a connection. This saint should become someone you can learn about, ask for their prayers and intercession, and strive to emulate as a fellow member of the Body of Christ. You will put together a project of your choosing where you will be able to learn about and teach others about your saint which you will present to the parish community in November.

What information should be covered in my project?

Each project should incorporate and answer the following questions in some way:

1. What is your saint's name?
2. When is their feast day?
3. Give a brief summary of their life.
4. What are some things they are well known for?
5. How/why did they become a saint?
6. What things are they the patron saint of?
7. What traditions or practices are associated with this saint?
8. Why is this saint important to Catholics?
9. Why did you choose this saint?
10. How do you hope to be more like your saint?

Saint Profile

Your project will include a brief "Saint Profile" to submit (the same day) regarding some of the above details.

When will I present my project?

*Sunday, October 31 (Time TBD)
Gym at All Saints Catholic Church*

Candidates will first present their finished project to their peers in their faith formation or religion classes to prepare for the parish presentations. Candidates are then asked to present their projects to the elementary school faith formation classes as well as the parish at large as a means for our entire Confirmation class to participate in and commemorate our parish feast day (All Saints Day).

Internet Resources for Choosing a Saint

Use these websites to help you with choosing your saint and completing your project. We suggest thinking about something you're interested in or care about deeply and looking for a saint associated with that thing or activity.

- <http://catholicsaints.info/>
- http://www.sborromeo.org/patron_s.htm
- <http://catholic.org/saints>
- <http://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/>
- <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/patrons.aspx>
- <http://www.theworkofgod.org/Saints/>
- <http://www.jesus-passion.com/Saints.htm>
- <http://www.ourcatholicfaith.org/patronsaints.html>

DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA! Use only specifically Catholic websites.

What else do I need to know?

- The name of the saint you choose will be the name used for you at your Confirmation.
- Any form of the name of Jesus or a title associated with him (ex. El Niño de Atchoa) is not an option.
- Likewise, a form or apparition of Mary (ex. Our Lady of Guadalupe) is not an option, though Mary herself, generally, is an option.
- If you want to choose a "Blessed" (ex. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati), check with Andrew first.

Spiritual Practices & Devotions

Why am I asked to participate in spiritual practices and devotions?

“The objectives for Confirmation preparation begin with a commitment to prayer, community involvement, and a search for deeper faith through continuing study and reflection.”

Diocese of Dallas, Catechetical Policies

This is accomplished through regular religious education classes and retreat experiences, but also through individual, family, and community experiences of prayer and living our Catholic Faith.

Therefore, during this time of preparation, you are encouraged to seek out and participate in both new and familiar spiritual devotions and practices to help you develop your spiritual life and relationship with God.

How many do I have to do?

The simple answer: Enough to grow closer to God. And since we can always be closer to God than we currently are, this should be something you do on an ongoing basis, both now and for the rest of your life. Maybe set a goal to try everything on the list at least once. Find out which ones really help you feel closer to God and do those as often as you can.

Spiritual Practices & Devotion Reflection

Take some time to reflect on these practices and write in your journal about how this has impacted you. It may be a simple routine you started with praying a few minutes each day, going to the Adoration chapel, saying the rosary, or learning a new type of prayer.

How will I be held accountable for doing these?

During your classes at the church or school, you will be given time to share with your friends how these experiences have had an affect on your life, which ones you have particularly enjoyed, and how you have grown closer to God as a result. So be prepared to share! We also encourage you to do these together as a family and hold one another accountable for growing in holiness at home.

Great Resources for growing in your faith!

On the following pages, you will find some instructions for some of the more common Catholic spiritual practices and devotions to help you if you have never done those before.

Also, below we have provided you with a list of online resources focusing on prayer, spiritual practices, and growing in your faith. Use them on your computer at home or your smart phone while on the go! We've even included links to several useful Catholic apps. These are all linked in the Confirmation Homepage.

- Daily Scripture: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/readings/>
- Daily Catechism: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/catechism/>
- Saint of the Day: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/saints/>
- Daily Inspiration: <http://goo.gl/INo3d> (Holy Spirit Interactive)
- Tweets from the Pope: <https://twitter.com/Pontifex>
- Catholic Teen Resources: <http://www.lifeteen.com>
- Stations of the Cross Online: <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/stations/face.htm>
- Divine Mercy App for Apple Devices: <http://goo.gl/aSvM5> (I-Tunes)
- Mary App for Apple Devices: <http://goo.gl/wblx0> (I-Tunes)
- Catholic Prayers: <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/>
- Catholic Devotions: http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayer_saint.htm
- The Bible Online: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM
- Modern Catholic Music: <http://www.spiritandsong.com/>
- Confession Preparation App for Apple Devices: <http://goo.gl/uMkds> (I-Tunes)
- Creative Acts of Penance: <http://lifeteen.com/weird-lent-ideas-that-will-make-you-holier/>

Ministry & Mission

Why must I do service during Confirmation prep?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that preparation for Confirmation should help enable a Christian to assume the apostolic responsibilities of the Christian life (CCC #1309). Further, it is the Church's responsibility to discern whether or not a person is responsive to God's grace and suitably prepared to receive Confirmation by looking for signs in that person's life; one of which is manifested by our acts of charity and serving those in need.

What are the service requirements?

Participate in a minimum of the following:

- 2 instances of parish ministry, AND...
- 2 instances of mission service in the larger community

Completed and submitted a reflection for each

What is considered participation in "Ministry"?

"Ministry" involves participating in and serving your church community through any of the active ministries in our parish. This could be helping the Knights serve pancake breakfast or helping with the Fall Festival or Senior Prom.

The word "parishioner" is related to the word "pilgrim." As parishioners of All Saints, we are all pilgrims on a journey to heaven and need to help each other to get where we are going.

What is considered participation in "Mission"?

"Mission" involves going out and serving those in need through the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. These would be considered what we traditionally think of as "service projects." However, whatever activities you choose to fulfill your Mission requirements, remember that they must be geared towards serving people who are in need.

As Christians, serving the poor and needy are at the heart of what Jesus calls us to do and in the next life, we will be judged partly by how well we served those in need in this life.

What are the Works of Mercy?

The Corporal works of Mercy are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus tells of how the righteous are ushered in to eternal life because of the merciful deeds they performed in Faith for those in need, and the Book of Tobit where he performs many charitable acts for his people including burying their dead with respect.

“Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' “

Matthew 25:34-36

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are taken from an assortment of verses throughout all of scripture and have been a part of the Tradition of the Catholic Church since the beginning.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick
Visit the imprisoned
Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Admonish the sinner
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive offenses willingly
Comfort the sorrowful
Pray for the living & dead

How do I go about doing these acts of Ministry & Mission?

The following pages list several ideas and organizations in our area where you may be able to fulfill your service obligations. The list can also be accessed online at the Confirmation Homepage. This is by no means an exhaustive list. It is meant to give you some ideas. Do your own research as well to find other ways that you can help someone in need and get involved in your parish community.

Confirmation Prep: Ministry and Mission

2021-2022

- 1) Choose two (2) Corporal Works of Mercy
- 2) Choose two (2) Spiritual Works of Mercy
- 3) Carry out each chosen work of mercy
- 4) Submit reflection via Google Form (see email or Confirmation Homepage)
- 5) Complete and submit the reflections by February 13, 2022

** Please remember that the service projects listed inside are suggestions! Feel free to be creative with the ways you choose to perform your works of mercy. All service projects should be done in a way that is safe for all parties involved.*

The Corporal Works of Mercy

FEED THE HUNGRY – there are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY – many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

SHELTER THE HOMELESS – there are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

VISIT THE SICK - Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. Despite their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

VISIT THE IMPRISONED – People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the word of God and find the truth of the message of Christ.

BURY THE DEAD – Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times period through our prayers and actions during such times, we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and we give comfort to those who mourn. Praying for the souls in Purgatory is one of the purest intentions, and funerals and cemeteries are designed for just that.

CLOTHE THE NAKED – Donate new needed clothing or money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. “Clothing” means more than just ‘the shirt on your back.’ Do some research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL - Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and to turn to him along our way.

INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT - Learn about your faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about the faith.

ADMONISH THE SINNER - Do not judge someone's heart, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.

COMFORT THE SORROWFUL - Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference.

FORGIVE OFFENSES WILLINGLY - Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God Forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God.

BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY - Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.

PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD - prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead and trusts us all into God's care.

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY - Ideas

- Bury the Dead
 - Pick up trash at a local cemetery
 - Send cards and flowers to grieving family members
 - Make food for a family who has suffered a loss
 - Visit a grave site to pray, put out flowers, flags, etc.
- Clothe the Naked
 - Buy and donate coats for people who need them
 - Clean out your closet and donate to an organization or a family that you know
 - Donate suitcases and duffel bags to CPS for foster children
 - Collect baby items for moms in need and donate to a local pregnancy Resource Center
 - Heavy garage sale and donate the money
 - Make fleece blankets for hospitals
 - Make button headbands for nurses / doctors
- Feed the Hungry
 - Donate canned foods to your parish or a local food pantry
 - Give food to a homeless person
 - Make blessing bags to keep in your car and hand out to those in need
 - Bring meals to someone who is sick, just had a baby, or a neighbor who cannot get out of their house
 - Set the table, do the dishes, or help cook dinner for your family
 - Go shopping and deliver food to someone
 - Decorate reusable grocery bags and stuff them with non perishable food items to donate to a food pantry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty

- Donate water to shelters, a local police or fire station, or an organization collecting for an emergency situation
- Leave drinks or a snack out on your porch in a blanket for people who make deliveries to your home. You can add a Bible verse or a letter of encouragement to the snacks!
- Keep water bottles in your car to hand out to people alongside the road
- Shelter the Homeless
 - volunteer or fundraise for organizations that build homes for people
 - Donate old furniture, pillows, blankets, etc. to those that need it
 - Nowhere safe places are and tell people about them
 - Pay a hotel room for someone who needs it, or help pay someone's rent
 - Turn plastic bags into yarn to be used to crochet plastic mats for the homeless
 - Put donation box in your church to collect plastic bags and create mats
- Visit the Imprisoned
 - donate paperback bibles and religious books to the West Tower Detention Facility
 - encourage your representatives to support the "Second Look 2021 Bill"
 - Send cards to or call people who are homebound, hospitalized, or in residential care
 - Cook for someone who is homebound
 - Do a drive by hello with signs and noisemakers for someone who is homebound
 - Collect Christmas cards and mailed to inmates
- Visit the Sick
 - Ask a priest to visit a sick person and perform the anointing of the sick
 - FaceTime a family member who is sick
 - Make a card, call on the phone or sum someone who was sick, especially if they are stuck at home or in the hospital
 - Making care package that will help a sick person like pillows, games, books, etc.
 - Bring someone who is sick a home cooked meal (use proper safety precautions)
 - Be extra nice to your own family members when they are sick.

THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY - Ideas

- Admonish the Sinner
 - Kindly and privately talked to a person with whom you had a problem
 - Suggest someone receive reconciliation or you receive the sacrament yourself
 - Help a person you have a problem with understand why something is wrong
 - Lead people towards the best choice in a situation
 - Stop a problem before it happens
 - consider the causes and effects of problems
 - Using your Christian background, advocate for social justice on one of your personal social media pages
- Bear Wrongs Patiently
 - be slow to anger, less judgmental of those in your family
 - Go out of your way to show love for or get to know someone you may have passed judgment upon in the past
 - Be patient when you're trying to help someone, and they don't want your help
 - Don't help people expecting a thank you; do it out of the kindness of your heart
 - Be kind to people who make mistakes
 - Turn the other cheek
 - Let your sibling use something before you

- Council the Doubtful
 - adopt A senior
 - Chalk morale boosters; write encouraging messages on the sidewalk
 - Paint rocks with uplifting messages and leave them in parks near your house
 - Willingly explain things
 - Share why you have hope; Call or Zoom with a friend or neighbor who may be depressed or doubtful
 - Encourage someone to talk to an expert, like a priest, teacher, counselor, etc.
 - Pray that people will have faith
- Comfort the Sorrowful
 - Send encouraging letters to a nursing home, hospital, prison, community helper, grocery store employee, etc.
 - Create encouraging yard signs and get permission to put them in your neighbors' yards
 - Offer comfort by baking cookies, making a meal, sending a card
 - Call someone who is sad. Spend time and pray with them
 - Do things that bring joy to another person
 - Create an uplifting social media post or social media movement
- Forgive Offenses Willingly
 - forgive a wrong
 - Don't hold a grudge
 - Give someone a second chance
 - Accept apologies with kindness
 - Research St. Maria Goretti and ask for her to intercede for you the next time you are struggling to forgive someone
- Instruct the Ignorant
 - give people more time; Don't rush them
 - If you are good at something, be willing to teach that skill to others
 - Share helpful tips on your social media in a polite way
 - Be willing to tell stories that you know about the Bible, the Saints, and the church
 - Talk about your faith; Read a Bible story to a friend or family member via phone or FaceTime
 - Don't think you are better than someone else because of your knowledge
 - Apologize to someone you may have belittled
 - Help someone to learn a new skill without boasting about your know how. Teach by example
- Pray for the Living and the Dead
 - at home rosary-making; Check with your parish for these supplies if needed
 - Prayer rosary, chaplet, holy hour, novena or other prayer for a specific person
 - Ask your friends how you can pray for them and say a prayer immediately, instead of waiting for later
 - Make prayer cards; Give out to neighbors or a ministry in your parish

Mass Attendance

Why is the Eucharist the source and summit of our Christian life?

It is the source of the Christian life, “because whoever shares in it receives the motivation and strength to live as a true Christian” and it is the summit “because the faithful bring to it all their prayers and good works, their joys and sufferings. These modest offerings are united to the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Thus they are completely sanctified and lifted up to God in an act of perfect worship which brings the faithful into the divine intimacy.”

- St. Pope John Paul II

Why must I attend Mass every Sunday?

Since Confirmation unites us more firmly to Christ and renders our bond with the Church more perfect (Catechism #1303) it is critical that we maintain that bond and unity and fulfill God’s commandment to “keep holy the Sabbath” by attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

At the Last Supper, Christ commanded that we “do this in remembrance” of him and St. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians that “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes” (1 Cor. 11:26).

It is expected then that all Confirmation candidates attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Gathering together as the Body of Christ and participating in communal worship of our Lord while uniting ourselves to Jesus through receiving his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian.

There will always be the 5:00 PM Mass at All Saints immediately after our class meetings. You can also find Mass times for any parish in the world at www.MassTimes.org.

Reconciliation

Why Must I Go To Confession Before Being Confirmed?

“To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- Catechism of the Catholic Church #1310

Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation Important?

No matter how alienated we feel because of our sins, in the Sacrament of Penance, we are concretely and surely reconciled with Christ and His Church. Through the priest, we get to experience God’s mercy, love, and peace. Getting into the habit of going to Confession once a month whether we have committed a serious sin or not helps us stay on track in our relationship with Him. But at the minimum, we should confess whenever we commit a mortal sin, or once a year and before receiving a Sacrament such as Confirmation.

When & Where Can I Receive The Sacrament of Reconciliation?

All Saints has Confession every Thursday from 5:30-6:30PM, and every Saturday from 3:30-4:30PM. We will also have two Adoration and Confession nights throughout the year.

There is a full, up to date list of all Confession times, Mass, times, and Adoration hours at www.MassTimes.org. I personally keep this up to date for the parishes in our area.

Letter to the Bishop

What is the purpose of writing a letter to the Bishop?

Because it is the Bishop who will impart on the candidates the Sacrament of Confirmation, he asks that each candidate freely request the Sacrament from him. This is done through writing him a letter.

This is very important because you are of the age to make this decision for yourself. Therefore, if you want to be Confirmed, you must ask for it of your own accord, no one else can make this decision for you.

What should be included in this letter?

The letter to Bishop Edward Burns should include:

- Candidate's name, age/grade, parish, and catechetical program (parish RE, Family RE, Catholic School)
- Statement of personal experience with regard to (1) retreats, (2) how serving through performing the works of mercy has affected his or her view of living as a Catholic Christian, and (3) any other experiences of their faith that they would wish to share.
- Why the candidate feels he or she is ready to request the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Specifically state that he or she would like to be Confirmed.

What else should I remember when writing my letter?

- Please write legibly in ink or type your letter
- Remember to sign and date your letter
- Use a nice piece of paper (not crinkled or ripped out of a notebook)
- Use a full-size 8.5x11 piece of paper (not a note card)
- Please write on only one side of the paper
- Do not put the letter in an envelope

When and how will I turn in this letter?

Please do not mail your letter to the Bishop. He will be receiving hundreds of letters from all over the Diocese. Instead, you will turn them in at our class meeting on **March 20, 2022**. We will collect all the letters and deliver them to the Bishop all together.

Confirmation Retreat

Why must I attend the retreat?

Retreats can be turning points in one's life and are great chances to encounter our Lord in a sincere and profound way. All youth preparing for Confirmation should attend a Confirmation retreat prior to their discernment interview.

During our Confirmation retreat you will spend time in prayer, listening to engaging presentations, discussing issues important to your life, experiencing God in nature, receiving his grace through the sacraments, singing, playing, eating, and resting.

When and where will our Confirmation Retreat take place?

April 8-10, 2022 – The Pines Catholic Camp

The Confirmation retreat will take place at the Pines Catholic Camp in Big Sandy, Texas. Transportation to and from All Saints will be provided.

How much does it cost to attend this retreat?

\$175.00 (covers transportation, lodging, meals, supplies & materials)
(If this is an obstacle, let us know. We don't want the cost to keep someone from coming on the retreat!)

How do I sign up to attend our retreat?

Complete the Confirmation Retreat Registration form by **February 13, 2022**. The form will be sent out and made available on the Confirmation Homepage.

Retreat Reflection

After your retreat, you will write a retreat reflection which you will turn in at your last class. More details will be given at that time.

Confirmation Mass & Rehearsals

When is the actual day of Confirmation?

TBD (I will let you know as soon as I can!)

What time will the Confirmation ceremony be?

~1:30pm here at All Saints Church.

*Youth and sponsors should arrive and gather in the gym an hour before
Mass is scheduled to begin (i.e. 12:30 noon)*

How will we prepare for the Confirmation ceremony?

*We will hold a rehearsal for the Confirmation Ceremony the Friday
evening before the Mass
at All Saints Catholic Church*

All youth and sponsors must attend the Confirmation rehearsal.

Notes

Preparation Check List

Use this list to keep track of things, but be sure to check it against your online progress tracker!

Events:

- Attend Mass **Every Sunday**
- Pray **Daily**
- Attend Class **Weekly**
- Confirmation Fall Meeting (**Sept. 1**)
- 1-on-1 Talk with Andrew (**Once during Fall Semester**)
- Fall Adoration & Confession Night (**Oct. 7**)
- Confirmation Spring Meeting (**Jan. 13**)
- Fall Adoration & Confession Night (**Jan. 27**)
- Retreat at The Pines (**Apr. 8-10**)
- Confirmation Rehearsal (TBA)
- Confirmation Mass (TBA)

Paperwork (Due Nov. 14):

- Confirmation Information Form
- Sponsor Oath of Qualification
- Baptism Certificate (photocopy)

Paperwork (Due Feb. 13):

- Retreat Registration

Projects:

- Choose a Confirmation Sponsor (ASAP)
- Choose and research a Saint to be your patron saint for Confirmation (ASAP)
- Saint Project & Presentation (Due **Oct. 31**)
- Ministry Service 1
- Ministry Service 2
- Mission Service 1
- Mission Service 2
- Reconciliation (sometime before Confirmation)
- Letter to the Bishop (due **March 20**)