

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Student's Booklet

Name: -----

Throughout the coming school year, you will be given a number of details regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be administered in the spring of this school year.

Every student is responsible for completing and submitting the Confirmation Information Sheet by January 15th to the Religious Education Office. Parents and students should read through the following pages in order to determine how to expedite the completion of the material in the timeliest manner. Some matters need to be attended to immediately (Sponsor Eligibility Certificate and Letter Requesting the Sacrament), while other matters require constant attention (service projects).

Please feel free to contact the Religious Education Office if you have any questions regarding this booklet. Good luck to you this year as you begin your formal preparation for this important Sacrament.



CONFIRMATION... WHAT IS IT?

Confirmation is a Sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon his apostles at Pentecost. It is a Sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized. It is the final Sacrament of Initiation to the Catholic faith and may only be received once in a lifetime.

GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ.
These gifts are:

Wisdom Understanding Counsel Fortitude
Knowledge Reverence of God Piety

From the Gifts of the Spirit, come the Fruits, which are:

Charity Joy Peace Patience Kindness Goodness
Long suffering Mildness Chastity Modesty Faith
Self-restraint

Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates:

In the coming months, we will all participate together on a Journey of the Spirit. During this period of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the cooperation of parents and candidates is absolutely essential. We have prepared this booklet to serve as a guide for the candidates and parents.

The challenge ahead is exciting and demanding. In order to strengthen our enthusiasm for the Spirit, a number of basic tasks and a variety of activities are recommended. This will require a forthright commitment from the candidate and ongoing support from the parents.

The duty to guide your children along the sacramental path is a concern to all Catholic parents. To date you have formed and nurtured the spirit of faith through your life example, religious instruction and the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and Holy Eucharist.

Once again, you are being called upon to actively participate in the next step of your faith mission – the preparation of your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Your role now takes on an added dimension because you are called upon to allow your child the right of free choice in the decision to be confirmed. This does not ease your obligation, but rather requires that you share as partners with them as they prepare for this significant event.

On behalf of the Confirmation Team, may God continue to bless you and your family.

*Kim Lorentzen
Director of Religious Education*

OUTLINE OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION:

Spiritual Journey: As you know, your upcoming Confirmation is related to your Baptism. It gives you a chance to restate what your loving and believing parents shared with you at infancy, a life in the Spirit. Your preparation, therefore, must be on many levels.

Readiness for Candidacy: The Rite of Confirmation calls upon the pastor to testify before the Bishop that a candidate is properly disposed to receive the sacrament. Therefore, a good knowledge of the Catholic faith through class attendance and class participation is necessary. Participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and a life style that reflects Gospel values is essential. Weekly Mass participation is a must.

Mass Attendance: All Students are required to attend the assigned class masses Students will sit with their families in the church and may leave once Mass is over. In addition to 3 class masses, each student is required to attend 9 Masses throughout the school year. Also, every student must attend a Christmas Mass and an Easter Mass preferably at Church of Epiphany. Each student will write a Homily Reflection (a few notes) based on the Priest/Deacon's homily which will be signed after Mass by a Priest/Deacon. All students will submit a minimum of 14 Homily Reflections for the year.

Interview: Candidate will be interviewed at a designated time in April. The interview is designed to determine the readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in a special ceremony in the spring of 2021. Parents and sponsors are encouraged to join the candidate for this grace filled service.

Retreats: As a culmination of the preparation for the sacrament celebration there are **2 mandatory retreats** that each candidate must attend. 1) Attend sponsor and candidate retreat in January of 8th grade. If sponsor cannot attend, candidate must attend with a parent. Please see schedule for date. 2) There will also be a Sunday retreat of prayer, reflection, and pizza planned for the spring. **All Confirmation candidates are required to participate in both Retreats. If the candidate does not attend, the Confirmation can be delayed a year.**

Saint Poster and Worksheet: Submit Saint Poster together with worksheet for the story of your Saint. * See attached worksheet

Letter of Application and Intent: Each candidate is required to write and submit a typewritten formal request to Father Mike in his/her own words. The request should include:

- a description of what he/she is doing to prepare for this Sacrament;
- a statement of what he/she plans to do in the future to live out this commitment;
- a formal request for the sacrament.

The Letter of Application is to be handed into the parish office no later than December 15th.

Requesting the Sacrament

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply – to worship, witness, and serve as a confirmed Christian. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to your pastor stating your desire. Follow these guidelines:

The letter should be typed

Address your letter as follows:

To: Father Michael Santangelo
Church of Epiphany
615 Thiele Road
Brick, New Jersey 08724

Greeting: Begin your letter with the greeting: Dear Father Mike:

Body of Letter

Paragraph 1:

Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, background, interests, etc.

Paragraph 2:

Request the Sacrament: Give several reasons why you want to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3:

Explain how you plan to prepare for the reception of this sacrament, be specific, for example: Liturgy - Mass, your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service for other exercised at home, within the parish, and/or within your community.

Paragraph 4:

Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future. How do plan on remaining a practicing Catholic?

Paragraph 5:

Confirmation Name – Briefly explain why you chose your Confirmation name and why it is important to you.

Conclusion: Conclude the letter and write your complete signature below your actual signature

Candidate Interviews between 6:30 - 8 PM in the Church - **Required**

MANDATORY DATES

(Due to the nature of the events, there are no makeup dates or times available)

Date	Event
October 30 th or 31 st , 2021	8 th Grade Mandatory Mass Required
December 15, 2021	Saint Poster and Worksheet are due
December 15, 2021	Deadline for Letter of Application to Father Mike. To be submitted to the Parish Office
December 24/25, 2021	Attend Christmas Mass at Epiphany – Signed Homily Reflection <u>Required & Mandatory</u>
January 15, 2022	Deadline for Confirmation Information Sheet, Sponsor Eligibility Certificate, and \$50.00 to be submitted to the Religious Ed Office
January 22, 2022	Sponsor / Candidate Retreat Required 9:00AM – 2:00PM
February 5 th or 6 th , 2022	8 th Grade Mandatory Mass: Required
March 1, 2022	Deadline for service hours log
March 14, 2022	Confirmation Retreat 10:00am- 4pm in APR <u>Required</u>
TBD	Confirmation Gown Measurement. This will be done at Church of Epiphany. <i>Please send in a check payable to “School Uniform Shop”</i>
March 26th or 27th, 2022	8 th Grade Mandatory Mass: Required
March 29, 2022	Penance Service – 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Required
April 16th OR 17 TH , 2022	Attend Easter Mass at Epiphany – Signed Homily Reflection <u>Required & Mandatory</u>
TBD	Candidate Interviews between 6:30 - 8 PM in the Church - Required
TBD	Practice for Confirmation with Sponsor 7pm-8pm Church - Required
May 10, 2022	Confirmation - 4PM

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Confirmation program is a two-year process. This process begins in 7th grade and will continue right up until the time of Confirmation. Below is an outline of the expectations of our candidates.

- **First and foremost, candidates MUST be practicing Catholics who attend Mass and receive Communion on a regular basis. If you are not attending Mass, you put your candidacy at risk.**
- Religious Education Classes - Candidates are to attend classes once a week and adhere to the attendance policy already in place.
- Parental supervision – While candidates are primarily responsible for fulfilling the requirements of Confirmation, we ask that parents play an active role in this preparation.
- Picking a sponsor – A sponsor is a person chosen by the candidate who acts as a spiritual guide and support system. This person may not necessarily be a relative. The sponsor should be someone who has a very strong spiritual life and **MUST** be an active parishioner of his/her church. Please give careful thought to picking a sponsor. The sponsor must do the following:
 1. Apply to his/her home parish for a letter of eligibility to be a sponsor.
 2. Supply the candidate with this letter ASAP and it should be attached to this booklet. Please keep in mind, every church may have different requirements for a person to be considered eligible. Do not delay in asking your sponsor in case they have steps to take in order to be considered eligible by the Pastor of his/her church.

****IF YOUR SPONSOR IS A MEMBER OF EPIPHANY CHURCH, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE (732-458-0220) FOR VERIFICATION OF SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO COME TO THE CHURCH TO PICK UP AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE.**

- Confirmation name – The name chosen as your Confirmation name should be name that identifies a person as a Christian, as does their Baptismal name. In fact, candidates may retain their Baptismal name rather than pick another name. However, if another name is chosen, this name must be a Saint's name, and the student is asked to briefly explain why this name was chosen.
- Successful completion of the 7th grade curriculum.
- Complete 20 hours of community service in the 7th and 8th grade for a total of 40 hours.

THE ROLE AND ELIGIBILITY OF THE SPONSOR

Individual sponsors must be selected. A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. This selection should be indicated at the beginning of the candidates preparation as it often takes time for a sponsor to receive eligibility papers from his/her own parish.

Sponsor eligibility:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must be Catholic and have been initiated in the three Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- May be either male or female for any candidate
- May not be biological parents but may be Step-parents, God-parents or Grandparents provided they fulfill all other requirements
- Must meet the eligibility requirements of his/her home parish
- Must be in a valid marriage if married. If divorced and remarried and the original marriage took place in a Catholic church, the original marriage must have been dissolved through annulment. Please ask for clarification if needed.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION SHEET

RETURN TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE NO LATER THAN 1/15/22

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Name of Confirmation Candidate:

Last	First	Middle
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Current mailing address: _____

Street	City	Zip
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Confirmation Saint's Name: _____

***APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION***

Please print clearly

Age at Confirmation: _____

Date of Baptism: _____ (month/day/year)

Church of Baptism: _____

Mailing address for Church of Baptism: _____
(Street # and name)

City	State	Zip Code
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Father's Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

***PLEASE STAPLE THE "SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATE" TO THIS FORM.**

***THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT IN ITS ENTIRITY OR IT WILL BE
RETURNED.***

8th GRADE COMMUNITY SERVICE LOG SHEET

Student's Name: _____

A log is a record of one's achievement and self-accountability. It the time and hours you spend in service to others. **As a candidate for Confirmation you are required to perform a total of 20 hours of service. Minimum of 15 hours at Church of Epiphany and Maximum of 5 hours outside the Church and in accordance with the table provided within this packet.**

Please review the table carefully to make sure you are volunteering at an approved organization. Service hours must be performed with a supervised organization the log sheet must be signed by the person in charge, include title and phone number for verification. Parents and/or relatives are not permitted to sign for service hours. **DUE MARCH 1, 2022**

Organization/Project	Supervisor Name, Signature & Phone	Date of Event	Number of Hours
	Phone:		
	Phone:		
	Phone:		
	Phone:		
	Phone:		
	Phone:		
	Phone:		
TOTAL HOURS:			

Worksheet for the Story of Your Saint

“The Saint I chose to pray to and imitate and whose name I have chosen for the Sacrament of Confirmation is ...”

Part One: About Your Saint

My Saint: _____

Does your Saint have a feast day in the Church? Yes No

My Saint's feast day is: _____ / _____
Month Day

What three events in the life of this Saint most impresses you? Why?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What three special virtues (a virtue is a good habit that enables a person to act with moral excellence according to God's will) did the Saint have?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

In what two ways was this Saint most like Jesus?

1. _____

2. _____

Name one way this Saint showed love for other.

How could you follow this Saint in your daily life today? Be Specific. Give 3 examples.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I chose this Confirmation name because...”

Summarize or list 5 key events in your Saint’s life story.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Part Two: Write your Saint Report.

Part Three: Create a Poster of your Saint’s life story using the above information. It must contain a picture of your Saint.

Saint Report and Poster Directions

1. **Report:** Using the information/worksheet that is provided in the confirmation packet and which you have completed, type a brief report that consists of 5 paragraphs with 5 to 7 sentences in each paragraph.
2. **Poster must include the following:**
 - Create a poster 28 x 22 (standard size), any color;
 - Your first and last name;
 - Saint's name clearly displayed at the top of the poster;
 - Picture of the saint and any appropriate symbols pertaining to your saint;
 - Bulleted facts about your saint. Please do not copy and download from the internet paragraphs about your saint and glue to the poster. This makes it difficult to locate the important information you would like to convey;
 - You may type the facts using a large and readable font or neatly write using a black sharpie for facts;
 - Your poster should be neat, colorful, informative, and easy to read.
3. **Turn in by December 15:**
 - a. Completed information/worksheet;
 - b. typed report;
 - c. poster.