

May 10, 2016

Dear Confirmation Candidates and Parents,

Confirmation classes will be beginning in September. We look forward to meeting you at the mandatory Parent/Candidate meeting set for September 11, 2016. Each year it is such a rewarding experience for us to work with the candidates, guiding them through their preparation journey ending with a Catholic's most important faith decision, that of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

There are several requirements the Diocese mandates in order for candidates to receive their Confirmation, all of which will be discussed at the September meeting. However, the purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the Diocese 20 hours of community service requirement.

All candidates MUST complete this requirement. In order to make this requirement a little easier to accomplish we are giving you the heads up now so the candidates can work on and hopefully complete it before the busy 2016-2017 school year schedule begins. Included is a list of suggestions where service hours can be completed. Of course the best way to complete your 20 hours is to volunteer at the St. James Festival. When completing community service the most rewarding opportunities are those that help out one's home parish. Some other organizations one can look to for service hours are Presque Isle Days, Celebrate Erie, North East Cherry Festival, Tall Ships Festival, Erie Runners Club events, Port Erie events, the Soup Kitchen, Neighborhood Art House, and ZooBoo (applications for Zoo Boo should be picked up and filled out in August because Zoo Boo trainings are held in September) to name a few. Keep in mind these are suggestions and it is up to you to contact these organizations to see if they are in need of volunteers and what you need to do to be a part any given event.

We are enclosing with this letter the confirmation service hour form that must be completed by each organization where you have volunteered. You may access additional Confirmation Service Hours Verification forms on our parish website, WWW.SAINTJAMESRCC.ORG at the bottom of the homepage select "Sacrament Resources" then "Confirmation service hour verification." Throughout the St. James Festival, these forms will be available in the school office. Keep in mind that these completed forms are to be turned in to the Confirmation Team once Confirmation classes begin in September. Also on our website, check the "Confirmation Packet 2016" for the deadline date to have completed the service hours. Please keep in mind that helping family members, although admirable, is not an allowable service hour commitment and will not meet any part of the 20 hours required for Confirmation.

Again, we look forward to being a part of your faith journey and will see you all in September.

The Confirmation team,
Fr. James McCormick
Mrs. Lois Lintelman
Mrs. Loretta Tech
Mrs. Jill Wells

Confirmation Preparation

A Guidebook for Confirmation candidates
& parents for the celebration of Confirmation



St. James Roman Catholic Church
Erie, PA

“Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”

From Father McCormick & Confirmation Moderators

September 2016

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome! Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun. It is a joy and privilege for us to assist you, the student, in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are special moments which impact **our journey** of faith more than others. One of these significant moments is the celebration of Confirmation.

We look forward to working with both students and parents as we all consider the meaning of this event. It is our hope that by preparing for and celebrating Confirmation, your own faith commitment will be deepened and it will enable all to begin an active life of faith in our parish community.

This handbook outlines the journey that takes place here at St. James. We have provided a calendar of events, class schedule, topics of discussion and deadlines for important requirements. We hope parents will make sure their candidate attends all Confirmation classes, **which are mandatory**, and participates in the Thanksgiving Mass, which is organized by the candidates. May the Holy Spirit guide us all in these special days of preparation for Confirmation.

The Role of the Parents

In preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, parents are asked to encourage and support their child's free will decision to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are also asked to make sure their children to attend **all** preparation sessions so they can appreciate the meaning of the Sacrament and come to an understanding of the candidate's role and responsibilities throughout the process.

In case of emergency and you must miss class, please notify Father McCormick. fmccormick60@hotmail.com and plan on attending the bible study class on Monday evenings.

Please encourage your children to think hard about what their Confirmation name will be and who their Sponsor will be.

Talk it over at home. This is a very important decision for them and parents can be very helpful. We would be happy to answer any questions the students may have once they have a decision in mind. You will find a due date on the calendar for the name and Sponsor choices.

Confirmation candidates are required to write a letter to the Bishop. The letters are usually done in the second half of the preparation. The students will be given a format to follow and are encouraged to work on this at home and email their letter to Father McCormick. You will find a due date for the letter to the Bishop on the calendar as well.

Goals for the Candidates

To have an understanding of the Confirmation Mass

To know the significance of choosing a Confirmation name and sponsor.

To realize the special role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian and the gifts to be received

To link Confirmation and Baptism as a completion of Initiation

To recognize Confirmation as a call from God, to be active members of the Christian community.

Responsibilities for the Candidates

Desire, by free will, full membership in the church by expressing the desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

Participate in the celebration of Holy Mass

To use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to give glory to God

To participate in activities which contribute to the building up the people of God

Consider a parish ministry, so that you might share your gifts and talents in service of your church community.

The Role of the Confirmation Sponsor

It is a privilege and a responsibility of the Sponsors to assist the parents in the formation and growth of their children in the Catholic Faith. It is necessary that the Sponsors be practicing Catholics, who frequently receive the Sacraments. Candidates should select a Sponsor with the help of their parents and considerable thought and prayer. Sponsors must be at least sixteen years of age and must have received all the Sacraments of Initiation-Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.



Service Hours Verification Form for Confirmation

Due

Volunteer's Name

Hours Served

Place of Service

Date of Service

Supervisor's Name (Print)

Phone

Supervisor's Comments

Volunteer's Responsibilities

Supervisors Signature

(Not a parent or guardian of this volunteer)

Date

Confirmation Saint's Name Worksheet

Due November 15th

The Saint I chose to pray and imitate in m preparation for Confirmation is

I chose this name because

Write a summary of your Saint's life story

What event in the life of this Saint most impressed you?
Why?

Every Saint is known for a particular quality of virtue. What special virtues did this saint have?

How could you imitate this Saint today?

Explain why your Confirmation name is meaningful to you.

Template for Letter to the Bishop for Confirmation

Due

Dear Bishop Persico,

Paragraph 1

I feel that I am ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and become a fully initiated Catholic because.....

Paragraph 2

Write something about you and the possibility of a religious vocation (Sister, Priest, Missionary or Deacon)

Paragraph 3

Tell the Bishop the Confirmation name you have chosen and why you did so .Be sure to mention something about the Saint's life and what you admire about that individual.

Paragraph 4

Tell the Bishop who your sponsor is and why you chose that individual. Mention what characteristics you admire about that individual's lifestyle

Paragraph 5

Tell the Bishop about the service projects that you were involved in. Mention how you felt while you were doing these things and how you were able to be "Christ" to others.

Paragraph 6

Tell the Bishop about the Confirmation Retreat and what you enjoyed and found to be most meaningful.

Opening Prayer.....Prayer to the Holy Spirit

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

Let us pray:

*O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit
You have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit, help us to know what is
Truly right and always to rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.*

Let's Be Courteous!
Class rules

- ❖ Attend all Classes-This is Mandatory!
- ❖ Please turn your cell phone off during class
- ❖ No food during class
- ❖ Please be prepared for class
- ❖ Participate
- ❖ Be ready to communicate and be ready to listen
- ❖ Please show respect for others

Please note: Class will last 1 ½ hours; **however**, if we cannot accomplish what we need to in this amount of time we will switch back to the 2 hour format.

Calendar of activities for Confirmation students

September 11, 2016	Parent meeting with students Intro handbook
September 18, 2016	Ice Breaker/Jesus Rock
September 25, 2016	Confirmation and the Faith Process
October 2, 2016	Choose your Confirmation name
October 9, 2016	Mission & Structure of the Church
October 16, 2016	Precepts and parts of the Mass
October 23, 2016	Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit Paragraph due on Saints name choice
October 30, 2016	Analysis of the Ten Commandments Moral Responsibility
November 6, 2016	Sacraments
November 13, 2016	Prayer
November 20, 2016	Rite of Confirmation & Symbols

Calendar of activities for Confirmation students

November 23, 2016 Thanksgiving Mass
7:00 P.M.

BREAK Enjoy your break and
Merry Christmas

January 16, 2017 Retreat (mandatory)

January 22, 2017

January 29, 2017

February 5, 2017 Super Bowl Sunday

February 12, 2017

February 19, 2017

February 26, 2017 Confirmation Practice

Please note: The dates for classes after the retreat are subject to change depending on the date given to us for Confirmation. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for date changes.

Confirmation reception

Please join us for a reception following the Confirmation Mass. Our Bishop will be present for photos for a brief time.

Candidates will pick up their certificates at the reception.