

Name _____

Grade 8 Pre-Confirmation Program

***Life with the
Holy Spirit:
Prayer, Saints, Service
and Parish Ministry***



Pre-Confirmation Year – Grade 8

LIFE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT: Prayer, Saints, Service and Ministry

Section 1: Description of the Tri-Parish Confirmation Program & List of Requirements

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- Service Reports

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- How does your parish function?
- Council/Committee member interviews

Section 1: Tri-Parish Confirmation Preparation Program & Requirements

Grade 8: Eighth grade is considered a pre-confirmation year.

- The students are asked to complete the small booklet “**Life with the Holy Spirit: Prayer, Saints, Service and Parish Ministry**”. It includes:
 - Saint reports
 - **10 hours of service** (5 church and 5 community)
 - A report on a church committee
- **Eighth graders are required to attend two events: the Day at the Diocese, and the Durand Deanery Youth Rally.**
- The booklet is to be completed and returned to the catechist by the end of their 8th grade year.

Grade 9: Level One of the Confirmation program.

- An Induction Mass is held in October in which all the Tri-Parish 9th graders are asked to take a pledge to continue their Catholic religious studies as they prepare for Confirmation.
- They receive the booklet “**Fire of the Holy Spirit: Saints & Service**”, which includes:
 - Instructions for a more in depth Saint report
 - Info and forms to be filled out for 4 service projects (church, community, home, and national/international).
- The booklet should be completed and returned by the end of the year.
- Ninth graders are required to attend two retreats – one in the fall and one in the spring.

Grade 10: Level Two of Confirmation preparation.

- Tenth graders receive two booklets: “**Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit**”, which is part of the 10th grade curriculum, and the **Sponsor/Candidate booklet to be given to their chosen Sponsor.**
- The Confirmation curriculum booklet covers Scripture, Virtues, Precepts of the Faith, Sacraments, Mass, and the Creed. During this year, Candidates will:
 - Make a final decision on a Saint’s name for Confirmation (**girls choose female names, boys choose male names**)
 - Complete an Information Sheet with necessary baptismal and Sponsor information
 - Write a letter to the pastor
 - Work with their Sponsor on the Sponsor/Candidate booklet
 - **Attend one retreat of their choice, either in the fall or in the spring.**
- **Booklets must be completed by the first week of April, and turned in to the Catechist.** (See the following paragraph for more info on the Sponsor Booklet)

The Sponsor/Candidate Booklet

- This booklet contains four requests that could easily be completed in one weekend. **Together**, the Candidate and Sponsor are asked to:
 - 1) Attend Mass and have a discussion afterwards
 - 2) Do a service project
 - 3) Attend an event of some sort
 - 4) And finally, the Sponsor is asked to write a letter to his/her Candidate about his/her own Confirmation and/or faith experience and how important faith is to daily living.
- **Remember this booklet is to be given to your Sponsor and then returned to the Candidate when completed** (by the first Religious Ed class of the 11th grade year).

Grade 11: Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation (October).

- Review classes are held in the weeks leading up to Confirmation, which will take place in the month of October. Any catch-up work will be done during this time.
- On the Wednesday evening prior to Confirmation, a Reflection/Rehearsal evening will be held for all those being confirmed and their Sponsors.
- Following the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the newly confirmed will enter post-Confirmation studies.
 - They will continue to strengthen their baptismal call by deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church, and learn ways to put their faith into action.
- **It is expected that the newly confirmed will continue to attend classes throughout their high school years.**
 - **After Confirmation, 11th grade joins the 12th grade students for discussion sessions that cover how our Catholic faith is always connected to what is happening in our daily lives. Living a Confirmed Catholic faith needs to be nurtured.**

SECTION 2: PRAYER

“Prayer is the most powerful weapon a Christian has. Prayer makes us effective. Prayer makes us happy. Prayer gives us all the strength that we need to fulfill God’s commands. Yes, indeed, your whole life can and should be prayer.”

- St. Josemaria Escriva

Prayer, throughout our lives, should be unceasing, constant (1Thes 5:17). Our day should be a prayer by the very fact that all we think, do, and say should be for the glory of God our Father. There are many ways to make prayer central to your daily life. In this section you will find some familiar prayers, as well as the Precepts of the Church. These are tools that can help you increase prayer in your own life as you prepare for Confirmation and the adventure that follows!

The Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Did you know that the Sign of the Cross is a complete prayer in and of itself? We can use it anytime – not just before or after we say a different prayer, or when enter or leave a church. It is one of the best ways to help make our whole day a prayer! St. Cyril of Jerusalem said, *“Make then this sign at eating and drinking, at sitting, at lying down, at rising up, at speaking, at walking: in a word, at every act.”*

The Sign of the Cross has been around since the earliest days of the Church. It calls to mind our baptism, where we were freed from original sin in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is an act of faith in the Trinity and a proclamation of God’s saving action through Jesus’ death on the Cross. Because of this, it is also one of the most *powerful* prayers there is!

Many Saints have talked about how the devil, himself, fears the Sign of the Cross and will run away from it. After all, it was the Cross that defeated him. Thus, the Sign of the Cross is also one of our greatest weapons against temptation and spiritual attack! Use it!

The Our Father (The Lord’s Prayer)

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

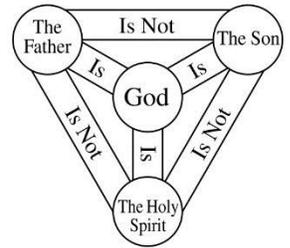
The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Glory Be (Doxology)

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Glory Be is a traditional prayer in praise of the Blessed Trinity – one God in three divine Persons. The three Persons in one God have been revealed by God (Mt. 28:19) and are known to us as the Father, the Creator; the Son, the Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, The Sanctifier. The mystery of the Holy Trinity, the three Persons sharing one nature, is a central mystery of the Catholic faith.



The Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and in failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His Name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

The Act of Contrition, or a similar prayer, is prayed during the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the priest grants absolution. Did you know you can pray it other times, too? The word “contrition” simply means “the state of feeling regretful for a wrong one has committed.” The Act of Contrition can be used to tell God we are sorry anytime we realize we’ve made a mistake.

In fact, it is a good practice to make a small examination of conscience at the end of each day to see where we have done well in following God (and thank Him for it) and where we have fallen short (and ask forgiveness). St. Ignatius calls this the “Daily Examine”. Gratitude for what God has done for us is one of the best defenses against temptation, but when you make a mistake, don’t worry! Ask God for the grace to make better choices next time – He wants to help! (And don’t forget to go to Confession and receive the special graces available there, too!)

Come 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 will renew the face of the earth. Lord by the light of the Holy Spirit, You have taught the hearts of Your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to choose what is right and always rejoice in Your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Spirit is actually what makes the Christian life possible. Without Him, we would not be able to live the new way of life that Jesus offers us (Mt. 5:43-48). The Holy Spirit is our defender, our comforter, our counselor, the one who strengthens us, is on our side, teaches us to pray, and so much more! (Eph 6:10-17; Act 9:31; Gal 5:22; Jn 14:16-18, 25-26; 2 Tim 1:7; Rom 8:26-27)

Use the “Come Holy Spirit” prayer to invite Him into your life every day, and see what happens!

THE PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

The basic duties of every baptized Catholic (CCC, 2042-2043):

1. Take part in the Mass on Sundays and holy days. Keep these days holy and avoid unnecessary work.
2. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
3. Receive Holy Communion at least once a year during Easter time.
4. Fast and abstain on days of penance.
5. Help provide for the needs of the Church by giving of your time, gifts, and money.

SECTION 3: SAINTS

During your second year of Confirmation preparation, you will choose a Saint's name with which to be Confirmed. To help you make a more informed choice, research three Saints and give a short report on each.

Why do we choose a Saint's name for Confirmation?

- To give us someone that we can look up to (a "spiritual hero") who can help us become more like Jesus.
- To have someone in heaven to pray for us! The Saints are eager to pray on our behalf! Plus, since they are now in heaven where there can be nothing imperfect, the Saints have been perfected themselves. That means their prayers for us are perfect, too! That's powerful stuff!

Not sure where to start? Here are some ideas for picking Saints:

- Pick one Saint you feel you know about, one that is familiar but you don't know much about, and one you have never heard of before.
- Think of something important to you, and look up which Saint is patron of that thing.
- Look up the Saint who has a feast on your birthday.
- Browse Catholic Saints and see if any pictures, names, etc. stick out to you. Do any tug at your heart?
- Just for fun: try a Saint with the weirdest name you can find!

SAINT #1

Name of Saint _____

What is the Saint's Feast Day? _____

What is he/she the patron of? _____

Birthplace of the Saint _____

Biography of the Saint: (accomplishments, how he or she died, etc.)

How can this Saint be a role model for you? _____

"A Saint is one who makes goodness attractive." – Laurence Housman

SAINT #2

Name of Saint _____

What is the Saint's Feast Day? _____

What is he/she the patron of? _____

Birthplace of the Saint _____

Biography of the Saint: (accomplishments, how he or she died, etc.)

How can this Saint be a role model for you? _____

“Saints are people who let God love them radically.” – Chris Padgett

SAINT #3

Name of Saint _____

What is the Saint's Feast Day? _____

What is he/she the patron of? _____

Birthplace of the Saint _____

Biography of the Saint: (accomplishments, how he or she died, etc.)

How can this Saint be a role model for you? _____

“Don't forget that the saint is not the person who never falls, but rather the one who never fails to get up again, humbly and with a holy stubbornness.” – St. Josemaria Escriva

SECTION 4: SERVICE

It isn't easy to develop an attitude of service. We are often much more interested in serving ourselves than in serving others. As we become more acquainted with the person of Jesus Christ, we should better understand the importance of serving others without expecting something in return. For followers of Jesus, service is not an option – it is a necessity.

In order to begin – or continue – to develop this attitude of service, **you are asked to complete 10 hours of service throughout this year: 5 for the church and 5 for the community.** You will also complete service reports for your projects.

Examples of Church Hours:

- Serving at Mass
- Lectoring
- Singing in the Choir
- Cleaning the Church
- Helping at PCCW activities
- Helping with church activities

Examples of Community Hours:

- City cleaning
- Packing boxes for the soldier box project
- Helping with the Holiday Parade
- Raking leaves
- Helping at Senior Citizens activities
- Helping with a Nursing Home activity

CHURCH Service Report

Church project completed _____

Number of hours _____

Through my service I learned _____

The best part of this project was _____

The hardest part of this project was _____

CHURCH Service Report

Church project completed _____

Number of hours _____

Through my service I learned _____

The best part of this project was _____

The hardest part of this project was _____

CHURCH Service Report

Church project completed _____

Number of hours _____

Through my service I learned _____

The best part of this project was _____

The hardest part of this project was _____

I can continue to serve my church community in the future by _____

(If you have more church hours to report that do not fit on this form,
please use the reverse side of this sheet.)

COMMUNITY Service Report

Community project completed _____

Number of hours _____

Through my service I learned _____

The best part of this project was _____

The hardest part of this project was _____

COMMUNITY Service Report

Community project completed _____

Number of hours _____

Through my service I learned _____

The best part of this project was _____

The hardest part of this project was _____

I can continue to serve my community in the future by _____

(If you have more community hours to report that do not fit on this form,
please use the reverse side of this sheet.)

SECTION 5: Parish Committees, Councils and Ministries

Have you ever wondered who prepares the luncheon at a funeral, how it is that the churches look so beautiful at Christmas, or how we have such wonderful liturgies each week? Often we take for granted that the operation of a parish takes place without any personal involvement. What is the mystery that surrounds how this work is completed?

To gain a better understanding of how a parish operates, you are going on special assignment! Contact a person or persons on one of the parish committees or councils of the Tri-Parishes and answer the following questions:

Committee or Council the person belongs to: _____

What is the work of the committee/council in the parish? _____

How does this committee/council help to keep the parish running smoothly?

Who can serve on this committee/council? _____

Who oversees the activities and decisions of this committee/council?

Please talk to your parents or catechist about calling one or more of the Council/Committee members to be interviewed.