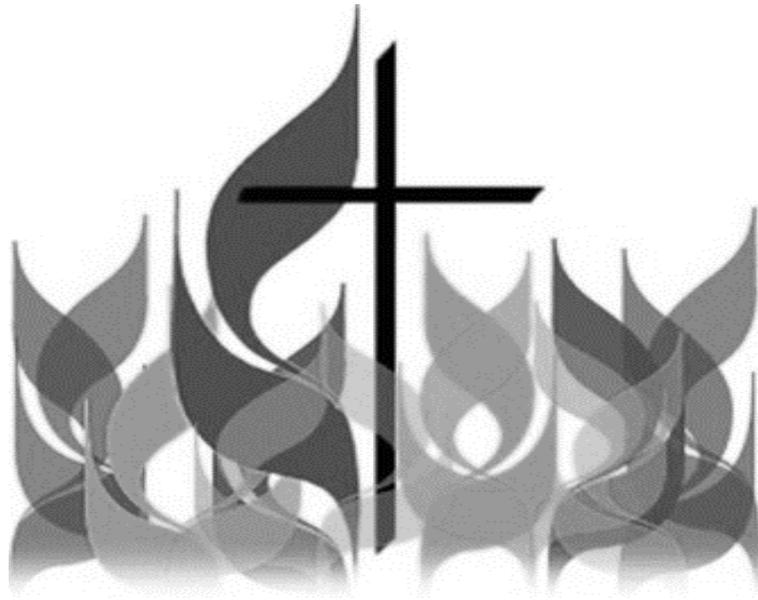


Name _____

Grade 9 Confirmation Program

***Fire of the
Holy Spirit:
Saints & Service***



Confirmation Preparation Year One – Grade 9

FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Service & Saints

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

Section 2: Choosing a Confirmation Name

Section 3: Saint Report

Section 4: Ready to Serve:

- Required Service Projects and Suggestions
- Project Report Forms

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: Choosing a Confirmation Name

“The confirmandi are to choose prayerfully a Christian name, a derivative of a Christian name, or their Baptismal name, and they are to see the connection of the name to the Christian Faith. The easiest way of making the connection is to choose a Saint’s name. The confirmandi should be familiar with the saint/blessed whom they chose as a new patron, and be able to articulate how the saint was a faithful witness to Christ or what the name means in relationship to the Faith in the Church. The saint in heaven becomes a ‘friend’ and intercessor on the young person’s pilgrimage of life. One of the ways young people are called to be holy is by allowing the Christian name to manifest its particular significance in their lives.”

- Cited from the pamphlet: “The Sacrament of Confirmation”

Girls must choose a girl’s name, and boys must choose a boy’s name.

Scripture Search: 1 Timothy 2:1-3, and James 5:16. Review these passages and write down what they say in your own words. Discuss with your Sponsor.

Take some time to wisely choose a Saint to intercede for you through life. Pray about it!

Where to find information on Saints:

- There are books and videos available through the Diocese that can give you examples of canonized/blessed Saints.
- School and public libraries usually have information on many canonized Saints.
- The Internet has lots of listings, but be sure to type “Catholic Saints.” (suggested websites: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day/> or <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>)

How do I know which Saint to choose?

- **Pay attention to which Saints jump out at you during your research.**
 - Who do you relate to? Who inspires you? Who challenges you? Who shares similar interests, struggles, or life circumstances? What are they patrons of? What does their name mean? Google it! Does that name mean something to you? What is their feast day? Is that date significant for you?
- **Try asking the Saint to pray for you.**
 - What happens? Do you feel a particular connection to one of them? Does it seem like your prayer was answered, or are you more at peace with the circumstances, regardless?
- **Does any particular Saint seem to pop up on multiple occasions, especially randomly?** He or she may be trying to get your attention!
 - Talk to him/her, and ask him/her to pray for you! Do some more in depth research on his/her life. See what you find.

Section 3: Saint Report

REMEMBER: Girls must choose girl names; boys must choose boy names!

Saint Name you have chosen:

What is your Saint the patron of?

When and where did this person live?

What about this person made you decide to choose him/her?

What can you learn from this person about how to live your life?

Expanding on the information above, type a Saint report that is at least one page in length.

Section 4: Ready to Serve

A sense of service is no easy attitude to develop today. An attitude of service means putting the needs of others first. For followers – or disciples – of Jesus Christ, service to others is not an option; it is a necessity. This Confirmation program requires time spent in the service of others.

Service Project Expectation

Each Candidate is expected to complete service projects in four areas, and fill in a short report on each one (may use an extra sheet of paper if needed).

The four areas are:

- 1) **Civic** – 5 hours
- 2) **Church** – 5 hours
- 3) **Family** – 5 hours
- 4) **National/International** – 3 hours

NOTE: Hours listed are a minimum suggested time, but some projects may take longer.

Church Project Suggestions:

- Serving, Lectoring, or Singing in the Choir at Mass – must commit for at least 1 year
- Assist with elementary CCD classes for at least 1 year
- Clean or help decorate the Church – as requested
- Help the Rosary and Altar Society/PCCWs or Knights of Columbus – as requested
- Volunteer at St. Vincent De Paul

How have you completed your hours for **Church Service**?

Number of Hours: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

What: _____

Was this a good experience? Why or why not? _____

Family Project Suggestions:

- Help relatives shovel snow – must be a full winter season
- Help tutor a family member – full school year
- Visit family at Nursing Home, Home Place, Senior Citizens Housing, or a Shut In
- Help a Shut-In or elderly relative with shopping or cleaning
- Baby-sit for a family member (for free, of course)

How have you completed your hours for **Family Service**?

Number of Hours: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

What: _____

Was this a good experience? Why or why not? _____

National/International Project Suggestions:

- Help with a disaster collection project
- Help with boxes for the military
- Collect money for the missions, food pantry, etc.
- Donate to Catholic Charities U.S.A. projects
- Make cord rosaries to send to the missions or military (at least 3)
- Other projects may be requested

How have you completed your **National/International Service**? Number of Hours: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

What: _____

Was this a good experience? Why or why not? _____

Community Project Suggestions:

- Needs to be okayed by DRE or Confirmation Coordinator
- Project must include more than one person participating together.
- This project should be an activity you have not done before, so you experience something new in serving the community.
- **Some ideas:**
 - Volunteer at St. Vincent De Paul
 - Stock shelves for the food pantry
 - Help at community events such as the Holi-dazzle parade, Crazy Days, Fun Fest, City Clean Up, etc.
- You may create your own project, but you must have it approved.

How have you completed your **Civic Community Service**? Number of Hours: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

What: _____

Was this a good experience? Why or why not? _____
