

St. Thomas More Parish



Confirmation Preparation class 2012

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There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. (1Cor 12:4-6)

Parent guide



To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.
(1Cor 12:7)

Important dates for candidate preparation.

Confirmation Commitment will take place on:

October 11 (School)

October 5/6 (Religious Education)

Saint Report Due: November 9/10

The report should include the following information if available:

- The report should be typed, double-spaced.
- The cover page should include the saint's name, your name, your catechist's (teacher) name and picture of the saint.
- Name and feast day of saint
- Your reason for choosing this saint
- Summary of saint's life story in chronological order; birth, major events and dates, death
- Beatification and sainthood dates and under what circumstances
- Saint's special virtues – ways they were like Jesus
- Ways you can imitate saint
- Most impressive aspects of the saint's life and why

Sponsor Certificate Due: November 9/10

Interview Assignment Due: December 14/15

Part 1: You are to interview your parents and your sponsor using the following guide:

- When did you become a Catholic?
- Why do you want to live your life as a Catholic?
- What role do Mass and the Sacraments play in your life?
- What do you think is the most rewarding aspect of your life as a Catholic?
- What do you think is the most challenging aspect of your life as a Catholic?
- What do you feel you are called to do as a Catholic?
- Does being a Catholic make a difference in your way of life?

Part 2: Record their responses in a report that should be typed and turned into your Religion Teacher by **December 14/15.** The report should include:

- Your name
- The name of the person interviewed
- Their comments
- Your reaction and reflection to their comments
- What do you think is the most challenging aspect of *your* life as a Catholic.

Confirmation Retreat: Tuesday December 6, 8:30-2:30

This retreat is mandatory for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. If your student does not attend the St. Thomas More retreat, it is their responsibility to find another retreat within the diocese and bring in a letter of affirmation of attendance from that parish.

Parents are asked to write letters of encouragement to their student before the retreat and bring them to the office by Monday November 28. The students will receive these letters at the retreat. This is an important part of your child's retreat. Please encourage them in their faith and prayer life while also extending accolades as to their special part in your family. You may have other family and friends write letters also. It is a good idea to ask the student's sponsor to write a letter.

Service Hours Due: February 15/16

Your student will receive more detailed information on these assignments from their respective teachers. Please follow up with your student. Your student will receive a student guide detailing guidelines. You may also view the student guideline on our website.

The Bishop will notify us of the date for Confirmation in December. We will send a notice home with the students as well as post the information in the bulletin and on the website. Confirmation practice is usually the night before the day of Sacrament.



To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;

REQUIRED ATTIRE FOR HOLY CONFIRMATION MASS

***Boys:** Dress slacks, dress shirt with collar, tie (jacket or sweater optional; long necktie is mandatory)

No jeans, athletic shoes or T-shirts

***Girls:** Dress, skirt with appropriate sweater or blouse, or pantsuit

Skirts must be at least knee length.

No low cut tops; shoulders must be covered

No tight fitting clothing

*Do not wear any ornamentation that denotes non-Christian attitudes and values.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Confirmation is the 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 the sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts of the Holy Spirit in those who have been baptized. Those confirmed are true witnesses of Christ and more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

In 1972, the church published the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connections between the three sacraments of Christian initiation – Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.

In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers. Through these sacramental rites the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.



to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Counsel - Right Judgment
4. Fortitude – Courage
5. Knowledge
6. Piety - Reverence
7. Fear of the Lord -
Wonder and Awe in God's presence

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

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

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| Charity | Long-suffering |
| Joy | Mildness |
| Peace | Fortitude |
| Patience | Modesty |
| Kindness | Self-control |
| Goodness | Chastity |

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation:

- Celebrated during Mass
- Begins after the Liturgy of the Word
- Presided over by the bishop or a designated auxiliary or pastor.

- There are four parts to the rite:
- Renewal of baptismal vows
- Laying on of hands
- Anointing with oil
- Sign of peace



to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit;

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

Parents are:

- Primary educators of their children
- Responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Models for their child by being committed Christians
- Leaders in their family faith life
- Nurturers of their children's faith life
- Encouragers their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service
- The important part of the Sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active role in the celebration of Confirmation
- Able to stress the initiation aspect of the Sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- Guides to their child in understanding that the Confirmation service project is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service.

CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Candidates must:

- Freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- Be in the state of grace
- Have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions
- Be practicing their faith
- Attend Mass and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- Be responsible for completing all required home study and service projects
- Acquire an awareness of the Initiation of the Sacrament of Confirmation and commit to continuing faithful practice and study of their religion
- Be willing to participate in the Confirmation classes and retreat.



to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another variety of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Cor 12:8-11)

CANDIDATE REVIEW GUIDE

The following topics should already be mastered by anyone entering a Confirmation preparation program. Parents and sponsors should assist candidates in reviewing this material.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Duties of a Catholic Christian:

- To keep holy the day of the Lord's resurrection (Sunday). To worship God by participating in Mass for every Sunday and holy day of obligation. To avoid those activities (like needless work) that would hinder worship, joy, or relaxation.
- To lead a sacramental life. To receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
- To study Catholic teachings in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to continue to study and advance the cause of Christ.
- To observe the marriage laws of the Church. To give religious training, by word and example, to one's children. To use parish schools and catechetical programs.
- To strengthen and support the Church – one's own parish community and parish priests, the worldwide Church, and the Pope.
- To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.
- To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.



But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (Cor 12: 11)

Holy Days of Obligation in the United States

1. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: January 1 – We honor Mary, the Mother of God.
2. Ascension: Fortieth day after Easter – Jesus ascended into heaven.
3. Assumption: August 15 – Mary was taken into heaven, body and soul.
4. All Saint’s Day: November 1 – We honor all the saints in heaven.
5. Immaculate Conception: December 8 – Mary was free from sin from the first moment of her life.
6. Christmas: December 25 – We celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Seven Sacraments

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist
4. Reconciliation (Penance)
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Matrimony
7. Holy Orders

The Cardinal Virtues

Prudence, temperance, justice, fortitude

The Theological Virtues

Faith, hope, love (charity)

Days of Abstinence (for all those over age 14)

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries:

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Nativity
The Presentation in the Temple
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries:

The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging at the Pillar
The Crowning with Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection
The Ascension
The Descent of the Holy Spirit
The Assumption of Mary
The Crowning of Mary as
Queen of Heaven and Earth

Luminous Mysteries:

Baptism of Jesus
Wedding at Cana
Proclamation of the Kingdom
Transfiguration of Jesus
Institution of the Eucharist

Corporal Works of Mercy

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

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Help the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowing
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living and the dead

