

CONFIRMATION

2020-2021

THE SACRAMENT

We are so excited that you are preparing to enter into the Church through Confirmation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, *"by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."* This new responsibility within the Church requires preparation and discernment.

PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

Before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in 10th grade, expectations include:

- **Participating in Confirmation classes and missing no more than 1** (Why? It is important that before deciding to be Confirmed in the Holy Spirit, you have the opportunity to learn more about the Church, ask questions, understand where doctrine comes from, and learn how to defend the faith. If you miss more than one class in the year, you must make up the extra classes missed. If you miss 3 or more classes in a year, you will have to repeat the year's curriculum the following year.)
- **Getting involved in the Church for 10 hours each year** (Why? James 2:14-17 says, *"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."* If we truly believe in the Gospel, then we must put our faith into action and serve others in love and joy. Also, if we desire to be confirmed into the Body of Christ, we must learn what the Body of Christ is! Church involvement hours can be anything that one does to help another out of love and not incentive, such as visiting a nursing home, helping with VBS, being an usher or lector, helping at the Italian Festival, bringing food to a neighbor, etc. Church involvement hours will also include any involvement in Church ministries, such as stopping in at hospitality Sunday, checking out Joy in the Spirit, attending a Social Justice event, visiting the Creative Arts Ministry, coming to a Parish Clean-up day, etc.)
- **Attending the Parent/Teen Session for Confirmation 1 and 2 - January 24, 2021 from 4:00-6:30pm** (Why? Though the decision to be confirmed is the teen's choice, it is important to sit down with the family to pray together and talk about being initiated into the faith.)
- **Attending the one day retreat on February 6, 2021 - Confirmation 2** (Why? Sometimes we need to get out of our comfort zone, retreat from the distractions of life, and enter into a designated space and time where we can more fully encounter our Lord.)
- **Writing a letter to Fr. Fabio expressing the intent of being confirmed - Confirmation 2** (Why? After sacramental preparation and discernment, you should be able to express your reasons for desiring to be confirmed and become a full initiated member of the Catholic Church.)
- **Creating a Saint Project based on the saint of choice - Confirmation 2** (Why? Saints are beautiful examples of how to live out our universal call to holiness. They are witnesses for Christ, and they are praying for us! Choosing a Saint and learning more about their spirituality helps to better understand the universal Church and the many ways to have a relationship with the Lord.)

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT 2020-2021

Name _____ Confirmation 1 or 2

Date	Service you did or Ministry event	Hours	Signature of Person in Charge
NOW THAT YOU GAVE YOUR TIME AND LOVE THROUGH SERVICE OR ATTENDING A MINISTRY EVENT, WHAT DID YOU LEARN OR GET OUT OF IT?			
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LETTER TO THE PASTOR

CONFIRMATION 2

WHY DO YOU WRITE FATHER FABIO?

Before the celebration of Confirmation, the Pastor is required by Canon Law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. You have spent nearly two years learning more about the faith; now you are able to make an informed and independent decision on whether or not you want to be confirmed in to the Catholic Church. Father Fabio should also know that you have a desire for and knowledge of the Sacrament. To help your pastor meet his responsibility, we ask you to type a formal letter to him.

THE LETTER IS TO ADDRESS THREE BASIC QUESTIONS:

Question 1 - What does the sacrament of Confirmation mean to you?

In your own words, write one or two paragraphs explaining what the sacrament of Confirmation means to you personally.

Question 2 - Why do you feel you are ready to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation?

Again, in your own words, you are to state in two or three paragraphs why you feel you are ready to celebrate this sacrament. Include what you did to fulfill your preparation - Where did you serve the Church and community? What did you enjoy about serving? How was the retreat? What have you learned through this preparation experience?

Question 3 - How do you think Confirmation could strengthen your role in the life of the Church?

How is this sacrament better able to connect you to the life of the Catholic Church? Through Prayer? Through Service? Through Family?

This letter should include the date, a salutation (Dear Fr. Fabio), and signature.

Due to your teacher on February 21, 2021

SAINT PROJECT

CONFIRMATION 2

WHY DO WE PICK SAINTS?

Through the process of canonization, when someone is declared by the Church to be a saint, the Church is proclaiming that this member of the faithful practiced heroic virtue during their life on earth, 'the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors' (CCC 828). To aspire to be like a saint is the same as trying to imitate an actor, musician, or athlete; a confirmation saint is someone cool who we want to be like!

It is also important to remember that as members of the Church, we are never been alone, as St. Paul said, 'We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1). These witnesses are the saints who continually intercede for us (CCC 956); in choosing a confirmation saint, we are choosing a special friend to intercede for us in heaven and after whom we can model our lives while here on earth.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PROJECT

You will be creating a poster about the Saint you are choosing for Confirmation. This poster must include the following questions and include these points:

- **A short biography** - Your Saint's full name; where and when they lived and died.
- **How, why, and when they became a Saint** - His/her date of canonization; what miracles have been performed through his/her intercession.
- **Why you would like to model your faith life after this person** - What is the Saint's spirituality like; how do you want him/her to pray for you; why do you choose this specific Saint.
- **Include a picture of your Saint** - Also decorate the poster with symbols associated with your Saint or what they are a patron Saint of. Honor your Saint by taking time and putting effort into this project.
- **Bibliography of websites, books, and other sources** - Recommended Catholic websites for Saint information include: catholic.org, mycatholic.life/saints, newadvent.org, saintsresource.com
- **Posters should be neat, creative, and authentic** - A sample template is shown below. Have posters ready to present by March 21st, 2021

