



Holy Family Catholic Church

Religious Education Program

Candidate for Confirmation Handbook 2011-2012

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Rev. Gerard Creedon, Pastor

THIS HANDBOOK IS VERY IMPORTANT AND HAS THE INFORMATION FOR YOU TO COMPLETE YOUR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS. DO NOT LOSE IT! FOLLOW THE DUE DATES LISTED ON PAGE 1!

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Suggested Service Projects Organizations are behind the front cover of this Handbook.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING
THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

The following chart is designed to assist you in keeping track of your Confirmation requirements deadlines. Completed paperwork **MUST** be turned in to the Religious Education Office by May 08, 2011. Individual requirements may be turned in earlier as they are completed.

	REQUIREMENT	PG. #	DATE DUE	DATE COM- PLETED
1	Register for Confirmation 2012	2	10-11-11	
2	Baptism & 1 st Communion certificate copies	2	10-31-11	
3	Spring Confirmation Retreat	2	Early Spring 2012	
4	Approved "Certificate of Eligibility" (form on page 9)	3	02-21-12	
5	Saint Name Report (form on page 6)	3	03-20-12	
6	Service Hours (Log Sheet on page 7)	4	05-08-12	
7	Service Hours Essay (Essay Sheet on page 7)	4	05-08-12	
8	Letter to the Pastor (form on page 8)	5	05-08-12	
9	Confirmation Test - Spring	5	TBA, Spring 2012	
10	Confirmation Test - Fall	5	TBA, Fall 2012	
11	Confirmation Rehearsal	5	TBA, Fall 2012	
12	Pre-Confirmation Confession	5	Candidate's Discretion	

Explanations of above table follow:

1. REGISTRATION

Registering for Confirmation is required. This is different from registering to take your Religious Education class, and is a separate form. Completed form **MUST** be turned in to the Religious Education Office as quickly as possible, or you will not be considered a Candidate for Confirmation 2012.

2. CERTIFICATES

A copy of your Baptism certificate **AND** your 1st Communion certificate are required to be on file in the Religious Education Office at the time of registration. You will not receive Confirmation without these copies on file.

3. SPRING CONFIRMATION RETREAT

You are required to attend a weekend, overnight retreat in the spring of your Confirmation year. You are assigned a specific retreat weekend shortly after the beginning January of the new year.

- ◆ retreats offer the opportunity for prayer, for the celebration of the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist, for fellowship and for fun;
- ◆ retreats begin on Friday evenings and end with Mass on Sunday morning at the retreat site;
- ◆ retreats take place at Prince William Forest Park, where attendees are housed in heated cabins with indoor bathrooms facilities;
- ◆ a fee is charged for each attendee to cover the costs for the camp rental, food, transportation to the park and supplies;
- ◆ retreats are supervised by well-known, trusted parish adults, including the parish Directors of Religious Education and Youth Minister; trained high school students serve as retreat facilitators;
- ◆ parents are welcome at any time during the retreat;
- ◆ additional information will be mailed to each Candidate for Confirmation shortly after the first of the year; all retreat paperwork needs to be turned in as quickly as possible following receipt of the packet;
- ◆ any scheduling conflicts or other concerns should be taken up directly with either the Director of Religious Education or the Director of Youth Ministry.

4. SPONSOR

Candidates and their parents are to prayerfully and carefully choose the person they feel is best suited to serve as a Sponsor.

- ◆ Sponsors must be over the age of sixteen;
- ◆ must be a baptized, practicing Catholic registered in a Catholic parish;
- ◆ must have received Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion;
- ◆ must not be the parent of the person being confirmed;
- ◆ must regularly take part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation;
- ◆ if married, must be married according to the law of the Catholic Church.

The Sponsor DOES NOT have to be a relative, but should be someone who can help the Candidate live a prayerful and holy life. (*Sponsor “Certificate of Eligibility” form is located on page 9 of this Handbook – read it carefully and follow the instructions contained in it.*)

5. SAINT REPORT

Saint reports are to reflect a particular saint the Candidate admires or who has meaning in the Candidate’s life; it is traditional to choose a new name other than your baptismal name with which to be confirmed. A good source of information on the lives of the Saints is “Butler’s Lives of the Saints” as well as the internet under Catholic websites. However, do not copy word-for-word from either source; read the information on your chosen saint and then formulate your report.

- ◆ Only names of saints canonized by the Church are acceptable;
- ◆ Completely fill out the “Confirmation Saint Name Report” form found on page 6. This report will include:
 - a brief biography of the Candidate’s chosen saint (**do not simply download it from the internet and turn it in as your own**);
 - explanation of the Candidate’s chosen saint’s greatest gifts and/or teachings;
 - explanation as to why the Candidate admires the chosen saint and why the Candidate wishes to take the saint’s name as well as how the Candidate hopes to imitate the chosen saint.

Some web sites for research purposes are: www.catholicsaints.com; www.catholiconline.com; www.ewtn.com



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SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY FORM
BAPTISM/PROFESSION of FAITH or CONFIRMATION

I, _____, am of legal canonical age (16 years old or older), a registered and participating member of _____ Catholic Church in _____, and wish to be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation in the Catholic Church.

I affirm the following:

- ◆ I have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Communion).
- ◆ I faithfully participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- ◆ I am not the parent of the person receiving Baptism or Confirmation.
- ◆ I sincerely believe and strive to put the Word of God into practice as taught by the Catholic Church.
- ◆ I understand if I am married, I must be married according to the law of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ I will give my support to the person I am sponsoring through prayers, spiritual support and Christian example in order that he/she can be faithful to the Catholic faith.

Sponsor Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor Mailing Address _____

Witnessed in the presence of _____
 (Parish priest or church notary)

Date _____

Candidate's full name _____

CHURCH SEAL



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**FORMULARIO DE ELEGIBILIDAD DE PATROCINADOR
 BAUTISMO/ PROFESIÓN de FE o de CONFIRMACIÓN**

Yo, _____, soy mayor de edad canónica legal (16 años o más), es un usuario registrado y participar de _____ de la Iglesia Católica en _____, y desea ser un patrocinador para el Sacramento del Bautismo o la Confirmación en la Iglesia Católica.

Yo afirmo lo siguiente:

- ◆ He recibido los Sacramentos de Iniciación (Bautismo, Confirmación y Comunión).
- ◆ Yo fielmente participar en la Misa los domingos y días de precepto.
- ◆ Yo no soy el padre de la persona que recibe el Bautismo o la Confirmación.
- ◆ Creo, sinceramente, y tratar de poner la Palabra de Dios a la práctica según lo enseñado por la Iglesia Católica.
- ◆ Entiendo que si estoy casado, debo estar casado con arreglo a la ley de la Iglesia Católica.
- ◆ Voy a dar mi apoyo a la persona con la que estoy proponiendo a través de oraciones, apoyo espiritual, el puerto y el ejemplo cristiano para que él / ella puede ser fiel a la fe católica.

Patrocinador Firma _____ Fecha _____
 Completo Dirección de casa _____

Testigos en presencia de _____
(Sacerdote o notario de iglesia parroquial)

Fecha _____

Nombre completo del Candidato _____

SELLO de la IGLESIA

6. SERVICE HOURS

Loving service to your neighbor is required; twenty (20) hours minimum of freely given service, with half being devoted to helping your fellow man (10 hours minimum) and half to your Church (10 hours minimum). Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are your guidelines. They are as follows: (*Service Hours Log and Service Hours Essay are found on page 7 in this Handbook.*) Start on this early in your Confirmation preparation year; do not wait under the date is to due!!!

Corporal Works of Mercy

- ◆ Feed the hungry
- ◆ Give drink to the thirsty
- ◆ Clothe the naked
- ◆ Visit and ransom the captives
- ◆ Shelter the homeless
- ◆ Visit the sick
- ◆ Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- ◆ Admonish sinners
- ◆ Instruct the ignorant
- ◆ Counsel the doubtful
- ◆ Comfort the sorrowful
- ◆ Bear wrongs patiently
- ◆ Forgive all injuries
- ◆ Pray for the living and the dead

By living and practicing the Works of Mercy, you are putting your prayers into action and living as a disciple of Jesus. You are responsible for participation in your faith. Twenty hours (minimum) are required; at least ten hours should be for your church.

7. SERVICE HOURS ESSAY

You are required to complete the Service Project Essay on the back of your Service Hour Log Sheet about the service hours completed, including how your service hours helped you fulfill a work of mercy. Completely fill out the essay portion of the report, fully answering each of the statements listed.

8. LETTER TO PASTOR

Fully complete the “Letter to the Pastor” form stating your desire to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your letter is to be **neatly handwritten and signed**. Deliver the letter to the Religious Education Office – **do not** give your letter directly to the Pastor or your teacher!

9. CONFIRMATION TEST – SPRING

You will be given a Confirmation test in the spring of your Confirmation year. This will evaluate your understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

10. CONFIRMATION TEST – FALL

In the fall of your Confirmation year, you will be given another Confirmation test to evaluate your retention of the meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

11. REHEARSAL

Confirmation rehearsal is **mandatory!** If possible your Sponsor should attend with you; if unavailable, one of your parents must attend the rehearsal.

12. PRE-CONFIRMATION CONFESSION

Receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Check the weekly bulletin for Confession times.

All confirmation 2012 paperwork (service hour log, service hour essay, letter to the Pastor, saint name report, etc.) is to be turned in to the Religious Education Office no later than MAY 08, 2012.

DO NOT turn any Confirmation paperwork in to your catechist, the Director of Religious Education, the Youth Minister, a priest or deacon!

As you complete each required item, you may turn it in to the Religious Education Office.

Service Project Essay

My service hours fulfilled one of the Works of Mercy by/because _____

In doing my service project, I learned _____

I chose these projects because _____

Doing service helped me prepare for Confirmation by _____

Summary _____

SUGGESTED SERVICE PROJECT ORGANIZATIONS:

Organization	Contact Information
ACTS Volunteer Services	703-221-3186
American Red Cross	703-368-4511
Association for Retarded Citizens	703-670-4800
Religious Education Catechist Aide (full year commitment)	703-670-8161 x 308
Challenger Program (Softball help)	703-680-5111
Chances for Youth	703-491-2053
Clean Community Council	703-792-6272
Dale City Rec. Center	703-670-7113 x 222
Dale City Rec. Center Coaching Helpers	703-670-7113 x 224
Habitat for Humanity of Prince William County	703-369-6708
Holy Family Fall Festival (Sign up in August)	703-670-8161
Holy Family Social Ministry & Christian Life	703-670-8161 x 312
Holy Family Parish Helping Hands	703-670-8161
Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus	703-590-1794
Holy Family Parish Liturgy Office (choir)	703-670-8161 x 307
Medical Missionaries	703-583-8218
National Park Service	703-221-7181
Prince William County Clean Community Council	571-285-3772
Prince William County Park Authority	703-792-7275
Prince William County Public Schools	703-791-8707
Prince William Library System	703-792-6201
Special Olympics	703-670-3374
Washington Area Gleaning Network	703-730-5762

It is **YOUR** responsibility to search out various service hour opportunities.
Do not expect parents or Religious Education staff to find them for you!

Service Project Suggestions

On-going projects:

Children's & High School Choir
Altar Server
Food Drives

Specific projects by month:

Holy Family "Family Fun Festival" (sign up early)	September
Confirmation Reception	November-December
Youth Ministry "Harvest Bazaar"	November
ACTS "Operation Turkey"	November
Changing Missals in the Church	November
Main Church Office mailings	November
Main Church Office mailings	December
PC & CL "Giving Tree"	December
Youth Ministry Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins	December
Decorating Church for Christmas	December
New Year's Eve Family Celebration (if held)	December
Main Church Office mailings	February
1 st Penance & Reconciliation	March
Youth Ministry "Living Stations of the Cross"	March/April
Decorating Church for Easter	April
1 st Communion Masses	May
Youth Ministry "Mothers' Day Flower Sales"	May
Graduation Mass & Reception	June
Summer Friendship Service Project	June/July
Religious Education Office	June – August

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Dear Pastor,

It is my desire to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. I have been preparing for this Gift during the past Religious Education year.

I would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation because _____

During my life I would like to achieve _____

The Gift of Confirmation will help me achieve this by _____

I chose my Confirmation Sponsor because _____

My Sponsor influences my spiritual life by _____

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name



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CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME REPORT

Student Name: _____

Name of chosen saint: _____

Saint's date of birth: _____

Saint's date of death: _____

Country where saint was born or lived: _____

Brief summary of saint's life and accomplishments: _____

When was this saint canonized? _____

Why was this saint canonized? _____

Neatly handwrite, filling in each blank!