

ST. MATTHEW
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SPOTSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA



CONFIRMATION
FALL 2019

Welcome to the St. Matthew Sacramental Program for Confirmation. It is extremely important that the student (Confirmation candidate), parents, and the sponsors collectively participate in the Confirmation preparation process. By working together with the Religious Education Office and the catechists, the candidates will be well prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens us to witness to our Faith. With that in mind, an emphasis will be placed on the candidate having a sound knowledge of the basic truths of our Faith.

I am pleased to offer this booklet to assist you in preparing your child for this Sacrament. It is designed to explain all the responsibilities and requirements of the parents, candidate, and sponsor.

Your cooperation in accurately completing the forms and returning them to the Religious Education Office in a timely manner is greatly appreciated. You will find a listing of requirements and their due dates on the last page of this booklet. You may deliver the requirements in person, by email, or through the mail.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. My aim is to assist you and your child in whatever way possible to make the Sacrament of Confirmation a spiritually rewarding and memorable event.

Peace of Jesus Christ,

Joanne Warren
Director, Religious Education

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

*“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.
Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children.
Through the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony, parents receive the
responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children.
Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their
vocation as children of God.”*

(Catechism of the Catholic Church #2223, #2225, and #2226, respectively).

As a parent, you have *the primary role* in the sacramental preparation process for your child. You will help your child grow in the Faith as you prepare him/her for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Your attendance at required events and Sunday Mass is essential.** Your interest, example, witness, and prayers make a difference in your child's decision to receive the Sacrament.

PARENTS PLEASE:

- † Prepare your child for the decision to be confirmed through instruction, example, and prayer.
- † Complete and return the Confirmation Record Form with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate including those baptized at St. Matthew. (Located on page 13 and due February 1st)
- † Complete and return the Confirmation Gown Order Form (Located on page 14 and due March 15th)
- † Assist your child in ensuring all class assignments are completed (including all the material identified in this guideline). Please assist the Candidate as necessary with the materials presented in the classes.
- † Ensure your child attends classes and the Confirmation Retreat (date to be determined). If any student has a conflict with the Confirmation Retreat scheduled at St. Matthew's Parish, he/she **MUST** go to a retreat at another parish prior to our Confirmation date. Please contact the Religious Education Office for further assistance.

Our Confirmation date will be in the fall of 2019 and scheduled by the Bishop in the summer of 2019. We will notify you of the retreat date upon receipt of our assigned date of Confirmation.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

"Baptism, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Confirmation constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation. The reception of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For 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."
(CCC #1285)

RESPONSIBILITIES:



Fulfill weekly Mass obligation and go to Confession on a regular basis.



Attend and participate in weekly scheduled religious education classes.



Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the Truths of our Faith.



Commit to continuing your Religious Education after Confirmation.



Prayerfully consider and select a sponsor.

See Sponsor requirements page 5



Select a patron saint's name as a Confirmation name. Write and submit a report on the chosen saint.

See Guidelines for Saint Report on page 7; due February 1st.



Prepare a letter to Father Eversole explaining why you would like to be confirmed.

See Guidelines for Letter to Father Eversole on page 8; due February 1st.



Perform a minimum of 10 hours of Corporal Works of Mercy and 5 hours of Spiritual Works of Mercy as outlined in this handbook.

See Guidelines for Works of Mercy on page 10; due March 15th.



Attend an interview with one of the members of our clergy.

See page 12



Attend all events of the Confirmation Retreat.

SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers this advice: "The Sponsor for Confirmation is one who, fittingly, is a spiritual help to the Candidate."
(CCC # 1311)

Sponsors take on a life-long commitment to help their candidates fulfill the obligation for this sacrament. The sponsor for a candidate wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation has important duties and responsibilities. Although their role is not the primary role (that is the duty of the parent), they are an important person in the preparation process and for the encouragement of the candidate to persevere in the Faith throughout their life. There is only one sponsor per confirmand.

REQUIREMENTS:

- † Live a Sacramental life by attending weekly Mass, regular Confession, and living a moral life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- † Must have received all the Sacraments of Initiation; (Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation)
- † If married, the marriage must be valid in the eyes of the Catholic Church.
- † Must be 16 years of age or older.

All sponsors must be properly disposed to receive Communion at the Solemn Confirmation Mass.

Those sponsors who are from Saint Matthew's should:

Be a registered member of the Parish and attending weekly Mass.

Call the Parish Office to request a Sponsor Letter. This letter should be requested by March 15, 2019.

Sponsors who are not from Saint Matthew's should:

Contact their parish and obtain a sponsor eligibility form from their pastor. This letter indicates that the Sponsor is a registered, participating Catholic who is eligible to act as a sponsor.

This letter must be received by March 15, 2019.

SPONSORS WHO CANNOT ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MASS:

In the event that the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation Mass, a proxy, explicitly designated by the candidate, can be selected. If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, the Religious Education Office MUST be notified in advance. The proxy must meet the same requirements as a sponsor and provide an eligibility letter.

A PARENT MAY NOT BE A SPONSOR BUT MAY ACT AS A PROXY SHOULD THE SPONSOR BE UNABLE TO ATTEND.



GUIDELINES FOR SAINT REPORT

Report is Due February 1, 2019

Each Confirmation candidate is required to write a Saint Report featuring the saint whose name has been chosen as the Confirmation name. The purpose of this report is for the candidate to learn about their saint.

The following information should be included in the report:

- † Personal influence of the saint on the candidate including:
 - Why did you choose this saint?
 - What is it about the saint that you would hope to emulate?
 - What was the most interesting thing you learned about the saint?

- † Biographical information on the saint (if available)
 - date and place of birth and death
 - description of saint's service to God and others
 - feast day of the saint
 - symbol, if any, associated with the saint
 - circumstances of death
 - if the saint is a patron of any group, discuss the reason and significance
 - discuss any specific devotion(s) that were attributed to this saint

- † What was there about the person that moved the Church to name him/her a saint?

- † Bibliography

This report should be typed, double-spaced and at least one page. Any Report submitted with inadequate content or format will be returned for a re-write.

MATERIAL COPIED FROM THE INTERNET WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Saint reports may also be submitted in the form of a trifold poster or lapbook.



GUIDELINES FOR LETTER TO FATHER EVERSOLE

Letter is due February 1, 2019

After prayer and reflection, prepare a one page, double-spaced letter to Father Eversole explaining why you would like to be confirmed.

If you need some help getting started, pray and reflect on the following questions:

Why do I wish to be Confirmed?

How am I preparing for Confirmation?

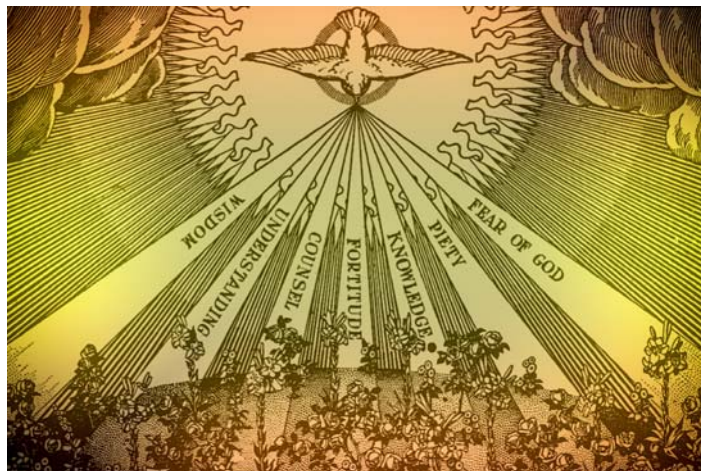
What will I do to continue to grow in my faith as a Catholic?

What are my thoughts about Confirmation?

Will I commit to weekly Mass attendance, regular Confession, and continuing my Catholic formation through the High School Ministry program?

Whom did I pick as my Confirmation saint? Why?

Please submit the letter to the Religious Education Office.



GUIDELINES FOR WORKS OF MERCY HOURS DUE MARCH 15, 2019

A minimum of fifteen hours of works of mercy (five spiritual and ten corporal) is required. Service is based on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, and most of all, the example of Christ Who came to serve. When providing service, the following points should be considered:

- † Your work of mercy is not just a job to be done, but the beginning of a life-long commitment of witness by serving Christ in others.
- † You should reflect on how your “work” helps you to take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfills the needs of others, and builds up the Christian community.
- † Your work of mercy should be done with a spirit of giving greater glory to God and not for any thanks you may receive.

Below is a list of *suggested* works of mercy. You may wish to do some of these or perhaps you may find some other unique ways to serve. **Sports activities and secular school projects do not fall under the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy.**

Chapter Sixteen of your *Faith and Life* textbook discusses the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy if you need further guidance.

Spiritual Works of Mercy Suggestions (Five Hours)

- Spend an hour with Jesus during First Friday Adoration
- Attend an additional Mass during the week or Saturday morning
- Read Sacred Scripture or Biographies of the Saints
- With parental approval listen to Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs or watch material on the FORMED website

Corporal Works of Mercy Suggestions (Ten Hours)

- Many parish groups are in need of additional help during the year. Be sure to contact these groups when they advertise for help in the Parish Bulletin.
- Help the St. Joseph Guild with Gardening
- Help with Religious Education Events
- Offer your service (without pay) to an elderly or disabled neighbor to do special projects such as mowing, raking leaves, shoveling snow or weeding.
- Babysit (free of charge) for parents who are providing a service, i.e. scout leader or catechists. Babysitting for your own parents or for a neighbor who is not giving service to others does not count toward service hours.
- Past service projects have included collection of coats for the poor, working at the food bank, volunteering at a senior citizen home, and helping the Knights of Columbus.
- Parish work days to beautify the grounds

Service hours must be listed on the Works of Mercy Summary Form found on page 11 of this packet.



Saint Vincent de Paul

WORKS OF MERCY SUMMARY FORM

Due March 15, 2019

Name of Candidate: _____

10 Hours Corporal

Date of Service	Nature of Service	Number of Hours	Signature of Parent

5 Hours Spiritual

Date	Type	Number of Hours	Signature of Parent

INTERVIEW WITH CLERGY

Spring 2019

Parents of the Confirmation candidates will be contacted in the spring by the Religious Education Office to schedule an interview with one of the clergy (priest or deacons) of our parish. One parent must attend this interview.

The purpose of the interview is not to make the candidate nervous, but to foster a conversation about Confirmation between the candidate and the clergy. Candidates are encouraged to ask any questions they may have and be prepared to answer basic questions such as but not limited to:

- What happened to me when I was Baptized?
- What will happen to me when I am Confirmed?
- What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- How does each gift help me?
- What will the Bishop say when he Confirms me?
- What is the name of the oil used in Confirmation?
- Why did I select a particular saint as my Confirmation name?



CONFIRMATION RECORD FORM

Due February 1, 2019

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION:

Confirmation (Saint) Name Chosen by Candidate: _____
THIS IS THE NAME THE BISHOP WILL BE GIVEN

Name: _____
Last **First** **M.I.**
Print Name as shown on the *Baptismal Certificate*

_____/_____/_____
Date of Birth **Place of Birth (City, State)**

Father's Name: _____
First **Middle** **Last**

Mother's Maiden Name: _____
First **Middle** **Maiden Name**

Church of
Baptism: _____
or Profession of Faith(POF) (Please print full name of Church)

Full Street Address of Church of Baptism or POF **City** **State** **Zip Code**

Date of Baptism* **Year and Church of First Holy Communion**

*** Please attach a copy of the Candidate's Baptismal Certificate. This includes those Candidates who were Baptized or made a Profession of Faith at St. Matthew's.**

Name of Confirmation Sponsor: _____

Is the Sponsor a Member of Saint Matthew's Parish? _____

What is the sponsor's relationship to the person being confirmed? _____

GOWN ORDER FORM

Due March 15, 2019

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Candidate's Name: _____

Height in inches

Approximate Weight

Please attach a \$20 check payable to St Matthew's to cover the gown rental fee.