

Sacrament
of
Confirmation
Handbook
2015-2016



Parish of the Holy Spirit
Religious Education Office
2222 Lake Michigan Dr. NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
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August 25, 2015

Dear Confirmation Candidate and Family:

According to the Diocese of Grand Rapids Sacramental Handbook, "Preparation for confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit. To this end, catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal church as well as the parish community."

In an effort to achieve these goals, all candidates will participate in five sessions outside their regular religion classes. This will allow the candidates to focus on Confirmation as a sacrament they are preparing to receive, not as an assignment for their school or parish religion class. This will also allow the students from the school and Wednesday night religious education programs to come together as members of the Holy Spirit parish community. Hopefully new friendships will form to assist these young people to continue to grow in their faith and to live as Catholic Christians in their everyday life.

The candidates will continue to attend their regular religion classes in the school or on Wednesday nights. They will need to attend Sunday evening Confirmation classes as well as a Confirmation retreat. They will need to complete a written test on the basics of the Catholic faith. Fr. John may wish to speak individually with each candidate to assess his or her readiness to receive Confirmation. Confirmation is a call to serve others as a way to live out our Catholic faith. We are requiring that each candidate give 10 hours of service to the parish/community. This would be an excellent opportunity for sponsors or parents to work with the candidate in living out our Catholic beliefs and working for the greater Church beyond this parish.

Please read the attached information thoroughly as it contains important dates and requirements. **Please return the blue registration form by October 11, 2015 to the Religious Education Office.** Every effort has been made to accommodate the busy schedules of the candidates by having the sessions on Sunday evenings. Please call the Rel. Ed. office if you have any questions.

In Christ's Peace,

Diane M. Schoof
Director of Religious Education
616-453-1591

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM

DUE October 11th

PLEASE PRINT, USING COMPLETE LEGAL NAMES ONLY. NO NICKNAMES.

The information you print below is recorded in the Sacramental Register in the parish. It is important that all information is complete! Since Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation, your child's baptism needs to be verified. If your child was not baptized at Holy Spirit or did not have First Eucharist at Holy Spirit, a copy of the baptismal certificate needs to be sent to: Religious Education, 2222 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Grand Rapids MI 49504. Fax: 616 453-1800. Original certificates will be returned. The parents listed below should be the ones listed on the baptismal certificate.

Candidate's Legal Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

Age of candidate as of March 1, 2016: _____

Birthdate: _____

Church of Baptism: _____

EXACT Date of Baptism (MM/DD/YY): _____

Church Street Address: _____

City, State and ZIP CODE: _____

Home Address: _____

For office use only

<input type="checkbox"/> Baptism verified	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded
<input type="checkbox"/> First Eucharist	<input type="checkbox"/> Index
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Letter received	
<input type="checkbox"/> Service Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Notification
<input type="checkbox"/> Classes	1 2 3 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Retreat	

Father's Legal Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

Mother's Legal Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

Mother's Maiden

Sponsor's Legal Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

Confirmation Checklist:

PAPERWORK: (DUE October 11)

- ___ Complete the Confirmation registration form.
- ___ Get a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate if not baptized at or did not receive First Eucharist at Holy Spirit.
- ___ Choose a qualified sponsor if a godparent is unavailable or no longer meets the requirements. He or she must be a practicing confirmed Catholic.
- ___ **Have your sponsor contact his/her parish for a letter indicating he/she is a practicing Catholic.**

This letter should be sent to:

**Holy Spirit Religious Education Office
2222 Lake Michigan Drive
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616 453-0018 fax**

RETREAT OCTOBER 11, 2015 : SPONSOR OR PARENT MUST ATTEND WITH CANDIDATE

- ___ Mark **October 11 1-5pm** on your calendar for the mandatory Confirmation Retreat.
- ___ Tell your sponsor about the retreat now so they can attend. A parent attends if sponsor is unable.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE HOURS: (DUE JANUARY 6)

- ___ Help a community organization that helps others through 10 hours of service.
(Regular sporting events do not count.) (5 Hours may be within the parish setting.)

CLASSES: Mark dates on your calendar now so you don't forget! Use the back door of the school.

- ___ Attend Class 1 **November 8 5-8p.m.**
- ___ Attend Class 2 **January 10 5-8p.m.**
- ___ Attend Class 3 **January 24 5-8p.m.**
- ___ Attend Class 4 **February 21 5-8p.m.**

WRITTEN TEST:

- ___ Know the enclosed study guide
- ___ Complete written test on Catholic faith in your classroom by March 2

RECONCILIATION:

- ___ All candidates must celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation between now and March 1st to properly prepare themselves for Confirmation.

Important Information

Preparation Guidelines:

The Diocesan guideline Policy 308 states, “Parents, along with pastoral leaders, are to see to it that the candidates are properly instructed about the Sacrament of Confirmation and approach it at the appropriate time” (canon 890.) We will provide the information about Confirmation during a series of four Sunday evening classes. Each candidate must attend Class 1, 2 3, and 4. There is also a mandatory retreat.

The Diocesan handbook also states, “In fulfilling their role, parents are to strive to nurture a spirit of faith in their children, help the children prepare to celebrate the sacrament fruitfully, and give expression to their own faith through active participation in and celebration of the sacraments” (Rite of Confirmation, #3.) The celebration of the sacraments would include Reconciliation and attending weekly Mass. All candidates must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare their souls for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Write it on the calendar now so it is not overlooked.

Mandatory Retreat Information: Put it on your calendar now!

A Confirmation Retreat will be held on **Sunday, October 11 from 1-5pm**. Further details and permission slips will come later. Please have candidates eat lunch **before** the retreat. The candidate is responsible for finding his or her own transportation to the retreat. If the candidate is not able to attend this retreat, he/she needs to inform this office immediately.

Written Test:

Candidates will complete a written test to determine if they know the basics of the Catholic faith. Candidates should learn the study guide questions (in the back of this handbook) so they have an understanding of the concept, not just the specific question. The use of Catholic resources such as the textbook, www.newadvent.com, www.usccb.org and other sources is expected. Sponsors could help the candidates with this process if needed. The test is administered during a regular religion class before March 2nd.

Date, Time and Celebrant:

Bishop Walkowiak will celebrate the Confirmation liturgy at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. The date is TBA. You will be notified as soon as we are given a date. The liturgy takes place at 7:00p.m. **Candidates and their sponsors are to arrive by 6:30p.m.** This will insure that everyone is seated in time for the instructions. The Liturgical Coordinator for the Cathedral will then give instructions to the candidates as to how they will come forward to be anointed and what they will say in answer to the bishop. The ceremony usually lasts about 1 ½ - 2 hours. As soon as we receive a date, letters will be mailed home with the information.

Parents: Usually the cathedral will ask the parishes to assist in the liturgical duties. If you are interested in being a reader, usher, greeter, Eucharistic Minister, Cross Bearer or altar server (child) please let this office know (453-1591.) We will notify you if the cathedral will need your help. If you are asked to be one of the **Readers, Gift Bearers, Eucharistic Ministers, Cross Bearer, or Altar Servers**, you are to be at the Cathedral 1hour prior to the ceremony for instructions from the Master of Ceremony or the Liturgical Coordinator. You are to go to the check-in area at the back of the church to let them know you are present. **Greeters** are to be at the Cathedral an hour before the service to seat people and hand out programs.

Confirmation Guidelines For Candidates at the Cathedral

1. ARRIVAL:

- You should be at the Cathedral by 6:30p.m. and check in with Mrs. Schoof or Mrs. Rusiecki. We will give you your certificate and nametag. You and your sponsor will sit together in the section reserved for Holy Spirit. Be sure to fill in each row before beginning a new row. Seating is reserved for candidates and sponsors only. Once seated, please stay seated. **Your family will not sit with you.**
- Find the nametag in your certificate envelope and put it on your upper right chest. Place paper backing inside your envelope so the Cathedral is not littered. Be sure your hair or other clothing does not cover it up. The Bishop needs to be able to read it.

2. BASICS OF THE CEREMONY

- ✠ The Cathedral may have slightly different ways to do this but here are the basics to give you an idea of what to expect. Prior to the homily, someone will call you as a group. Please stand as he presents our parish to the bishop and remain standing. Your sponsor does not stand. The bishop will ask the questions for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. “Do you reject sin?” etc... Your response is “I do.” Please respond loudly and with conviction. Be proud to proclaim your beliefs.
- ✠ After the renewal of Baptismal Promises, the bishop will pray the Prayer of Confirmation over the candidates.
- ✠ After the Homily, you will come forward for the anointing. You will walk around the back of the raised altar area, approach the Bishop’s chair and return to your seat. When you come forward with your sponsor (one at a time as if going to communion) and you are standing before the Bishop, you will tell him your name. Your sponsor stands behind you and places their right hand on your shoulder. The bishop will say the prayer “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” You respond, “Amen.” He will then say, “Peace be with you.” He may shake your hand while he is saying this. You respond, “And with your spirit.” Return to your seat by the side aisle.

3. **ATTIRE:** The candidates are conspicuous members of the assembly when they walk into the sanctuary and receive the sacrament. Their attire should not distract the assembly who is gathered to support and pray with them. You do not need to buy new clothes for the ceremony, rather be sure to follow the guidelines when choosing your outfit.

a. Young Women:

- Dresses, blouses, sweater set or jacket must have a cap sleeve, $\frac{3}{4}$ length or long sleeves (no spaghetti straps or bare shoulders) No sheer fabrics.
- Dresses or skirts must be an appropriate length to allow one to sit, walk, and climb stairs modestly.
- Dress slacks may be worn (no jeans, or tight fitting slacks)
- Shoes with low or medium heels (no stiletto) or flats are acceptable. The floors are slippery and you will be climbing stairs. If possible, no sandals or sneakers.
- A white blouse and dress slacks would be acceptable too as a reminder of the white garment of baptism.
- No cleavage please.

b. Young Men:

- Dress shirts (button w/collar), necktie (encouraged).
- Dress pant or Khaki pant (no jeans, cargo pants, or draw string pants)
- Dress shoe – tie or loafer. If possible, no sandals or sneakers.
- Sport coats and suits are optional. It will be warm in the cathedral.

4. If you have any questions call the Religious Education Office at 453-1591. Also, if you are violently ill or in the hospital on that day, call the office and leave a message if we are unavailable, or call Diane Schoof at home at 534-8043.

How to Choose a Sponsor

The role of the sponsor is not a one time – for the ceremony only – honor. It is a lifetime commitment to help the candidate live as a Catholic Christian. As young people begin to strive for independence from the immediate family, they may feel more comfortable talking about the faith with someone other than a parent. The sponsor at Confirmation agrees to help guide the young person to live the life for which God created them. This means that the sponsor should be someone who is a practicing Catholic and with whom the child is comfortable discussing matters of faith. Even though “Uncle D” is really fun and exciting, if he is not a practicing Catholic, he would not be a good choice to model the faith for the child. With our high-tech world, sponsors in other cities can communicate with the young people on a regular basis. So, even if the desired sponsor cannot physically attend the ceremony due to distance, he or she may still be the actual sponsor as long as he/she is willing to communicate with the young person regularly. (Just let the Religious Education office know if this is your situation and we will guide you about the actual ceremony.)

Sponsor Requirements (Policy 310) To be a sponsor for Confirmation, one must fulfill all of the following requirements:

1. be designated by the candidate, parents, or guardian, or in their absence by the pastor or minister;
2. have the intention of performing this role;
3. be at least sixteen years of age;
4. be a Catholic who has been confirmed, has already received the Eucharist, and leads a life in harmony with the faith;
5. be free from any impediment of the law in fulfilling the office of sponsor;
6. **not be the father or mother of the candidate.**

Additional comments:

All conditions and requirements for a godparent at Baptism are applied to the sponsor for Confirmation.

- a) Pastors should see to it that the sponsor chosen by the candidates are spiritually qualified for the office and fulfill the requirements set forth. **A letter from the church at which the sponsor is registered indicating the sponsor is an active Catholic is required. Please have it sent to:**

**Holy Spirit Religious Education
2222 Lake Michigan Drive
Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

OR

Fax it to 616-453-0018

- b) A sponsor is to accompany the candidate on the spiritual journey of Confirmation. The sponsor sees to it that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.
- c) It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of godparent at Baptism be the sponsor for Confirmation. It is necessary to determine that such a person remains qualified for the role of sponsor as given above.
- d) When the baptismal godparent is deceased, not readily available, no longer qualified, or for some other good cause, another sponsor may be chosen who will fulfill the requirements stated in this policy.
- e) A member of an Oriental Rite of the Catholic Church may serve as a sponsor for Confirmation in the Latin Rite.

Guidelines for Christian Service Hours

The service should be to an organization that helps the poor or suffering such as In the Image, God's Kitchen, Gilda's Club, etc. as opposed to helping a friend or relative by babysitting or yard work.

The service may be completed at one time or divided among different days or times. **Be sure to have the person in charge fill out your form completely.**

Suggestions:

- ✚ Arrange for a group to visit a senior citizens' home to play bingo or cards with the residents. Sing or play piano etc. for them. The key here is to visit with the residents. Do not wait for the holidays; go now, when others are not planning events. You will need to call the program manager to arrange a day and time before you go. You cannot just show up and expect the residents to come running. You don't want to interrupt any other activities that may already be scheduled.
- ✚ Form a group to sew quilts for a homeless shelter such as Mel Trotter or Degage' Ministries.
- ✚ Organize a coat and boot drive for In the Image or West Side Apostolate. Start now so the people have warm coats by the time the cold weather arrives.
- ✚ Knit or crochet squares for the Keep America Warm Program at Michael's Craft Stores. They have instructions at the store.
- ✚ Help prepare dinner at the Ronald McDonald House or other program that helps people with sick children.
- ✚ Go with the high school service group to one of the Youth Ministry outings that are in the church bulletin.
- ✚ Volunteer at Gilda's Club.
- ✚ Think about your own talents and how you can use them to serve God and others.

If you have your own ideas, talk it over with Mrs. Schoof to get approval. Please note that those attending Holy Spirit School may not use the parish festival this year.

Christian Service Hours Record

Name: _____

Hours worked: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor's printed name: _____

Supervisor's signature: _____

Title: _____

Hours worked: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor's printed name: _____

Supervisor's signature: _____

Title: _____

Hours worked: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor's printed name: _____

Supervisor's signature: _____

Title: _____

Hours worked: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor's printed name: _____

Supervisor's signature: _____

Title: _____

Hours worked: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor's printed name: _____

Supervisor's signature: _____

Title: _____

CONFIRMATION STUDY GUIDE

1. What is the Blessed Trinity?
Three persons in one God, not three gods in one person
2. Who are the three Persons of the Holy Trinity
God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
3. What are Jesus' two natures?
Fully Human and Fully Divine
4. What are the three roles of Christ that you receive at baptism?
Priest, Prophet, and King not Savior
5. What are the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord), Right Judgment (Counsel),
Reverence (Piety), Courage (Fortitude)
6. How are we made?
In the image and likeness of God
7. Who founded the Catholic Church?
Jesus
8. What are the four Marks of the Church?
The church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic
9. Who is Christ's vicar on earth?
The Pope
10. Who was the first Pope?
St. Peter
11. What does the word "catholic" mean?
It means universal
12. What is a group of parishes under the care of a Bishop called?
A diocese
13. What feast day do we call the "Birthday of the Church?"
Pentecost
14. What happened on Pentecost?
The Apostles received the Holy Spirit, 3000 people were baptized, and the Apostles began their mission
15. How many people were baptized on Pentecost?
3000
16. What is the Mystical Body of Christ?
Christ is the head and all the members of the Church make up His body

17. When do we become members of the Mystical Body of Christ?
Baptism
18. Name the Sacraments
1. Baptism
 2. Eucharist
 3. Confirmation
 4. Reconciliation
 5. Anointing of the Sick
 6. Matrimony
 7. Holy Orders
19. Know the Ten Commandments **and be able to recognize sins against them**
1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods before me.
 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
 3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
 4. Honor your mother and your father.
 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 your neighbor's goods.
20. What are the Sacraments of Initiation?
Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
21. What are the Sacraments of Healing?
Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
22. What are the Sacraments of Vocation, Service or Commitment?
Holy Orders and Matrimony
23. What are the two main parts of the Mass?
1. Liturgy of the Word
 2. Liturgy of the Eucharist
24. What must we do before receiving Holy Communion if we have a mortal sin on our soul?
Go to Reconciliation
25. What do we call the day that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His apostles?
On Holy Thursday
26. What Jewish feast was Jesus celebrating with His apostles at the Last Supper?
Passover
27. What sacraments were instituted at the Last Supper?
Holy Orders and Eucharist
28. What happened on Good Friday?
Jesus died

29. When did Jesus rise from the dead?
Easter Sunday
30. What is the name of our Pope?
Pope Francis
31. What is the name of our Bishop?
David Walkowiak
32. What does "incarnation" mean?
The second person of the Trinity became human while still remaining God
33. What do we call the fact that Mary was conceived without original sin?
Immaculate Conception
34. What is Divine Revelation?
God gives us insight into His being and will through the Scriptures and Tradition
35. What is a sacrament?
A special sign within the life of the Church through which Christ truly becomes present with us, acts in our lives, and gives Grace.
36. What do we call the first sin of Adam and Eve?
Original Sin
37. What is Actual Sin?
Sins we actually commit, not Original Sin
38. What is a Mortal Sin?
Very serious sin that completely breaks off our relationship with God
39. What three things must be present in order for a sin to be mortal?
✓ It must be serious
✓ You must know that it is seriously wrong
✓ You make a free choice to commit the sin
40. What is a Venial Sin?
Less serious sins that weaken our relationship with God
41. What is prayer?
Spending time with God
42. What prayer states our beliefs as Catholics?
The Creed
43. What is grace?
Sharing in God's life or God's life within us
44. What do we mean by a "Mystery of Faith"?
A truth revealed by God that cannot be fully understood by the human mind
45. What does "Eucharist" mean?
Thanksgiving

46. What is Transubstantiation?

A term used to describe the bread and wine becoming the body and blood of Jesus

47. What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?

1. Feed the hungry
2. Clothe the naked
3. Give drink to the thirsty
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Visit the imprisoned
6. Visit the sick
7. Bury the dead

48. What are the Spiritual Works of Mercy?

1. Teach the ignorant
2. Help others do what is right
3. Give advice to the doubtful
4. Comfort those who suffer
5. Be patient with others
6. Forgive injuries
7. Pray for the living and the dead

49. Name **three** miracles that Jesus performed.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

50. Name **two** parables and **tell what they are talking about** (meaning)

1. _____
2. _____

51. What do the initials INRI mean?

These are the letter on the crucifix meaning "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"

52. What is the Edict of Milan?

This is the law that made it legal to practice Christianity

Read the following Scripture passages and determine which sacrament it is describing:

John 14:15, Matthew 28:19, Luke 22:19, John 6:51, John 20:21-23, Mark 6:12-13, Genesis 2:24