



St. Luke Parish 2017-18

Confirmation Handbook

Grade 9 – Phase I

Opening prayer

*Lord, you have blessed us abundantly
with gifts and talents,
with enthusiasm, energy and the desire to serve you.
Gratefully we look to you for guidance and direction
As we discern what it is you may be calling us to.
We pray for the young people who are participating
in the Confirmation process-
gift them with open hearts to hear your call.
Help us to be the people of the Gospel
who your Son, Jesus, calls us to be.
Bless us and bless this community.
Bless the young people who are your disciples.
We pray this in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Administrative Staff

Pastor ~ Father Michael J. Drury

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Director of Religious Education ~ Maureen Murtagh

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Youth Minister ~ Nina Dorlon

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Dear First Year Candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation,

The story of your life as a Christian began at your Baptism. You were marked with the sign of the cross which symbolized you being welcomed into the Christian community and being claimed by Christ as a disciple. You were anointed by chrism as a sign that you were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. You received the grace to avoid sin and live as a child of God. Baptized with water and the Spirit, you were marked forever as belonging to Christ. Promises were made in your name by your parents and godparents. These promises committed you to be a follower of Jesus Christ. As a disciple of Jesus, you are to speak and act as Jesus would in every situation in your life.

Now your faith journey brings you to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation offers you a special challenge to spread the faith by both word and action and to strive to live as a true witness of Christ.

Please share this letter with your parents as you begin preparing to make this important commitment. The Church asks you to demonstrate your desire to commit yourself to this sacrament and the Catholic faith in many ways. You are asked to commit yourself to developing your personal prayer life. This includes your own daily prayer routine as well as participating at Mass on Sunday and receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly. You are asked to give time to study and learn more about the Church and the sacraments. You are asked to reach out to others (serve others) as you witness your faith in God who loves you deeply and desires your commitment to serve Him, love Him and praise Him. This is not an easy undertaking and it cannot be taken lightly. Still, it should be an exciting, happy and fulfilling time for you, your parents and your sponsor.

This is a lot to think about. Identify people in your life who are examples of good Catholic Christians and who will support you in these months of preparation. We, your teachers and catechists, promise to guide you in your understanding and knowledge of what you are about to undertake. The community of St. Luke is praying for you as well.

May God's graces be with you as you continue on your faith journey in preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Maureen Murtagh

Maureen Murtagh
Director of Religious Education

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IS:

1. **A Time to Pray** – Communicate with God

Develop a personal plan of prayer – set aside a time during each day to talk to God. During this time you can pray memorized prayers or just talk to God in your own prayer words. Ask Mary, your patron saint or the saint name you should choose for Confirmation to pray for you, too.

Examine your conscience often and know that you are being the best person you can be at all times.

Say the Act of Contrition and listen to the words as you pray the prayer.

Attend Mass each Sunday and on Holy Days.

2. **A Time to Study**

Learn about the Church and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Put thought and effort into every lesson, every chapter in your book, every question and answer you read and every assignment you complete.

Prepare each lesson carefully and turn it in on time.

3. **A Time to Begin a Lifetime Commitment to Witness and Service.**

Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are asked to demonstrate their desire to accept the fuller commitment to God and His Church through obvious acts of service to others. Reaching out to others is a process of moving from selfishness to *selflessness*. Young people like you work wonders by volunteering in loving service. By accepting the commitment to serve you are showing that you understand that the life of a confirmed Catholic Christian is one of witness faith by doing for others, even in very small ways. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta told us to “*do small things with great love and that is the best way to imitate the great love of Jesus.*” Your service and witness begins in your own home and moves into your parish, your neighborhood and your community.

CONFIRMATION: WHAT IS EXPECTED

(For the Candidates, Parents, Catechists, Sponsors)

Each candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation is encouraged to know the Lord in a personal and intimate way, to experience a sense of belonging to the Christian community, and to respond to the Gospel mandate of Christian service.

Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- ✘ are expected to participate in Sunday Mass and receive the sacraments regularly.
- ✘ are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes in the Confirmation program.
- ✘ that are in 9th grade are expected to participate in community service projects and participate in a retreat experience within the 2-year Confirmation process.
- ✘ are expected to demonstrate Christian charity and kindness to others, especially other catechists and other Confirmation candidates.

CONFIRMATION: THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS - For Parents and Guardians

Parents are the ones who present their children for the sacrament of Baptism and, in doing so, accept the privilege of bringing up their children to love God and neighbor. Throughout a child's life, parents, by their daily example and witness, lead their children in the way of holiness. Parents are the primary religious educators of their children, so much so that there is not an adequate substitute.

In the parish's preparation for Confirmation, parents of Confirmation candidates are asked to assume the following responsibilities.

- ✘ Parents are encouraged to work closely with their child, his or her sponsor, catechists, and the pastoral staff during the year of preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation
- ✘ Parents are encouraged to assist the candidate's spiritual formation through prayer, attending Mass together and family discussion.
- ✘ Parents are asked to attend the parent orientation meeting at the beginning of the sacrament preparation.
- ✘ Parents are asked to encourage and support the candidate's participation in ministry partnership and in one of the retreat evenings.
- ✘ Parents are asked to encourage and supervise the candidate's participation in parish ministry as well as his or her hours of service.
- ✘ Parents are asked to remember to pray for all the families who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✘ Parents are asked to volunteer to assist with the Confirmation program in any way that they are able. Please check the parish Sunday bulletin for time and meeting dates of various parish organizations. Keep an eye out for opportunities to participate in the Confirmation preparation.

CONFIRMATION SPONSORS - For the Candidate

About Sponsors - Throughout life you have received the support of family members and other caring people. They have fed and clothed you, listened to you and offered guidance, given you assistance and comfort. At Baptism you entered the Church with the support of parents and godparents. Speaking for you, they promised to raise you in the Catholic faith and watch out for you.

At Confirmation, however, you stand by yourself and renew those vows spoken for you at Baptism. The Church considers you old enough to assume this responsibility. But there is still present a special person – your Confirmation sponsor – who will stand with you and present you to the bishop. This person will be a support to you as you prepare to receive that sacrament.

Because there is this close connection between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the Church recommends that a person's godmother or godfather be the Confirmation sponsor. A man may be a sponsor for a young girl; a woman may be a sponsor for a young boy.

About Choosing A Sponsor - When considering a person as a possible sponsor, think about the following.

My Confirmation sponsor must be:

- ✘ A person who lives his or her Catholic faith.
- ✘ A person who is an example of Christian living.
- ✘ Baptized and confirmed in the Church.
- ✘ At least 16 years of age.
- ✘ Able to understand his or her responsibilities and mature enough to accept them.

A regular participant in Sunday Mass and recipient of the Eucharist.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION???

CONFIRMATION IS...

- a sign of God's special love.
- an invitation to deepen our relationship to God our Creator, Redeemer, Spirit.
- a time to deepen our involvement in our faith community.
- a profession of faith by personally proclaiming our baptismal vows.
- an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- an anointing with chrism – a sealing, marking or branding – as God's own.
- an acknowledgement of spiritual maturity.
- a lifelong challenge to live the way of Jesus, to pray individually and as members of the Church throughout the world.
- a lifelong challenge to build up the Body of Christ through worship, formation, evangelization and service.
- a call to be a sign of God's presence.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Baptism, the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "Sacraments of Christian Initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the Sacrament 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. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (CCC 1285)

The Rite of Confirmation (CCC 1293-1301)

Laying of Hands (CCC 1299)

Chrism (CCC 1293-1296)

The Effects of Confirmation (CCC 1302-1305)

Who can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? (CCC 1306-1311)

Who is the minister of Confirmation? (CCC 1312-1314)

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be within us and remain with us forever. The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, came at the Pentecost and is present in a special way in the community of the Church. When we answer God's invitation to love Him and one another, the Holy Spirit is at work.

Pentecost

Pentecost is the celebration of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the universal Church.

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Love
- ❖ Joy
- ❖ Peace
- ❖ Patience
- ❖ Kindness
- ❖ Goodness
- ❖ Faithfulness
- ❖ Humility
- ❖ Self-Control

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Piet^y (**Reverence**) – The gift of reverence helps us to see God as a most loving Father and all people as our brothers and sisters. It encourages us to praise God freely and to respect all.

Understanding – The gift of understanding leads us to beyond just knowing the beliefs of the Church. It helps us grasp the meaning of what we believe so that our Christian faith makes a difference in the way we live.

Fortitude (**Courage**) – The gift of courage helps us to be strong in our beliefs as Christians. It helps us choose what is right in spite of the hardship we might suffer for having chosen what is good.

Wisdom – The gift of wisdom helps us look upon life as a great and remarkable gift from God. It helps us judge all the events in our lives according to our belief in God.

Awe (**Wonder**) – The gift of wonder and awe in God's presence helps us respect the goodness and majesty of God. It helps us value God's plan for the workload and desire to build up the kingdom of God on earth.

Counsel (**Right Judgment**) – The gift of right judgment helps us to see the right and good things to do among the many choices we have to make every day. It helps us choose the right way to act when we have to decide.

Knowledge – The gift of knowledge helps us to be certain in our minds and hearts that God calls us to live a life of goodness and love wherever we are; at home, in school, or with friends.

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- ✘ A regular participant in Sunday Mass and recipient of the Eucharist.

CONFIRMATION FINAL ASSESSMENT STUDY GUIDE

"Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiations, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds." (CCC 1316)

The following list includes the basic terms and concepts that you should know and understand in order to be fully prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to do well on your test. You should be able to explain the significance of each of the following items. This is not a complete list of all things you should know about the Catholic faith, but it is a solid foundation on which to build.

Some of this is fairly new information, but most of it should already be quite familiar to you. The goal here is not just to memorize, but to show what you know about your faith. This list is in no particular order.

Holy Trinity:

Father (Creator), Son (Redeemer) and the Holy Spirit (Sanctifier)
Attributes of God
Mystery of the Incarnation
Paschal Mystery

What is Grace:

Grace
Actual Grace
Sanctifying Grace

Faith:

The Blessed Virgin Mary:

Immaculate Conception
Perpetual Virginity
The Assumption

Two Greatest Commandments:

- 1) You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.
- 2) You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Seven Sacraments

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism
Confirmation
Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing

Reconciliation
Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments of Vocation

Matrimony
Holy Orders

The Ten Commandments

1. I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of that place of slavery. You shall not have other God's 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 your neighbor's house – nor anything else that belongs to him.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Clothe the naked
- Care for the sick
- Help those imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Share knowledge
- Give advice to those who need it
- Comfort those who suffer
- Be patient with others
- Forgive those who hurt you
- Give correction to those who need it
- Pray for others

Theological Virtues:

Faith

Hope

Love

Cardinal Virtues:

Prudence

Justice

Fortitude

Temperance

Four Marks of the Catholic Church:

One

Holy

Catholic

Apostolic

Liturgical Year and Important Events

- Advent
- Christmas Time
- Ordinary Time
- Lent
- Triduum
- Easter Time
- Ordinary Time
- Pentecost
- Ascension

THE MASS

The four parts of the Mass are:

1. Introductory Rite

- Opening Song
- Greetings
- Penitential Rite
- Gloria

2. Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading – from the Old or New Testament
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading – from the New Testament
- Gospel
- Homily
- Creed – Nicene or Apostles' Creed
- Prayers of Intercession

3. Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation of the Gift
- Offertory
 - Prayer over the Gifts
 - Washing of the Hands
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Consecration
- Eucharist
- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God

4. Concluding Rite

- Blessing
- Dismissal

SIN is freely choosing to do what we know to be wrong. We disobey God's law on purpose. Sin includes any action, omission, attitude or social structure through which people deliberately choose not to love God, or themselves.

Mortal Sin is a total break in our relationship with God, having full knowledge that something is very serious and wrong, and deliberately doing it.

Venial Sin is knowing and freely choosing to do something that is wrong but it is not so serious as to break your relationship with God.

Social Sin is a sin such as racism, sexism and ageism that we commit together.

Original Sin is the first sin of humanity. All of us are born into original sin and we suffer from its effects.

Personal Sin is words or actions against God's Law.

Capital Sin is greed, anger, envy, lust, pride, sloth and gluttony.

Precepts of the Church:

- 1) Assist at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation, doing no unnecessary physical work on those days.
- 2) Confess serious sins at least once a year.
- 3) Receive Holy Communion frequently and, at a minimum, during the Easter season.
- 4) Fast and abstain on days appointed.
- 5) Contribute to the support of the Church.
- 6) Observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage and give religious training to one's children by word, example and use of parish schools.
- 7) Join in the missionary spirit and work of the Church.

9th GRADE 2017-18 CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

Attendance is required at all Confirmation events and attendance will be taken.

Page references refer to the handbook - Please make copies of EVERYTHING you hand in

September 10	5:00pm Candidate/Parent Confirmation Orientation 6:00pm Mass
October 8	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial Interview and Covenant Due - pages 14, 15 & 16
October 22	Confirmation Classes meet
November 5	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works of Mercy Assignment Due - pages 17/18
November 19	Confirmation Classes meet
December 3	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass
<i>December 17</i>	<i>Class make-up date in case of a cancellation</i>
Monday, December 18	8:00pm Advent Service of Reconciliation
January 7	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass
January 21	Confirmation Classes meet
<i>January 28</i>	<i>Class make-up date in case of a January cancellation</i>
Saturday, February 3	Confirmation Classes meet (3:30-5:00pm and 6:00-7:30pm) and attend the 5:00pm Mass
February 18	Confirmation Classes meet
<i>February 25</i>	<i>Class make-up date in case of a February cancellation</i>
March 4	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass
March 20	Confirmation Classes meet
Tuesday, March 27	8:00pm Lenten Service of Reconciliation
April 8	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Project Form Due - page 19
<i>April 22</i>	<i>Confirmation Classes meet</i>
May 7	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass
May 20	Confirmation Classes meet
June 3	Confirmation Classes meet and attend the 6:00pm Mass

Please be sure your teacher has at least one current email address so they can communicate any changes to the schedule.

CONFIRMATION - INITIAL INTERVIEW

Please PRINT Clearly

Full Name _____

Part I: To help us get to know you a little better, and to help us plan for the process of preparation, please answer the following. Circle the correct answer when appropriate. Remember PLEASE PRINT.

A. Have you attended the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM during your grade school years here at St. Luke Parish? Yes No

Have you attended another parish? Yes No

If "yes" please name that parish _____

Did you attend regularly? Yes No

If no, please explain your answer: _____

B. What High School do you attend? _____

Part II: To help us understand why you are taking this journey toward receiving this Sacrament, please answer the following:

A. Why do you want to enter the Confirmation Preparation Process?

B. What are some things you hope WILL or WILL NOT happen during the preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

C. Do you have any SPECIFIC QUESTIONS about the Confirmation Preparation Process?

CONFIRMATION - INITIAL INTERVIEW (page 2)

NAME: _____

Part III: Tell us a bit about your life as a Catholic.

A. How would you describe an ACTIVE CATHOLIC?

B. Who do you look to as a ROLE MODEL of what an ACTIVE CATHOLIC is? Why?

C. How important is being an active Catholic in your life right now?

D. Is it difficult for you to be an active Catholic? Why?

E. How has St. Luke played in your life? _____

F. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus at this time in your life?

G. What would you most like to ask God right now? _____

ST. LUKE CONFIRMATION COVENANT

I, _____, a member of the parish of St. Luke, wish to affirm my faith and belief in Jesus Christ and His Church in the Sacrament of Confirmation. I ask to become a candidate for Confirmation, and to enter the program of preparation being offered to me by this parish. This is in response to God's call to live the faith more deeply, to worship, to witness and to serve as a Confirmed Roman Catholic. As a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, I accept my responsibility to open my heart and mind to the workings of the Holy Spirit. During this time of preparation I will:

- ❖ Pray daily for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ❖ Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ❖ Actively participate in our Parish Sunday Eucharistic Mass Celebration.
- ❖ Actively participate in all preparation classes.
- ❖ Contribute 12 hours of Christian Service to home, parish, schools, community and neighborhood and wherever I can contribute my time and talents.
- ❖ Complete all assignments.
- ❖ Participate in a retreat.

Signed by Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Parent: _____ Date: _____

**THE INITIAL INTERVIEW AND THE CONFIRMATION COVENANT (PAGES 14-16)
ARE TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED THE FIRST CLASS,
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017, TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.**

****WORKS OF MERCY Assignment Due No Later Than November 5, 2017****

NAME _____

Read the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and remember them. Think about what they mean. Think about why we are asked to consider these Works of Mercy important in our lives. *Think about what MERCY really means. Look it up, read the meaning and define it here:*

Name 3 organizations which you have read about or heard about that help and assist others. Explain the services they provide and how they go about providing them.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

If you had to convince someone that SERVICE is an essential part of living a Christian life what would you say?

****WORKS OF MERCY Assignment – page 2****

NAME _____

One way we serve others is by providing for their needs. What are some needs of others for which you can pray?

Write your own prayer for the needs of others. You may know someone who is in great need physically, emotionally, financially or academically etc. Your prayer can be very specific for one person or you may wish to pray for a group of people. Maybe even people you don't even know in which case your prayer would be more general. After you write it, PRAY IT – EVERYDAY!!!

****WORKS OF MERCY Assignment (pages 17 – 18)**

Due No Later Than November 5, 2017**

Please hand in to the Religious Education Office

SERVICE PROJECTS

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and most of all, on the example of Christ who came to serve.

Ninth graders are introduced through service to what it means to help build Church based on our Catholic principles of justice and love. Each ninth grade candidate is **required** to participate in a service project of their choosing. We strongly encourage each candidate to develop and implement a project under a parent's supervision. Some examples are:

- Making bag lunches for an area soup kitchen
- Filling shoe boxes with soap, shampoo etc for youth centers
- Hosting a winter coat drive for the homeless
- Doing yard work for an older neighbor or friend
- Volunteering to pack food for a local food pantry

Please note that while your son or daughter **may** participate in service projects as part of their small group meetings, the monitoring, development and implementation of this requirement is **not** the responsibility of our ninth grade catechists.

Candidate' Name _____

Date(s) of Service _____

Hours of Service (minimum of 12 hours) _____

Parent's Signature _____

Describe your service. What did you do and for whom?

Share your thoughts and feelings about the service experience.

TO BE RETURNED TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE NO LATER THAN

Sunday, April 8, 2018