

Parish of St. Mary, Mother of the Church

PARISH OFFICES
40 Academy Street
Lee, MA 01238-1602
(413) 243-0275 ✉ www.St.MaryLOS.com

September 27, 2015

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Welcome to St. Mary Mother of the Church Parish's preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

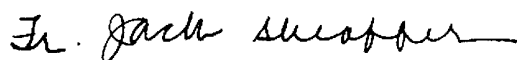
Confirmation preparation is a time to consider what your Catholic faith really means to you. It is an opportunity to discern, as a baptized member of the Church community, how you can live out your call as a follower of Jesus. Confirmation requires a real commitment on your part and a desire to fulfill the responsibilities that it entails. If you do not feel you are ready to make this commitment at this time, the Sacrament can be celebrated at a later time.

You have already celebrated Baptism and Eucharist, which, together with Confirmation, form the Sacraments of Initiation. Confirmation, like Baptism and Eucharist, is not limited to a single celebration. Rather, your Confirmation, and preparation for it, is really a celebration of an ongoing process. It is rediscovering the gift of faith that is yours, strengthening your acceptance of the Spirit in your life, and shaping a life of witness to Jesus by serving others.

Making your Confirmation does not necessarily mean that you wholeheartedly accept all that the Christian faith entails right now. It means you are making a commitment to do your best to live out the faith and to make the faith your own. This is a life-long process. The program will assist you in bringing this process into a more mature realm through reflection, worship, and community service, a hallmark of Christianity.

The whole parish community is called to support you during this time of preparation. It is a pleasure to welcome you to our program. We applaud your desire to allow the Spirit to enliven your faith and move you to be a committed and responsible witness to Jesus. Be assured of our prayers and support.

Sincerely,



Fr. John K. Sheaffer
Pastor

Parish of St. Mary, Mother of the Church
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION
2015-2016

September 27

6:00 -6:45 PM
St. Mary's School
Fr. Sheaffer

Welcoming the Candidates and their Parents. (SMS)

Speaking program will detail the requirements of our program and discuss the meaning of this sacrament. Parents are asked to attend this class.

October 4

6:00-7:00 PM
St. Mary's Church
Fr. John Schatzel
Archdiocese of Boston

Yes, We Believe. (St. Mary's Church)

We will celebrate Mass.
We will focus on the principles of our faith.
We will explore the meaning of the Creed, Commandments, and Sacraments.

November 8

6:00-8:00 PM
St. Mary's School

Called to be the Church. (SMS)

We will focus on the Missionary aspect of our Baptism. Through the viewing of the film ***Romero*** we will explore our call to be committed and involved members of our Church.
Please note that due to the length of the movie, class will be extended until 8:00 PM. Supper will be served.

December 6

6:00-7:00
St. Mary's School
Deacon Bob and Maureen Digan

The Miracle of St. Faustina (SMS)

Our Parishioners, Deacon Bob & Maureen Digan will discuss the miracle in their lives that led to the canonization of St. Faustina.

January 10

6:00-7:00 PM
St. Mary's School

Sacraments (SMS)

Speaking program will focus on how we see sacraments alive in the world.

February 21

6:00-7:00 PM
St. Mary's School
Deacon Jim McElroy

Lectio Divina. (SMS)

Speaking program will focus on a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word.

April 26

Tuesday
4:30 - 9:00 PM

Evening of Recollection (St. Ann's Parish Center, Lenox)

New Spirit, Inc., with Pat Sears and Barry Kingston.
St. Ann's Church in Lenox.

TBA

Confirmation Rehearsal for Candidates & Sponsors

TBA

Sacrament of Confirmation

Parish of St. Mary, Mother of the Church
CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

REQUIREMENTS

There are many components to our Confirmation Process and they are all important.

- Weekly participation at Mass.
- Participation in ALL classes. [one absence, *FOR A SERIOUS REASON*, will be excused]
- Participation in the Evening of Recollection at St. Ann's in Lenox on April 26th.
- Complete 10 hours of volunteer service work.
- Cooperate with presenters and be on time for class.
- Select a sponsor and complete and submit the sponsor form.
- Select a confirmation name and complete and submit the confirmation name form.
- Complete and submit the gown order form.
- If you were not baptized at our parish and if we do not already have your baptismal information on file, we may ask you to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate.

Parish of St. Mary, Mother of the Church

SERVICE PROJECTS

Jesus' whole life was a shining example of service to others. "I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:27), He said. When we help others, we are following His example. The Church teaches that we must take care of the whole person - physical needs as well as spiritual needs. These are best expressed in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Works of Mercy

Corporal Works

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

Spiritual Works

- Share our knowledge with others.
- Give advice to those who need it.
- Comfort those who suffer.
- Be patient with others.
- Forgive those who hurt us.
- Give correction to those who need it.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

By living the Works of Mercy, we put our faith into action, as Jesus has asked us to do. The Catholic community is challenged by the Gospel to be a sign of the Kingdom of God by being involved in addressing these needs.

The Second Vatican Council described Christian service in this way: "In our times a special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbor of absolutely every person." This means that we must actively help people in need: the elderly, the abandoned, the hungry, and all those who seek justice and freedom from their suffering.

Service Projects as Component to Preparation Process.

Each student is asked to explore Christian Service by completing 10 hours of community service. It is our hope that your service project will allow you to experience service in an area previously unexplored. We encourage you to reach beyond that which you do regularly and grow by experiencing new things. Service projects should be fulfilled outside the home.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (A) Pick one or more service opportunities to complete **10 hours**.
- (B) Call the number listed to make arrangements.
- (C) Must be completed by and turned in no later than **Sunday, March 30, 2016**. Have the contact person verify your completed service work using the enclosed form.

Possible Service Projects

****St. Mary's School Holiday Bazaar**** *St. Mary's School needs help with the setup, breakdown, and implementation of their annual Holiday Bazaar. This is a great opportunity to help out the school in their fundraising mission and to get a good amount of your service hours completed. The Bazaar will be held on Sunday, November 22nd. Assistance will be needed on that day and some assistance the day before. For more info and to signup, contact Mrs. Jane Furey at 243-0275.*

Catholic Charities offers community opportunities for service in a variety of areas, including food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, immigration, Catholic Campaign for Human Development and other special projects. For more information call Grace Lucia at 413-452-0605.

Lenten Soup Suppers are on the Tuesdays of Lent. Contact Libby Collins at 243-0275.

American Red Cross, 480 West Street, Pittsfield, 442-1506.
Emergency services, first aid and disaster relief

Religious Education (CCD) Volunteer, Contact Mrs. Kelly at 562-2768 or
stmarylessccd@gmail.com.

Hospital Volunteer - Fairview Hospital, 528-8600 , Berkshire Medical Center 447-2000, or other area hospitals.

Volunteer service in your school - maintenance, cafeteria, etc. Contact your principal or guidance counselor; see if they can accommodate you.

Volunteer service to your parish, usher, greeter, lector - contact Fr. Sheaffer at 243-0275.

Lee Food Pantry contact Eileen Maxfield at 243-1883.

Help Clean our Churches: St. Mary's in Lee, contact Donna Abbott at 243-1645; St. Mary of the Lakes in Otis, contact Carol Lombardo at 822-4554; St. Joseph's in Stockbridge, contact Fr. Sheaffer at 243-0275.

Nursing Home Visits Several area nursing homes would love young people to visit the elderly and take part in activities. Contact the Activities Director at any nursing home.

Other Volunteer Service Opportunities. Perhaps you have a suggestion of your own - please call Fr. Sheaffer, 243-0275, for discussion or approval.

*You did not choose me, but
I chose you, and appointed
you to go and to bear fruit.
John 15*

CONFIRMATION GOWN ORDER FORM

Please PRINT LEGIBLY

Your Name: _____

Gender: Male Female

Your Height: _____ Feet _____ Inches

Your Weight: _____

Please return this form to the Parish Office no later than January 10, 2016.
Thank you.

CONFIRMATION GOWN ORDER FORM

Please PRINT LEGIBLY

Your Name: _____

Gender: Male Female

Your Height: _____ Feet _____ Inches

Your Weight: _____

Please return this form to the Parish Office no later than January 10, 2016.
Thank you.

Confirmation Sponsors

- A person who is a practicing and faith-filled Roman Catholic adult.
- A person who is able to relate in friendship to a teenager.
- A person who is willing to participate in the Confirmation process during the year by supporting the student and is willing to pray for the candidate.
- A person who is a good listener.
- A person who is willing to share their own experience of faith.
- Sponsors must be fully initiated Catholics, that is, they must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- A sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age.
- Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children.
- Please fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office or class *no later than January 10, 2016*.



CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Please PRINT LEGIBLY

Your Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sponsor's Telephone Number:
(_____) _____

Please return this form to the Parish Office or class no later than January 10, 2016.
Thank you.

Confirmation Name

One of the things that many adult Catholics remember most about their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the process of choosing a Confirmation Name. The practice was in existence as early as 1287 AD when bishops sometimes changed the names of people as they were initiated into the Church or Confirmed.

The practice of selecting a Confirmation Name officially ended with the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's. However, in many areas it is common that the practice has been retained. Ideally, one should confirm the name in which they were baptized. However, if you wish to choose a Confirmation Name different from your Baptismal Name, please follow these guidelines:

- The name should be that of a saint whose life and faith have made an impact on your own.
- You might choose the name of a saint who is the patron saint of some activity that is important in your life, or perhaps the patron saint of a career you may be considering.
- The name of a male saint may be used for a female candidate and vice versa.
- Please fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office or class *no later than February 21, 2016.*



CHOICE OF CONFIRMATION NAME

Please PRINT LEGIBLY

Your Full Name: _____
First *Middle* *Last*

- I will: be confirmed in my Baptismal Name.
(Choose One) choose another Confirmation Name, which is:

Please return this form to the Parish Office or class no later than February 21, 2016.
Thank you.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS



You can find out if a session will be canceled due to weather by going on our Parish Web Site at:

www.StMaryLOS.com

-or-

www.facebook.com/StMaryLOS