

**8th GRADE CONFIRMATION
INFORMATION PACKET
FOR CANDIDATES AND PARENTS /
GUARDIANS
2025-2026**

*Church of the Precious Blood
72 Riverdale Road
Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750*

Getting ready for Confirmation:

- *Meaning of Confirmation*
- *Confirmation Name – Saint Report*
- *Sponsor Certificate*
- *The Joy of Celebrating Mass – Mass Reflection Sheet*
- *The Joy of Service – Service Record Sheet*
- *The Joy of a Day with God – A Day of Retreat*
- *Confirmation Date – St. Dorothea – April 17, 2026*

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD CONFIRMATION INTRODUCTION

Meaning of Confirmation

Confirmation is one of 7 Sacraments celebrated by the Catholic Church. As such, it celebrates several important beliefs that are essential to be a full member of the Catholic Church.

- 1) There are three Sacraments of Initiation that make one a full member of the Church. The sacraments begin with Baptism in which a person first becomes a member and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them grow in Christian faith and love. The second sacrament is First Communion which celebrates what began at Baptism by allowing a person to receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus. The third sacrament is Confirmation in which a person “confirms” what was done in Baptism and celebrated in First Communion.
- 2) Confirmation also celebrates receiving in a new way the Holy Spirit, whose gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (reverence) strengthen a person to embrace a full Christian life of loving God, serving others, and being a witness to Jesus.

“Christian Initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ’s Body and Blood for transformation in Christ.”

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, par 1275

“Jesus said: ‘Whoever acknowledges me before others, I too will acknowledge them before my Father in Heaven’”

- Gospel of Matthew 10:32

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD CONFIRMATION INTRODUCTION

Importance of Confirmation Name

Your name gives you an identity: it tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. If you do not know your parents' reasons for choosing your name, ask them about it. Now that you are soon to be confirmed, it is time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in faith.

In the Bible giving a person a new name signified a new mission for that person. When Jesus selected Simon as head of the Church, Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, meaning "rock" because Peter was to become the rock upon which Jesus was to build His Church.

To celebrate the mission of being a full member of the Catholic Church, a student chooses a name. A student may keep their Baptismal name or select a name of their choice. It should be a saint's name or a derivative of that name (eg. – Michelle is a derivative of Michael).

To celebrate a name, we ask the student to select a saint with that name, do some research, and create a small poster to tell us a little about that saint. We will provide a blank poster, discuss its purpose, and discuss the project with the children during class time. ***If a student has questions concerning a particular name, they can contact me at jnotaro32@gmail.com.***

The next page is about the saint you have chosen for your Confirmation name. The sheet provides some questions to guide a student's research. Information regarding the saint can be found on the internet or in books concerning the lives of saints. The information can be placed on the poster.

"...Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit, a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly at Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles began to proclaim, 'the mighty works of God,' and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be the sign of the messianic age."

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, par 1287

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD
CHRISTIAN NAME FORM

Candidate's Name: _____

Saint's Name: _____ Feast Day _____

Patron Saint of : _____

Tell us about this Saint:

When and where did this saint live? _____

What virtues did this saint practice in his / her life? _____

What contributions did this saint make to the Church and / or society?

What aspect of this person's Christian life attracted you? _____

How is this Saint a role model for Christians today?

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Choosing a Sponsor:

- A Confirmation Sponsor is a person who lives a Catholic Christian lifestyle.
- A Sponsor is someone who will help you grow in faith.

Sponsor Requirements (Church Law and Diocesan Mandates)

- Sponsor must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- If married, their (the Sponsor's) marriage must be recognized by the Church.
- Sponsor can be a godparent.
- Sponsor cannot be a parent or stepparent (they are already the primary caretakers of the faith for the child).
- Sponsor must be 16 years of age or older (if there is a sibling who is not quite 16 years of age, and your child would like as a sponsor, please let me know – I can speak with Fr. Mike).
- Gender makes no difference – a male can be sponsor for a female and a female can be a sponsor for a male).

Sponsor Certificate required.

If the sponsor **does not** belong to Precious Blood, a Sponsor Certificate is required.

For the Sponsor Certificate, sponsors may either bring the following page to their parish to be signed and sealed, or use a Certificate, provided by the Sponsor's parish. **All Sponsor Certificates must have the church seal, and signature from the pastor of the sponsor's parish.**

If the Sponsor is from Precious Blood, a Certificate is not needed. However, they must still meet the requirements above and the name of the person is needed.

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD
SPONSOR CERTIFICATE**

Please print the following information and stamp with the Church Seal.

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Priest's Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Come Holy Spirit.
Fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created
And You shall renew the face of the earth.
Amen.
- Traditional Holy Spirit Prayer***

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD
THE JOY OF MASS (8th GRADE)

The celebration of Mass is the central act of worship for Catholics and vital to our identity as Catholic believers in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During Mass we celebrate as a community -

1) The Word of God (Liturgy of the Word)

- a. At a Sunday Mass we listen to a reading from the Old Testament, a letter from St. Paul, and one of the Gospels. Hearing God's Word calls for us to conform our lives to the teachings of the Bible, especially those of the Gospels of Jesus.

2) The Body and Blood of Jesus Christ (Liturgy of the Eucharist)

- a. The priest asks God to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus – as Catholics we believe in the Real Presence – through a miracle of God, the bread and wine still look and taste as bread and wine but are transformed into Christ's Body and Blood.

As a result, to celebrate the importance of Mass, we're asking our Confirmation students to write two Mass Reflections per month. This involves attending two Sunday Masses (any Church), carefully listening to the homily following the gospel, and writing some thoughts concerning that homily.

The following sheet should be completed for each Mass attended. There are two questions – the first is related to the reflection on the homily and should be completed by the student. The second question is optional and can be completed by the student.

The Mass Reflections should be handed in to Religious Education on a regular basis. Religious Education will maintain a folder of reflections for each student. Since additional copies of the blank Mass reflection sheet will be needed, a copy of the sheet will be available on the Religious Education page of the parish website.

***CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD
THE JOY OF CELEBRATING MASS (8th GRADE)***

MASS REFLECTION

Your Name _____

Name of Church _____

Name of Town _____

Date & Time of Mass _____

Question 1 - Share your thoughts about the Homily.
(2 or 3 sentences is sufficient)

Question 2 - Was there anything different about this Mass from other Masses you have attended? (optional)

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD

THE JOY OF SERVICE (8th GRADE)

Service and Spirituality **(to be read by the student)**

As an 8th Grade student preparing for Confirmation, you are expected to participate in voluntary service. This will help put your faith into action. This service is divided into two areas: helping others (corporal service) and spirituality service -

- You should perform 5 service projects – 1 for October & November, and
- 1 each for December, January, February, and March.
- Each project should be a minimum of 45 minutes.
- You are allowed a partner (only one!) for any of the projects.
- You should complete 3 or 4 corporal projects and 1 or 2 service projects (no more than 2 spirituality projects).

The following are suggestions:

- 1) **Corporal Service for others:** This is doing tasks for which you are not currently responsible. Chores do not count. Some examples of service for others include:
 - Volunteering at a food bank
 - Visiting a nursing home and spending time with the residents
 - Making and delivering a meal for a family who is going through a tough time
 - Collecting food for the poor
 - Collecting and cleaning clothes for the poor
 - Assisting an elderly or ill neighbor with chores
 - Raking leaves / Shoveling snow
 - Assisting a younger sibling with schoolwork
- 2) **Service of spirituality:** Enriching your spiritual life and spending time with Jesus. Some examples are:
 - Private prayer
 - Reading Sacred Scripture (the Bible)
 - Reading books or articles on the lives of the saints
 - Visiting church (other than Sunday Mass) to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament
 - Praying the Rosary / Praying the Stations of the Cross
 - Listening to Catholic music
 - There are some wonderful Catholic artists who have a contemporary style and can be found on iTunes, YouTube, etc. Consider checking out Matt Maher, Sarah Kroger, Brother Isaiah, the Vigil Project, Ike Ndolo, Aly Aleigha, or Connor Flanagan)
 - Praying the Chaplet of Diving Mercy
 - Reading an inspiring Catholic article (lifeteen.com has some great ones)

You should complete a Service Project Sheet for each project. Service Sheets should be handed in on a regular basis. Consequently, blank copies will be placed on the Religious Education web pages of the Parish website.

“Do little things with great love.” – St. Mother Teresa

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD
THE JOY OF CORPORAL SERVICE (8th GRADE)

Corporal Service Record Sheet

Candidate's Name(s): _____

DESCRIBE YOUR CORPORAL SERVICE PROJECT

What type of service did you provide? _____

When did you provide this service? _____

Where was this service provided? _____

How did you feel about your participation in this corporal service? _____

How much time did you spend in this service? _____

Supervisor Signature _____

"Do little things with great love." – St. Mother Teresa

***CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD
THE JOY OF SPIRITUAL SERVICE (8th GRADE)***

Spiritual Service Record Sheet

Candidate's Name(s): _____

DESCRIBE YOUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE PROJECT

What type of spiritual service did you celebrate? _____

When did you participate in this spiritual service? _____

Where did you participate in this spiritual service? _____

How did you feel about your participation in this spiritual service? _____

How much time did you spend in this service? _____

Supervisor Signature _____

"Do little things with great love." – St. Mother Teresa

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD
THE JOY OF A DAY WITH GOD

Confirmation Retreat

A Retreat is an opportunity to spend some time focused on our relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Often the retreat is led by a single Retreat Master, but sometimes, it's led by a team of Retreat Masters.

Such an opportunity to attend a retreat is afforded to the Confirmation class. We invite the "National Evangelization Team (NET)" organization to send a group of young people (typically 8 to 10 individuals, ages 18 to 25) who are trained in the service of giving Retreats. Retreats can include skits, stories, faith reflections, small group discussions, prayer, and Mass. Typically, the children enjoy the Retreat a great deal and find it spiritually very rewarding.

A NET team will be coming to celebrate a retreat with the students on Thursday, November 13, 2025. The retreat will take place at Precious Blood Church for the students of both Precious Blood and St. Dorothea's. The retreat begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM. We will notify the Elementary Schools where the children are for the day.

The Retreat is a mandatory requirement for all Confirmation students. If they cannot attend in November, they will need to attend one at another parish.

"God has always called people to prayer."
- Catechism of the Catholic Church,
par 2569