

All Saints Parish
Faith Formation
Confirmation Program Guide





Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And enkindle in us, the fire of your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit,
help us to delight in what is right
and always rejoice in your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Holy Spirit in Art.....

In Art, the Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove. This is because in the New Testament, we first meet the Holy Spirit at the baptism of Jesus. Some of the passages that depict the Holy Spirit as a dove include the following:
... and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. (Matthew 3:16)
... and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. (Mark 1:10)
... and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. (Luke 3:22)

The History of the Prayer to the Holy Spirit...

There are very few prayers to God as the Holy Spirit. This prayer was developed from the Pentecost liturgy. The first two lines are the verses sung with the Alleluia before the Gospel on Pentecost. The third and fourth lines are a quote from the Latin translation of Psalm 104, verse 30. It was part of a chant written for Pentecost. This prayer is a good example of how a popular prayer to the Holy Spirit came to be composed by the faithful, using verses they heard sung and prayed at the Pentecost liturgy.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Why the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Prior to his ascension into heaven, Jesus told his apostles that he would send them the Holy Spirit to be their advocate and guide, and on the Feast of Pentecost, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles and St. Mary as they prayed in the Upper Room, empowering them to be witnesses of Jesus in the world.

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

“Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life.” (CCC 1317)

What is the role of a Confirmation Sponsor?

Just as sponsor for baptism takes upon himself/herself the responsibility of helping the newly baptized person mature in the living a Christian life and offers his or her own life and practice of the faith as an example of faith, prayer and service within the Catholic Church, the Sponsor for Confirmation continues that work for the person who is to be confirmed.

The Sacrament of Confirmation also creates a strong spiritual bond between the one who is confirmed and the sponsor. The sponsor should be committed to trying to be a part of the candidate’s life by presence and prayer always realizing that a sponsor’s prayers for that person are especially powerful before Almighty God. One’s “yes” to be a sponsor for Confirmation is not just a “yes” to the candidate, but also a serious commitment to God in taking on this obligation.

What are the requirements of the Church for being a Confirmation Sponsor?

- A sponsor must be someone other than the parent of the one to be confirmed.
- A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- A sponsor must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken. A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, registered in a parish, who regularly attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and receives the Holy Eucharist.

Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Information Form

Due Date: 11/29/18

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Church of Baptism: _____ City/State: _____

Date of Baptism: _____ *Copy attached if new to Program

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Sponsor's Full Name: _____

Relationship to Candidate: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parish Name: _____

Parish Address & Phone: _____

The Sponsor is at least 16 years of age and has received the following Catholic Sacraments:

_____ Baptism _____ 1st Eucharist _____ Confirmation

If your Sponsor is not a parishioner of All Saints Parish, he/she will need to provide a letter from their parish priest stating that they are in good standing and an active member in their parish. Please provide this letter to the Confirmation Teacher, Fax (716-438-5608), or mail it to All Saints Parish, Attn: Confirmation Program, 76 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094 by November 29, 2018.

**Complete this form and return it with the Sponsor Reflection Essay (per next page).

Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Information Form & Sponsor Reflection Essay due Nov. 29, 2018.

Return to: Confirmation Teacher on class day, or mail it to All Saints Parish, Attn: Confirmation Program, 76 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094

Sponsor Reflection Essay

Due Date: 11/29/18

Sponsor Reflection Essay:

Each candidate is required to complete a **one-two page typed** essay explaining why you have chosen your Confirmation Sponsor.

In this essay, the candidate should reflect on why this individual is important to you. The essay should include:

- Who the sponsor is and what is their relationship to you?
- Why do you consider your sponsor a role model to you with respect to the Catholic faith?
- How do they live out their life as a disciple of Jesus?
- Is this a person you can turn to when you have questions about your faith or when you face a difficult or challenging time in your life?
- How has this individual positively influenced you in your life and those around them?

*Complete the Sponsor Reflection Essay and return it with the Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Information Form (stapled).

Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Information Form & Sponsor Reflection Essay due Nov. 29, 2018.

Return to: Confirmation Teacher on class day, or mail it to All Saints Parish, Attn: Confirmation Program, 76 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094

Confirmation Name and Reflection Essay

Due Date: February 7, 2019

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Candidate's Saint Name for Confirmation: _____

Assignment: After some reflection on your choice of a Confirmation name, write/type a report that explains the reason(s) for your choice. Include some highlights of the Saint's life as well as the qualities in your Saint's life which you might wish to imitate or which you admire and would strive for. Your report should consist of three (3+) or more well-written paragraphs (double spaced, 12-font). At the top, type your full name, your Saint Name for Confirmation, and the date you submitted the assignment.

The tradition of taking a new name to show a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament. Abram was called to lead his people to believe in the One God. Abram's name was changed from Abram to Abraham, which means "Father of many Nations." In the New Testament, Simon's name was changed to Peter, which means "Rock." Peter was to become the "Rock" upon which Jesus was to build his Church.

Remember that your name gives you an identity. It tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. If you don't know why your parents chose your name, ask them.

In Confirmation, **you** choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in Faith. Your Confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian.

Note: The only limitation place on your choice is that it must be a Saint's name or a variation of that name.

Confirmation Name and Reflection Essay due February 7, 2019.

Return to: Confirmation Teacher on class day, or mail it to All Saints Parish, Attn: Confirmation Program, 76 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094

Confirmation Service Project and Reflection Essay

Due Date: March 21, 2019

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?

So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed, someone might say, “You have faith and I have works.” *Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.*”

James 2:14-18

Service to others is an integral part of our call to live out our faith. The service project is a means to examine and live out our giftedness. We are asked to live our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ by using our gifts and talents to serve others.

How do I decide what to do? Reflect on the ways you are already living out the Gospel message of Jesus. Think about your talents and ask your parents their perception of your talents

The All Saints Faith Formation Program requires Confirmation Candidates to complete **one service project, with a commitment of at least five (5) hours of effort. The service project can be ONE of the following:**

1 – As an independent project, the student can perform Corporal/Spiritual Works of Mercy (preferably within our Parish/western NY area). These works include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter to the homeless, to comfort those in need/dying, teaching/assisting in the Faith Formation program or choosing appropriate service to others.

2 – As part of the group project, the student can join the Confirmation Classroom Service Project. Students will be given a small stipend in order to generate funds (i.e., purchase a rake and rake leaves, make poster/advertise for a dress down day at school, babysitting, lawn/garden work, etc.). The class will then combine their individual earning and purchase items for a needy charity of their choice (Buffalo Children’s Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.).

Service Project Reflection Essay:

Once you have completed your service project, you are required to complete a **one-two page typed** essay discussing your works.

In this essay, the candidate should reflect on the following:

- Whom did I serve?
- Where did I perform this act of service?
- What service did I perform?
- Why did I choose this type of service?
- How did it affect me and help others? How did it help me to see Christ in myself?
- Is this a type of service that I would like to continue to be involved with in the future?
- How did this service connect to one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Service Project Reflection Essay Due Date: March 21, 2019. Return to: Confirmation Teacher or mail it to All Saints Parish, Attn: Confirmation Program, 76 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094

Name: _____

Checklist for the Confirmation YR 2 Program Events and Requirements

_____ Feast of All Saints Day Mass –
Thursday, November 1, 2018 @ 7:15 PM St. Joseph Oratory (391 Market St)
Invite Sponsor & Family

_____ Confirmation YR 2 Hosting Family Liturgy & Commitment Mass –
Sunday, November 18, 2018 @ 11 AM All Saints Church (76 Church St)
Invite Sponsor & Family

_____ Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Information Form – Due November 29, 2018

_____ Confirmation Sponsor Essay – Due November 29, 2018

_____ Confirmation Name and Reflection Essay – Due February 7, 2019

_____ Confirmation Service Project and Reflection Essay – Due March 21, 2019

_____ Confirmation YR 2 Day Retreat Niagara University – Sunday, March 31, 2019

_____ Sacrament of Confirmation – St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo – Sunday, June 9, 2019