

**St. James the Greater Catholic Church**  
**Confirmation Preparation Program**  
**Grade 8 Confirmation**

**“But you will receive power when  
the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”**

**Acts of the Apostles 1: 8a**



# Welcome

---

Welcome to the Confirmation Program! I pray that you will encounter God in a powerful way as we prepare for this special sacrament. I hope that you look back over your time in the program and say, “Wow! Look how my life changed!”

First, a prayer: Come Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send for your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth!

- **General Information**

Youth Coordinator:

Michael Quinn

work: 704-720-0600x720

email: michaelq@saintjamescatholic.org

Office hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

St. James the Greater Catholic Church

139 Manor Avenue SW

Concord, NC 28025

704-720-0600/fax 704-720-0610

Parish office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Confirmation Overview

### **Overview of Two Year Plan (Cliff Notes):**

Confirmation preparation runs for two years in two parts.

Part 1:

7th Grade Fall and Spring semester catechesis and formation—basic truths of the faith.

8th Grade Fall semester catechesis and formation—basic truths of the faith.

Part 2:

8th Grade Spring semester Confirmation Preparation—learning about Confirmation making the decision to get Confirmed preparing for “life after Confirmation.”

(summer after 8th Grade) Summer Mission project and interview.

9th Grade Late Summer/Early Fall Preparation for and completion of Confirmation process with Confirmation Day!

# Expectations of Confirmation Families

## From January of 8th Grade Year —Confirmation Day:

### Candidates Should have or acquire:

- The free desire and choice to be confirmed
- An understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- A willingness to participate in the Confirmation preparation program: prayer, retreat, Reconciliation service, etc.
- An understanding and **articulation** of basic Catholic beliefs: *The Trinity, the Eucharist, the Sacraments, the Creed.*
- Faithful attendance and participation in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
- An ability to recognize the spiritual dimension of your life and have a sense of God's presence in your life.
- Readiness to bear witness to Christ through your Catholic Christian faith
- A commitment to continuing the faithful practice and study of our Faith

## Family Expectations:

- Students participate in all sessions; families arrange school schedules and extra-curricular activities to complete the program as specified—this may mean sacrificing a season for a sport or activity. Homeschooling is not accepted as an alternative excepting rare circumstances.
- Complete all requirements and turn in as scheduled
- Participate in service projects required for Confirmation (4 Corporal and 4 Spiritual Works of Mercy and 1 summer project)

# The Requirements

- ☐ Baptismal/First Communion records on file with our parish (Due now).
- ☐ Attendance of EDGE/HYDRATE 7th Grade year and 8th Grade year without excessive absences.
- ☐ The completion of the Sponsor Form. (Due by Easter 2019)
- ☐ Complete all Works of Mercy projects. (Due May 19, 2019)
- ☐ Write a letter to the pastor stating your desire & intention to receive Confirmation and which Saint name you chose and why. (Due May 19, 2019)
- ☐ Attend a retreat at least once in the 8th Grade Spring semester. On February 23, 2019 8:45 AM —6:00 PM.
- ☐ Complete a summer service project. (Due by August 2, 2019 )
- ☐ Interview for Confirmation. (Completed before August 16, 2019)
- ☐ Participate in the Saturday "Day of Reflection," held in the week or days leading up to Confirmation. (Date TBD)
- ☐ Go to Confirmation Liturgy (most likely August or September this coming year).
- ☐ Mass Attendance: Student's first and last name written on offertory envelope every week.
  - Every registered family receives offertory envelopes. The amount you give to the Church is between you and the Lord, but regardless of if the envelope is empty or actually contains something, the students full name should be penned onto it.
  - Attendance at another church for the weekend does not require a bulletin; however, if attendance at another parish is a regular occurrence or must occur for an extended time bulletins should be acquired and turned in to your small group leader or the office.

# **Additional Information**

## **Confirmation Retreat Info**

Retreats are one of the single most powerful ways to experience God. They are a time to step away from our normal concerns and obligations and focus on where we are in our relationship with God and how we take another step in that relationship. In the Spring semester of 8th Grade year, it is expected that you attend a retreat. Our retreat experience is provided by NET Ministries Inc. and you can check them out at [www.netusa.org](http://www.netusa.org).

- It will run from 8:45 am—6:00pm on Saturday, February 23, 2019 and includes Mass.
- There is no additional cost for the retreat.
- If you have dietary concerns, please notify Michael in the week leading up to the retreat.

## **Sponsor Info**

### **What is *expected* of my sponsor?**

- The sponsor should be a mentor for the candidate.
- The sponsor should be a spiritual role model
- The sponsor should be chosen by the student—someone they trust.
- The sponsor should seek to have conversations throughout the Confirmation Process with the student.
- The sponsor would ideally be someone the student has a strong likelihood of having a continued relationship with beyond Confirmation.

### **Sponsor *Requirements*:**

- Sponsor is an active, practicing Catholic.
- The sponsor must already be Confirmed.
- The sponsor must be at least 16 years of age
- The sponsor cannot be a parent

## **Letter to Pastor & Saint Report Info**

### **Overview:**

You are asked to write a letter to the pastor indicating your desire to receive the Sacrament and speaking about the saint you have chosen and why you have chosen him or her. You should include a paragraph of 4 to 6 sentences about the Saint and another paragraph explaining 1) what you are drawn to about the saint and 2) what quality or characteristic you want to imitate.

- Resources will be given with instructions for this letter in the early spring 2019.
  - You will then have until May 19, 2019 to complete the letter to the pastor with Saint info.

# **Works of Mercy Projects Info**

## **Project Overview:**

- Complete 4 Corporal Works of Mercy projects by May 19, 2019
- Complete 4 Corporal Works of Mercy projects by May 19, 2019
- You may not repeat a specific Work of Mercy (for example, you can't "give drink to the thirsty" twice).
- Each project should take at least 15 minutes and no more than a few hours.
- Write a brief paragraph summary of each work you perform. (a paragraph might be 4 to 6 sentences)
- Write a paragraph answering one or more of the reflection questions below.

## **Some Suggestions:**

Before making a commitment to a service project, you should:

- Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance
- Find out real needs of people in your family, parish, school or community
- Think of your gifts and talents that others would benefit from
- Do not oppose a service you think you may not enjoy; sometimes you would be surprised about what you may end up liking
- Talk to your and parents and catechists for suggestions.

## **Corporal Works of Mercy:**

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

## **Spiritual Works of Mercy:**

1. Admonish/Convert sinners
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Counsel the doubtful
4. Comfort the sorrowing
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive all injuries
7. Pray for the living and the dead

## **Reflection Questions:**

- God wants to teach you something through your work—what have I learned?
- God gives all of us different gifts and talents—do I feel happier than I normally would about this particular work of mercy?
- True service will bring us out of our comfort zone and may make us feel awkward at times—am I putting myself “out there” or just doing comfortable easy works of mercy?
- *St. Therese of Lisieux*, said, “Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them.” — Am I doing this from a place of love?

# Summer Mission & Summer Interview Info

## Summer Mission Project:

### Project Overview:

- Look at the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy list and pick a few you are interested in doing.
- Use the Work(s) of Mercy to decide on a project you'd like to do and then **contact that service site and see if you can help.**
  - \*Note\* If it is on campus you need to call and talk to the person running the program—that person is usually not the Confirmation Coordinator.
- Commit to 15-20 hour project (typically this should take between 2 ½ and 4 hours a day for the length of a work week).
- Turn in a copy of the Summer Mission Form to Michael for records & review (this can be emailed as a .pdf from your phone camera)
- Write a brief paragraph summary of your project. (a paragraph might be 4 to 6 sentences)
- Then write a paragraph talking about what you got out of the project and how you hope to serve the Church and your community in the future.
- Submit your final, signed form at the interview (no later than August 16, 2019).

**I strongly suggest you find a summer mission for June or early July.** Sometimes plans change and projects fall through.

## Summer Interview:

### Overview:

- After completing all previous requirements, go to the sign-up genius link in your email and choose an interview time slot.
- Arrive at the Parish Office for the day and time you reserved and bring any paperwork you may need to turn in.
- The interview will take approximately 15 minutes and will be conducted by the Confirmation Coordinator or someone else on the Faith Formation Staff.
  - Here are the kinds of questions that will be asked:
    - When we say, "God is a Trinity," what do we mean? Who is the Trinity? *If I were not a Christian and I asked you to tell me about the Trinity, how would you explain it?*
    - What is a Sacrament? *If I were not a Christian, how would you explain it to me?* Why are they important? Can you name some of the Sacraments?
    - Can you name the greatest commandment? *If I had never heard of the 10 Commandments, how would you explain what they are to me? In our modern day, what does it mean to worship an "idol" or "graven image"?* What does Jesus say are the two commandments that "the whole Law and all the prophets" is based upon?
    - What is prayer? How do you pray? Have you ever heard God speak in your heart? *How do you think you can learn to hear God better?*
    - How do you think God is calling you to serve the Church this next year?