

Divine Redeemer Catholic Church Confirmation Packet

926 Farragut Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909
(719) 234 – 0334 • Fax (719) 234 – 0358

Dear Candidate/Confirmand,

Words cannot express how thrilled we are to journey with you during your confirmation year! Your formation year is vital to your spiritual life, and therefore, we are preparing for it in detail. In order to best serve you, we have created this Confirmation packet. The sections within the packet will provide you with all the necessary information as you begin your formation journey. Should you have a conflict with a requirement, we will make every effort to help you complete it.

Students attending Catholic School will receive their instruction during the school day. There are a few times that they will be asked to participate in activities, retreats & church rites outside of school hours. Those attending Public School will have class on Sunday mornings, between the morning Masses from 9:15 – 10:30am (Please see “Important Dates & Requirements” Calendar).

In addition, there are Assignments/ Objectives within this packet that both Catholic & Public School students will be asked to complete. These are to be done at home and turned in during your classes. A dated list of when each paper/letter is due is provided. Please adhere to these due dates, as it effects how long it takes to process information. Catholic school students will turn in their paperwork the following Monday. For example, the “1st Draft of Letter of Petition for Confirmation to Bishop Sheridan” is due by December 9th. Therefore, Catholic School Students will turn it in on Monday, December 10th, during Religion Class.

Lastly, towards the end of the year, in April, we will set up an interview with you to discuss your understanding and readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This will also provide you the opportunity to get answers to any remaining questions you may have as you make final preparations to receive the sacrament. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at any time. We will be praying for you as you grow in your faith and discipleship of Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ,

Father Brian Roeseler

Divine Redeemer
926 Farragut Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Office: (719) 633-5559
Fax: (719) 234 – 0358

Important Dates & Requirements for ALL Confirmandi (Catholic & Public School)

<u>EVENT DATE:</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT/OBJECTIVE:</u>
September 23 rd , 2018	DR School & PSR Student Confirmation Introduction. Meet at All Saints Center (Church Office Building) <u>after</u> the 11am Mass (12:20). Parent(s) MUST attend.
October 14 th , 2018	<i>Due: Copy of Baptismal Certificate</i>
October 28 th , 2018	<i>Due: Confirmation Saint Biography Paper</i>
November 4 th , 2018	<i>Due: Signed & Sealed Sponsor Affidavit</i>
December 8 th , 2018 (at the Saturday, 5:00PM Mass)	<i>Presentation of Confirmandi to the Church Congregation (ALL Confirmandi must attend, with Sponsor/or Parent, dressed in their Sunday Best.</i>
December 9 th , 2018	<i>Due: 1st Draft of Petition Letter to Bishop</i>
January 25 th -27 th , 2019	CONFIRMATION RETREAT (Cost \$75)
February 10 th , 2019	<i>Due: Final Draft of Letter of Petition for Confirmation to Bishop Sheridan</i>
March 31 st , 2019	<i>Due: Completed Church Service Hours Log</i>
April, (Schedule TBA by Cody & Fr. Brian)	Confirmandi Interviews
(Confirmation Date: TBD)	Rehearsal & Confirmation Mass w/ Bishop (Date & Time TBA)

Catholic School Students will turn in their assignments/paperwork on the following Monday, according to the dates listed in the table above. For example, the "1st Draft of Letter of Petition for Confirmation to Bishop Sheridan" is due by December 10th. Therefore, Catholic School Students will turn it in on Monday, December 11th, during Religion Class.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (FOR ALL STUDENTS)

- All Students must attend regular Sunday Masses and observe Holy Days of Obligation.
- All Students must do their best to live exemplary Christian lives, following the Precepts of the Catholic Church (CCC# 2041-2043) to the best of their ability.
- All Students must attend the Confirmation Retreat (*ours is January 26th-28th* it will cost \$75 per/person), and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance (Confession) before being confirmed.
- All Students must complete 40 hours of logged service hours for the Church, Catholic School, or Diocese of Colorado Springs and do 10 Works of Family Christian Service.

Public School Religion Class Schedule—Classes will be held from 9:15-10:45am

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATES OF CLASSES</u>
September	23 rd — 1 st Class will be at 9:15AM at DR School building, upstairs in room 207. There is also a PSR Confirmation Introduction is at 12:20PM, after the 11AM Mass, in the All Saints Center of the Church. All Parent(s) and students seeking Confirmation must attend. Sept. 30 th
October	7 th , 21 st , 28 th
November	4 th , 11 th , 18 th
December	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th
January 2019	6 th , 13 th , 25th -27th (CONFIRMATION RETREAT/NO CLASS)
February	3 rd , 10 th , 24 th
March	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th
April	7 th , 14 th , 28 th , (Additional Days may be added for Confirmation Mass during April-June)
May	12 th , 19 th ,

Students MUST NOT have more than 3 absences from Confirmation class. If a class is missed, a make-up will be assigned. If the student does not complete the make-up work given, they may not be considered well-formed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Public School Students must also bring their Parent or Sponsor to each class, along with their "Chosen" Student Workbook, and any due assignment's/objectives listed above under "Important Dates & Requirements."

Picking a Confirmation Saint Name/ Saint Biography Paper

Upon your Confirmation, you will be given a new name. The Tradition of the Catholic Church, both written and oral, shows us that a new name is given or received when a person takes on a new role or mission from God.

**The Saint Biography Paper is
Due: December 9th, 2018**

Now that you are about to be Confirmed, it is time to choose a name that will be a sign of your growth and maturity in the Catholic Faith. Your Confirmation name should reflect the NEW role/mission you will undertake as a fully initiated Catholic, with a fresh unleashing of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit!

This practice can be traced back to the Old Testament, and one specific example of this is when Abram was called to trust in God's providence and enter into covenant with Him. In Genesis 17:5, we read that God the Father changes Abram's name, which meant "father of many," to Abraham, meaning "the father of many nations." In Matthew 16:17-18, we find Jesus, God the Son, changing Simon's name to Peter, meaning "the Rock," because he was to become the Rock, the first pope, upon which Jesus founded His Church.

Once you have decided upon a Saint for your name, you need to write a 1 page paper about the saint you chose. This paper must talk about: who the saint is, when they lived, where they are from, what they are known for, what they are "patrons of", and why their life story and example appeal to you.

The Saint Biography must be at least 3 paragraphs long, consisting of 5 sentences each, with 1 inch margins, and written in size 12 Arial or Times New Roman font. Each paragraph must contain 5 complete sentences each. Your letter must be at least one page in length, without narrowed margins.)

Below are a few websites that you can visit to learn more about the saints of the Catholic Church. In addition, you might visit a Library like the Diocesan Library downtown to look through books about saints.

Websites for Research on the Saints

- † www.catholic.org/saints
- † <http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>
- † www.americancatholic.org
- † www.catholic-saints.info
- † <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/lots/index.htm>

Recommended Books for Helping in Your Research of the Saints:

- † Lives of the Saints (aka Butler's Lives of the Saints) by Fr. Alban Butler
- † The Book of Saints: A Comprehensive Biographical Dictionary, Edition 8. By Basil Watkins

EXAMPLE OF LETTER FORMAT FOR PETITION LETTER TO BISHOP MICHAEL SHERIDAN

February 10th, 2019 (Final Draft Letter Due Date)

Your Full Name

*
*
*

****(4 lines of separation between date and addressee)***

Letter of Petition for Confirmation

Most Reverend Michael John Sheridan

228 N. Cascade Ave.

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

*

****(2 lines of separation)***

Dear Most Reverend Bishop Sheridan:

(Indent the body of your letter 5 spaces, or 1 tab for each paragraph. The letter must be typed, **NOT HAND WRITTEN**, with 1 inch margins, and written in size 12 Arial or Times New Roman font. Each paragraph must contain 5 complete sentences each. Your letter must be at least one page in length, without narrowed margins.)

The BODY of the letter needs to:

- Introduce yourself and formally request to be confirmed by the Bishop.
- State several reasons why you would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation (*Sentences must be specific and not generic sayings like, "it will bring me closer to God" etc.*)
- Explain how you've been growing, preparing, and praying for this sacrament.
- Describe why you chose your Confirmation sponsor; tell who they are in your life, and why they will help you as a role model in living out your Catholic faith.
- State your Confirmation Name, and briefly describe your saint. Tell why you have chosen them, and how they reflect/model this new change which you seek to have the Holy Spirit develop in your person.
- Explain how you plan to continue living out your faith and how you will continue being involved within the normal life of the Church here at Divine Redeemer and within the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Will you help in the choir, serve as an usher or as a Lector, or will you help in the youth group as a Junior COR, etc.?

*
*

****(3 lines of separation between the body and the closing of the letter)***

Sincerely,

*
*
*

****(4 lines of separation to make room for your signature)***



Your Name (typed out, which will be under your actual signature.)

*******DO NOT MAIL YOUR LETTER TO BISHOP*******

Please submit your letter, unfolded and plain, to Cody or to Fr. Brian during Class.

Parish Life & Family Christian Service Opportunities

As Confirmand, the Church needs you and your many talents; she needs your energy, youthfulness, and your creative ideas. You are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world, and your life can make a difference as you serve alongside the community of Divine Redeemer Catholic Church in her endeavors to love our neighbors, be hospitable and compassionate to the needy, bring healing to the broken, and further the education and formation of other Disciples within the parish.

Below is a list of many opportunities, where you can serve the life and community of the greater Universal Church. In our actions and our service, our faith has meaning and we learn how to truly become Disciples of Christ, just as apprentices who learn from a master by doing. **Therefore, you must complete 40 hours of "Parish Life Activities" and 10 works of "Family Christian Service." Hours can be counted since June of 2018.**

**Logs Due:
March 31st, 2019**

Parish Life Activities (40 Hours of Service)

Parish Work Days	Oktoberfest
Funeral Meals	School Gala Setup
Youth Ministry Stations of the Cross	Making Street Angel Packages or sorting for Undie Sunday
Giving Tree Wrapping	Seder Meal
Youth Ministry Poverty Meal During Lent	Cleaning Pews & Organizing Song Books (contact Church Office)
Facility & Grounds Upkeep (contact Church Office) This could be raking leaves, dusting, cleaning up kitchens, etc.	Helping Decorate the Church for Advent or Lent (contact the Church Office)
Helping with Totus Tuus	Helping Clean/Organize the Youth Room

Family Christian Service Activities (10 Works):

The Corporal Works of Mercy are good examples of what is considered Christian Service. Below you will find ways in which you can translate the Corporal Works of Mercy into actions you can perform with your family. Please do not try to count things done for your immediate family (e.g. babysitting your brother, cleaning your room, etc). Discuss some options with them and decide on what you'd like to do together in service to others.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the Hungry	As a family, make sandwiches, give food, or buy a SCRIPS gift cards for panhandlers by the highway; Serve at a soup kitchen; Give to http://www.foodforthe poor.org/
Give drink to the Thirsty	Pay the water bill of a random impoverished person or neighbor; donate your monthly allowance to www.charitywater.org or www.CRS.org ; Bring water to someone outside working ; Provide Hot Chocolate after someone shovels snow in winter
Shelter the Homeless	As a family, help scrub/clean beds at a homeless shelter; Offer your room for company (expected or unexpected); Donate money to the Salvation Army or a local homeless shelter. Clean the whole house/yard of someone you know out of kindness as a surprise
Clothe the Naked	Buy sox and toiletries for the homeless; donate a new coat to a winter charity; help sort clothes at a St. Vincent de Paul or Salvation Army Thrift store.
Visit the Sick	Visit a Nursing Home and spend time with the patients; Go play with kids in a cancer ward; Bring soup to a sick friend; Help an elderly neighbor with their chores
Visit the Imprisoned	Feed pets at an animal shelter or take their dogs for a walk all week; Write a letter to people in jail, telling them about Jesus' love, and asking them to change their life and follow Christ; Pray a rosary as a family for people in prison or for the souls in Purgatory
Bury the Dead	Altar Serve at a Funeral; Make food for someone whose family member just passed away; Pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet for a week for the souls of those deceased- who are remembered in the Church bulletin.

Choosing your Sponsor

For Confirmation you are required to have a Sponsor – someone who will guide you, mentor you, and share the journey of faith with you. This person should be someone who you trust, admire spiritually, already have a relationship with, and who can help you live your universal call to holiness.

The Diocese of Colorado Springs encourages candidates to first consider choosing their Baptismal Sponsors/ Godparents- for their Confirmation Sponsor. However, if you wish, you may choose from other people within your life, who meet the necessary criteria. The requirements of being a Confirmation Sponsor are:

- They CANNOT be the parent or step-parent of the Confirmand, also siblings are not preferred.
- They must be a baptized member of the Catholic Church
- They must be at least 16 years old.
- They have received their First Holy Communion
- They have received the Sacrament of Confirmation
- If they are married, their marriage is lawful and recognized by the Catholic Church; that they are not married outside of the Catholic Church (e.g. Married by Justice of the Peace, Unrecognized Christian Marriage, or Divorced and then Remarried without an Annulment, etc.), nor are they cohabitating with someone (living outside of marriage) in a scandalous manner.
- They keep the Precepts of the Church (CCC #2041-2043), and normally attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation & Penance (Confession) at least once a year, and go to Holy Communion at least once a year in the Easter Season.

Sponsors will need to maintain regular contact with you. If your sponsor lives out of town/state, you should talk or email with them regularly.

Your Sponsor must fill out and sign the Godparent/Sponsor Affidavit attached in this packet on the next page. They must also get the pastor of their home parish, or his delegate, to fill out the bottom portion of it and seal it with their local parish seal. Copies of a sealed form WILL NOT be accepted. Only forms truly bearing valid Parish Seals will be accepted.

Questions to ask yourself before asking someone to be your Sponsor...

1. Does this person live near enough to me that they will be able to truly guide and support me? If not, will they be committed to communicate regularly with me despite the distance? (If they are far away, ask for ideas on how to deepen a relationship with them)
2. Do they meet all the requirements to be a sponsor?
3. Is this person active in their Catholic faith, with a vibrant daily prayer life, a close relationship to Jesus, and are they someone that I want to emulate?
4. Will this person challenge me, always be there for me, encourage me to be a better Catholic Christian, and be someone who helps me follow my universal call to holiness and to discern my personal vocation?

Divine Redeemer Catholic Church Godparent/Sponsor Affidavit

I, _____ (Godparent's/ Sponsor's Full Name),
seek to be the Godparent/Sponsor of _____ (Confirmand's Name), and
by the witness of God Almighty, I swear/affirm that:

- I am a baptized member of the Catholic Church
- I am at least 16 years old.
- I have received my First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- If I am married, my marriage is lawful and recognized by the Catholic Church; I am not married outside of the Catholic Church (Church (e.g. Married by Justice of the Peace, Unrecognized Christian Marriage, or Divorced and then Remarried Without an Annulment, etc.), nor am I cohabitating with someone (living outside of marriage) in a scandalous manner.
- I normally attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation & Penance (Confession) at least once a year, and go to Holy Communion at least once a year in the Easter Season.
- I understand and accept the responsibilities which I undertake as a sponsor for this person. I promise I will pray for them, and will assist their parents in their Christian duty, and will help guide my Confirmand by my example, words, and actions to live out their universal call to holiness as a faithful Christian in communion with, and according to, the teachings of the Holy Roman Catholic Church all the days of my/their life.

And that by signing below, I acknowledge my responsibilities to be the Godparent/Confirmation Sponsor of _____ (Name of Confirmand).

X _____
Signature of Sponsor Date

Sponsor's Email _____ Sponsor's Phone # _____

(Form below this line must be filled out & sealed by the Pastor/ Parish Delegate of the Sponsor's Parish Office)

I, _____, the Pastor/ Parish Delegate of

(Name of Parish/Community)

at the mailing address of: _____,
do hereby attest that the above mentioned person is a member of this parish, and has sworn/affirmed that they indeed fulfill the canonical requirements to be a sponsor for Baptism/Confirmation.

X _____
Signature of Pastor / or Parish Delegate Date
PARISH SEAL