

CONFIRMATION Spring 2023 Parent and Candidate Handbook



God, our Father,
we ask you
to bless
our Candidates
who are now
preparing
to receive
the Spirit
of your Love
in the Sacrament
of Confirmation.

May the gifts
within each one
be touched
by your Holy Spirit
and become
a blessing
for our parish
family.

Bless our parents,
our team leaders,
our sponsors,
our catechists,
and all those
who have been
a reflection of
your Son's love
for us.

This we ask
through Christ,
our Lord.
Amen.



Saint Mary *of the* Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church
Fredericksburg, Virginia

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calendar of events

September 2022	9/12	Confirmation and Religious Education classes begin
	9/27	Year I: Information Meeting
October 2022	10/4	Year II: Informatin Meeting
	10/13	Year I: Formation Night (Mandatory)
November 2022	11/10	Year II: Formation Night (Mandatory)
	11/30	Year I: All paperwork due to parish office <i>Confirmation Application and Commitment Sponsor Form / Sponsor Proxy Form Saint Name Form Baptismal Certificate</i>
January 2023		Year II: All works of mercy completed
	1/19	Year I: Formation Night (Mandatory)
	1/28	Year II: GIRLS Confirmation Retreat (Mandatory)
February 2023		Year II: Interviews begin
	2/4	Year II: BOYS Confirmation Retreat (Mandatory)
	2/16	Year II: Formation Night (Mandatory)
March 2023		Year II: Interviews continue
	3/23	Year I: Formation Night (Mandatory)
April 2023	4/20	Year II: Formation Night (Mandatory)
May 2023	5/8	Year II: Confirmation Rehearsal (for Mass on 5/12)
	5/9	Year II: Confirmation Rehearsal (for Mass on 5/13)
	5/12	Sacrament of Confirmation (7:00pm)
	5/13	Sacrament of Confirmation (9:00am)

welcome



ST. MARY
of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

September 2022

Dear Parents and Candidates for Confirmation,

We have begun the very special process of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2023! Confirmation completes the process of initiation into the Church making us fully members, and brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit alive in us so that we can take all that we have learned and whom we have become up to this day, and apply it in action, alive in the Church, full of faith and hope that what God has planned for us will come to be through the power of his Spirit. We hope to come together, and come closer to God and become more aware of God in our lives, and his call for our involvement in that life.

Over the coming months you, our youth and families, will be doing much reflecting, sharing, praying, celebrating, serving and growing. Our staff, parent/adult volunteers and catechists are committed to supporting you every step of the way. Most of all, this is a time of prayer for you as you discern the choices you are making, so that the reception of God's divine life is something that truly "flips on" the switch of faith, hope and love. May we be conformed to Christ and through him give glory to our Father in heaven.

Parent/adult leaders have volunteered to lead Confirmation teams and have prepared to make the Team portion of Confirmation formation a powerful and meaningful time for you. Parents, it is imperative that the leaders receive your support and presence as they coordinate meetings, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, attend the retreat and interview, and guide us through the process.

In addition, none of this makes any sense if you aren't regularly attending Mass, Religious Education classes and going to Confession so that fertile ground may be prepared to receive the gifts of God.

On behalf of St. Mary Parish, we welcome your family to the Confirmation program and pray that you and your son or daughter together will find this process of formation a powerful time of faith, hope and love.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide you,

Rev. John P. Mosimann
Pastor

confirmation Confirmation is a Sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon his Apostles at Pentecost. It is a Sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In 1972, the Church published the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA strengthens the connections between the three Sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

- In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit.
- In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more living and united community of believers.
- In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.

Through these sacramental rites, the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians and are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and his Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their own baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

It is not enough for Candidates (*those eligible and preparing for Confirmation*) to sit back and learn the faith from the words of a catechist or from a book. They must go out and see for themselves how the Holy Spirit is at work in the community. Confirmation preparation is the chance for them to find how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are at work everyday. This also helps the Candidate to be open to receiving these spiritual gifts in a special way at their Confirmation.

Pentecost saw the Holy Spirit given to the fledgling group of people that was the Church. Peter and the others had now experienced both the presence of the risen Jesus and his Holy Spirit. These remarkable experiences compelled them to begin immediately spreading the Good News that Jesus is Lord. He had risen from the dead. God is the God of welcome and love and the power of God is available to everybody through the coming of the Spirit.

**gifts & fruits
of the
Holy Spirit** The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit help us live our lives more fully committed to Christ:

The Seven Gifts:

Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of the Lord.

The Twelve Fruits:

Charity, Kindness, Joy, Goodness, Peace, Generosity, Patience, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control and Chastity.

eligibility The Diocese of Arlington has set 8th Grade as the minimum age for Confirmation. Confirmation preparation is a two-year process.

At St. Mary, unconfirmed seventh-graders who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance and Eucharist are eligible to begin the regular cycle of Year I Confirmation Preparation Classes. Students in eighth grade through high school are also eligible to begin Year I in a separate class. Two full years of Confirmation preparation and St. Mary's Confirmation requirements must be fulfilled in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Students who are being prepared for Confirmation in a Catholic school other than Holy Cross Academy or another Religious Education program are also eligible for Confirmation. A letter from your child's Director of Religious Education or Catholic school principal will be required to verify their attendance, curriculum and service project requirements. St. Mary's Confirmation requirements must also be fulfilled in order to receive the Confirmation.

Year I

There are three essential components for admission to candidacy for Confirmation.

1. *The Religious Education Component.* Attendance in classes provided (two years), either at Holy Cross Academy, or the St. Mary Religious Education Program.
2. *The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.* Active participation with the Confirmation Classes is required of all admitted to Candidacy. Attendance at Mass and the Sacraments is required.
3. *APPLICATION for Candidacy.* Students are only admitted to Candidacy for Confirmation in a particular year once the following documents have been **completed and received**: (1) the fully completed Application/Commitment, (2) Sponsor information (3) Saint Name Form and (4) Baptism certificate.

**admission
to the
program**

The **Application for Reception, Confirmation Commitment, Sponsor Form, Saint Name form and the Candidate's Baptismal Certificate** (a copy, not the original) must be completely filled out and submitted to Holy Cross Academy OR the Office of Youth Ministry by the end of October of year one. If the Candidate attends Holy Cross Academy, the baptismal certificate is already on file. If baptized at St. Mary, a copy of the original certificate will be helpful, but the information on the application form will be sufficient if your original cannot be found.

**admission
to the
confirmation
class**

Please be aware that obtaining Baptismal Certificates and Sponsor Acceptance forms can take time to process so please start the process right away.

Formation Nights will be held **3 times during the first and second year of Confirmation preparation** in the church at St. Mary. The Formation Nights will consist of worship music, a speaker, and family prayer time. This is a mandatory requirement for Confirmation and therefore **one parent and the candidates are required to attend**. Dates and times will be provided at the beginning of every school year.

**formation
nights
(mandatory)**



role of the parents

Parents play the most important role in their children's continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community.

Parents of Confirmation candidates:

- Are the primary educators of their children;
- Represent the Church by showing their child a Christian example and the importance of faith;
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians;
- Require their child to worship with the parish community weekly at Mass;
- Reinforce and promote belief in the home;
- Encourage their child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation;
- Are not permitted to be Confirmation Sponsors for their own child;
- Assist their child with the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study and service;
- Lead their child in three Corporal Works of Mercy;
- Stress the initiation aspect of the Sacrament by encouraging their child to continue learning about their faith in the parish life and programs into the high school years;
- Help their child in understanding that Confirmation service projects are the beginning of a life committed to Christian service;
- Commit to daily prayer for the Candidates.

role of the candidate

As Candidates continue preparing for Confirmation, they must:

- Listen attentively and participate willingly in Religious Education classes;
- Respect each other's point of view;
- Respect their Catechists and Class Leaders;
- Ask questions. (This helps to develop a more mature understanding of Christian beliefs and make their own commitment stronger);
- Attend Mass weekly;
- Invite a practicing Catholic to be their Confirmation Sponsor (see the "Sponsor" section of this handbook for details);
- Participate in the Confirmation Retreat;
- Return all necessary paperwork by the dates indicated on the calendar;
- Complete the Confirmation workbook;
- Participate willingly in their Confirmation Class, completing three Corporal and three Spiritual Works of Mercy;
- Be interviewed with their class by a member of the clergy;
- Remain an active part of the Catholic community by continuing to learn about and practice their faith.

classes

Each Candidate belongs to a class of a dozen or so youth, according to their Religious Education or Holy Cross Academy class. These classes are led by volunteer adult/parent leaders whose job is to serve as mentors for the young people, providing inspiration and instruction about the Catholic faith. The adults leading Class Teams at St. Mary Religious Education are also the Confirmation Catechists for these students. God placed us on earth to give Him glory but also to care for one another, and this kind of caring is best accomplished within the context of classes, in the hopes that there will be some adults able to fill the vital role of role model. Consider the expression, "Always and in every place, preach the Gospel: when necessary, use words."

By learning and practicing their faith in and outside the classroom, our students' identity as the Catholic community grows, and hopefully they will know that they have a lasting place in the Church, a place where they can truly make a difference. Together, with Christ, we can accomplish great things; alone, our efforts are not so certain.

Participation in these Confirmation Classes is required, not optional, and the backbone of the Confirmation program, so that the teachings of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit might have a living context in which they can take shape and be realized.

Fulfilling the Works of Mercy for each of us is a lifelong commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 25:32-46 tells us that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned, we care for Christ Himself. The Spiritual works of mercy will be coordinated by the Confirmation Catechists, and the corporal works of mercy will be coordinated and recorded by each family.

works of mercy

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY: Recognize the sacredness of human life. We learn through fulfilling these works of mercy for others that we are our brother's keeper. Our feelings of love for our brothers and sisters must be accompanied by acts of charity. With our family, we will reach out to members of our parish and the wider community and allow Christ to be reflected in us by our compassion for our neighbor. Families may keep track of their corporal works of mercy and get ideas for service activities on the Corporal Works of Mercy log.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY: Recognize sin, ignorance, doubt, sorrow, and other human conditions where we need to reach out in faith and love to others. The purpose of our program at St. Mary is for our teen Candidates to pray together, experiencing different liturgical activities in the spiritual life of the parish. Vatican II challenges us to "be fully conscious and active participants" in the prayer life "of the Church" and this is a good way to engage our teens in that participation. These activities will be done with Confirmation classes.

MISSED ACTIVITIES: All class activities are to be completed together as a group under the supervision of the Team Leader/Confirmation Catechist and parent/adult volunteers. Sometimes no matter how hard you try, you end up missing an activity. Class Works of Mercy must be made up regardless of the reason with another class. All missed activities must be made up as soon as possible. The following procedure is to be followed in order for the makeup activity to be counted:

1. Confirmation Catechists/Class Leaders will inform the Youth Ministry Office, at the completion of any class activity, the names of any candidates who did not attend.
2. It is the candidate's responsibility to contact the Youth Ministry Office within two weeks of any missed activity. At that point the Youth Ministry Office will assist with finding an acceptable replacement activity with another class. It is the candidate's responsibility then to contact the Confirmation Catechist/Class Leader and make arrangements for the make-up activity.
3. It is the responsibility of the candidate and their parents to participate in these activities. Classes must complete their Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy by January of their second year of formation.
4. If the candidate fails to complete the required number of activities by **January of their second year of preparation**, the candidate will be assigned to a new class with the following year's Confirmation class and will not be Confirmed until all activities and requirements have been completed.

sponsor requirements

A Sponsor is required for the Candidate being confirmed. Canons 872 and 874 of the Code of Canon Law list those requirements for the valid and lawful sponsorship in Confirmation:

- The Sponsor's role is to assist the person in Christian initiation.
- The Sponsor's role, together with the parents, is to present the child for the Sacrament and help him/her live a life befitting a baptized Catholic.

A Sponsor:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
2. Must have received the three Sacraments of Initiation, namely, Baptism, Communion and Confirmation.
3. Must be no less than 16 years of age at the time of Confirmation.
4. Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass every week, receives the Sacraments regularly and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
5. Must be a member of the Catholic Church and canonically free to carry out this office. (Those Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage, ((not according to the church regulations)), and those who are cohabitating, ((living together without marriage)), are ineligible).
6. Must not be father or mother of the one being Confirmed.

If a Sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation, a Proxy may stand in. If necessary, a parent may serve as Proxy.

Being a Sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of the faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being confirmed. Parents cannot be sponsors for their children because they are already their child's most important teacher. Candidates may choose one of their Godparents to be their Sponsor to show the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation or they may choose a different person. This person should be a confirmed Catholic whom the candidate admires and who bears witness to the Gospel in his/her everyday life.

If the sponsor is NOT a member of St. Mary's they must obtain a Sponsor Certificate signed by a priest from their home parish by October of year I.

A Sponsor also plays a vital role in the Candidate's continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community. A sponsor of a Confirmation Candidate:

- Supports the Candidate in their commitment to a Christian life;
- Must know the Candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the Candidate;
- May help the Candidate prepare for Confirmation;
- Must be reasonably informed on current Church teachings.

Each Candidate will choose to take a new name for Confirmation, however it should be a name from the list of recognized Saints of the Catholic Church. Candidates may choose to keep their baptismal name as long as it is a Christian name. Names of Saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed.

confirmation name

Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life and virtues can be imitated. The Saint Name Form will be completed as part of a class assignment in the Religious Education Program or Holy Cross Academy religion class. A sample list of patron Saints is listed in Appendix A on page 11 of this handbook to help candidates begin thinking about the saint's name they might choose and why.



Year II

interviews

Confirmation Candidates will be interviewed together with their class by one of the priests. The interview lasts approximately one hour and is really an opportunity for the priests and the candidates to talk about their experiences in the program, to explain their class Works of Mercy, to talk a little about their saints, sponsors, and what to expect on the day of Confirmation. If candidates are willing, even their discernment of their call to Confirmation would be a great topic. Confirmation interviews are usually held about a month before Confirmation.

Confirmation Catechist/Class Leaders will notify candidates of the day their class has been scheduled for their interview. Please see appendix B on page 12 of this handbook for sample interview questions.

retreat

As part of their preparation, each Candidate is required to attend the Confirmation retreat in their second year of preparation. The retreat will be held at our parochial school, Holy Cross Academy. More information about this year's retreat will be shared at the Year II Information Meeting.

At the retreat, we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as provide the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our students. Dress code is casual (*t-shirt and jeans*). However, we do not want any inappropriate shirt designs: i.e. images, slogans, messages, etc. No spaghetti strap style shirts, or short skirts are permitted. Closed-toed shoes are required since we will have icebreakers and games during the retreat.

rehearsal and Mass

Attendance at the Confirmation rehearsal is mandatory for the Candidate and their sponsor (or proxy). If a sponsor cannot attend, a parent will need to stand in for him/her. Confirmation is a special occasion celebrated in the Church. Appropriate attire is required. The dress code for gentlemen is dress pants and dress shoes with a button up shirt and tie. Suit jackets are preferred but not required. Young ladies may wear dresses, skirts or dress slacks. Items that are NOT appropriate include spaghetti straps, jeans, t-shirts and any type of immodest clothing.

The actual date for Confirmation is determined by Bishop Burbidge's office. As soon as the Office of Youth Ministry is informed of the date for Confirmation, you will be informed. The Bishop of Arlington or one of the bishops from the Archdiocese for Military Services will lead us in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. In order to maintain the sacred nature of this time and place, photography and video equipment are strictly prohibited in the church.

Following the Confirmation Mass, there will be a reception in the Parish Life Center where families can take pictures with the Bishop. Professional photographs of the classes in their robes with the Bishop will be taken immediately following the Confirmation Mass.

Actors
 African Americans
 Those with Alcoholism
 Animals, Birds
 Archeologists
 Archers
 Architects
 Artists
 Astronomers
 Athletes
 Authors
 Aviators
 Accountants / Bankers
 Blacksmiths
 Blind people
 Booksellers
 Boy Scouts
 Bricklayers
 Builders
 Cabinetmakers
 Cancer patients
 Carpenters
 Catholic Charities
 Catholic Schools
 Catechists / Catechumen
 The Universal Church
 Chefs
 The Universal Church
 Civil Engineers
 Civil Servants
 Clergy
 Climbers / Skiers
 Clock Makers
 Comedians
 The Compassionate
 Composers
 Computers/Computer Science
 Contemplative Life
 Conversion of Heart
 Craftsmen and Women
 Dancers
 Deacons
 Those in the Diplomatic Service
 Doctors, EMTs
 Eloquence, sacred
 Emigrants
 Enemies of Religion
 Environment / Ecology
 Those with Epilepsy
 Equestrians
 Those with Eye Diseases
 Those Falsely Accused
 Families
 Farmers
 Those suffering from Fevers
 Firefighters
 Fishermen
 Florists
 France
 Friendships
 Gardeners
 Goldsmiths / Jewelers
 Grandparents
 Hairdressers
 Hardware
 Holy Cross Academy
 Homeless Children
 Homemakers
 Horses
 Hunters / French Horn players
 Impossible Situations
 Ireland
 Lawyers

Genesisius
 Martin de Porres, Charles Lwanga
 Matthias
 Francis of Assisi, Nicholas of Tolentino
 Damasus
 Hubert, Sebastian
 Thomas, Barbara, Benedict
 Luke, Catherine of Bologna, (Bl) Fra Angelico
 Dominic
 Sebastian
 John the Evangelist, Francis de Sales
 Therese of Lisieux, Joseph of Cupertino
 Matthew
 James
 Lucy, Thomas
 John of God, Thomas Aquinas
 George
 Stephen
 Barbara, Vincent Ferrer
 Anne
 Peregrine Laziosi
 Joseph, Thomas the Apostle
 Elizabeth of Hungary, Vincent de Paul
 Elizabeth Ann Seton
 Julie Billiard/Robert Bellarmine
 Peter
 Martha, Lawrence
 Peter
 Ferdinand III of Castille
 Thomas More
 Charles Borromeo
 Bernard
 Joseph
 Lawrence, Genesisius
 Benjamin
 Cecile
 Isidore of Seville
 Mary Magdalene / Madeleine
 Paul
 Dymphna
 Genesisius
 Stephen
 Gabriel
 Luke
 Anthony, John Chrysostom
 Francis Xavier Cabrini
 Sebastian
 Francis of Assisi
 Genesisius
 James
 Raphael
 Raymond
 Joseph, Maximilian Kolbe
 Isidore the Farmer
 Genevieve (Genofeva)
 Florian
 Peter, Andrew
 Therese of Lisieux, Rose of Lima
 Joan of Arc, Therese of Lisieux
 John the Apostle
 Agnes, Rose of Lima, Fiacre, Adam
 Dunstan, Luke
 Anne
 Mary Magdalene/Madeleine
 Sebastian
 Leonie Aviat
 Jerome Emiliani
 Anne, Martha
 Martin of Tours, Hippolytus
 Hubert
 Rita of Cascia, Jude
 Patrick
 Thomas More

Learning
 Lithographers
 Loneliness
 Machinists
 Married Couples
 Mass Servers
 Mathematicians
 Those with Mental Illness
 Men in Armed Forces
 Merchants
 Military Chaplains
 Miners
 Missionaries
 Monks / Farmers
 Mothers
 Musicians / Church Music
 Nurses
 Orators
 Orphans
 Painters
 Parish Priests
 Pharmacists
 Photographers
 Poets
 Police Officers
 Politicians
 The Poor
 Potters
 Pregnant Women
 Prisoners
 Public Schools / Services
 Publishers
 Right to Life
 Sailors
 Salespersons
 Scholars
 School Teachers
 Scientists
 Sculptors
 Scotland
 The Sick
 Singers / Performers
 Social Workers
 Soldiers
 South America
 Spiritual Directors
 Stockbrokers
 Those with Stomach Disorders
 Stone Workers
 Students
 Tax collectors
 Teachers
 Teenagers
 Telecommunications
 Telephones / Television
 Theologians
 Travelers
 Translators
 Those with Tuberculosis
 Unborn Children and Mothers
 Unity
 Veterinarians
 Vocations
 Waiters, Waitresses
 Workers
 Workers, Youth
 Writers
 Youth

Ambrose, Catherine of Alexandria
 John the Evangelist
 Rita
 Hubert
 Joseph, Anthony
 John Berchmans
 Hubert
 Dymphna
 George
 Francis of Assisi
 John of Capistrano
 Barbara
 Francis Xavier, Therese of Lisieux
 Benedict
 Mary, Mother of God, Monica, Anne
 Cecilia / Gregory the Great
 Camillus de Lellis, Elizabeth of Hungary
 Anthony of Padua
 Jerome Emiliani, Ivo of Kermartin
 Luke, (Bl) Fra Angelico
 John Mary Vianney
 Luke
 Veronica
 David, Columba
 Jude, Michael
 Thomas More
 Anthony of Padua, Lawrence
 Catherine of Alexandria
 Gerard Majella, Margaret of Antioch
 Vincent de Paul
 Martin de Porres
 John the Evangelist
 Margaret of Castello, Guadalupe
 Brendan, Nicholas of Myra
 Lucy
 Bridgid of Ireland, Thomas Aquinas, Jerome
 Gregory, John Baptist de la Salle
 Albert the Great, Dominic
 Claude, Luke, Louis
 Margaret, Andrew
 Camillus
 Cecile, Andrew
 Louise de Marillac, John Francis Regis
 Joan of Arc, Sebastian, Ignatius of Loyola
 Rose of Lima, Guadalupe
 Charles Borromeo
 Matthew
 Timothy, Charles Borromeo
 Louis, Stephen
 Catherine, Thomas of Aquinas, Lawrence
 Matthew
 Francis de Sales, Catherine of Alexandria
 Maria Goretti, Aloysius Gonzaga
 Gabriel
 Clare
 Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Siena
 Raphael, Joseph, Christopher
 Jerome
 Theresa
 Gianna Beretta Molla
 Gregory
 Blaise, James
 Alphonsus Liguori, Andrew
 Martha
 Joseph
 John Bosco
 Francis de Sales, John the Evangelist
 Aloysius Gonzaga, Maria Goretti, John Berchmans
 Raphael, John Bosco, Stanislaus Kostka

More? See:
<http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>
<http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>

appendix a

a few patron saints

talk it over with your parents

appendix b

Year II Interview

a few review questions

Here are some good questions to reflect upon. They may come in handy in the Interview, and certainly will contribute to your class discussions. Mostly, they are meant to help you focus on important aspects of your faith and how connected you are to it.

1. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ? With God?
2. What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?
3. What are the characteristics of a faithful Catholic?
4. With what activities or ministries in the parish or community have you helped out? Do you have gifts or talents leading you to a particular ministry in the parish community?
5. How much is prayer a part of your life?
6. How much is reading the Bible a part of your life?
7. How much is weekly Mass a part of your life?
8. Is the pattern of celebrating Mass every week the center of your life as a Catholic?
9. What saint did you choose for your Confirmation name? Why was this saint so inspiring to you?
10. What two actions can you take to improve your participation in Mass?
11. What has your experience of Religious Education classes been like?
12. Why do you want to be confirmed?

See if you know the answers to these. You might use these in group discussions to review what you've been learning in Religious Education classes.

Questions (answers are on the reverse side of this page):

1. What is Confirmation?
2. What does Confirmation accomplish in me?
3. Who is the Holy Spirit?
4. Who is the minister of Confirmation?
5. How is Confirmation administered?
6. What is Sacred Chrism?
7. What are the words spoken by the Bishop?
8. Why am I anointed with Sacred Chrism?
9. Who can receive Confirmation?
10. Who should be chosen as a Sponsor for Confirmation?
11. Why is Confirmation so important at this time?

Answers:

appendix c

Year II Interview

a few answers

1. What is Confirmation?
Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments which are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way.
2. What does Confirmation accomplish in me?
Confirmation does three things for me:
 1. Binds me more closely to the Church.
 2. Deepens my commitment to love, study, defend and spread the faith.
 3. Confers an indelible or permanent mark that consecrates me to be a witness to Christ.
3. Who is the Holy Spirit?
The Holy Spirit is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.
4. Who is the minister of Confirmation?
The minister of Confirmation is the Bishop, but priests may confirm with special permission.
5. How is Confirmation administered?
Confirmation is administered by tracing a cross on the person's forehead with sacred chrism and saying the proper words.
6. What is Sacred Chrism?
Sacred Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday.
7. What are the words spoken by the Bishop?
The words spoken while being confirmed are:
Bishop: "N. be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit".
Candidate responds: "Amen".
Bishop places his hand on the shoulders of the newly confirmed and says "Peace be with you,"
Candidate responds: "And with your spirit".
8. Why am I anointed with Sacred Chrism?
I am anointed to set me apart for a special mission which is to give witness to Christ.
9. Who can receive Confirmation?
Any baptized person who was never confirmed can receive Confirmation.
10. Who should be chosen as a Sponsor for Confirmation?
A sponsor should be a practicing Catholic whose duty is to support the candidate in living the faith and by good example.
11. Why is Confirmation so important at this time?
Confirmation is important because I am making the decision to choose Christ and the Church for myself.

Sign of the Cross
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
Ten Commandments
Seven Sacraments
Apostles' Creed
Act of Contrition

do you know?

N O T E S



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