

St. Pius X

“Love One Another”



Confirmation 2 Year Program

2021-2022

8th grade Year Two



St. Pius X

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Overview of Confirmation

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament instituted by Christ in promising to send the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-21) and attested to in the early Church (Acts 8:19), in which the Bishop or priest appointed by him invokes the gift of the Holy Spirit upon a baptized person and anoints them with holy chrism; the effect of which is the increase and strengthening of the grace the person received at their baptism.

What are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

It roots us more deeply in our identity as true sons and daughters of God our Father.

It unites us more firmly to Christ

It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, courage, right judgment, piety, & fear of the Lord) in our hearts.

It binds us more perfectly to the Church which is Christ's Body.

It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith in word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303

Why do we prepare for Confirmation like this?

“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit—his actions, his gifts, and his biddings—in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1309

All the elements of our confirmation program are intended to be means through which our students are led “toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit” so that they may be “more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.”

Service projects, retreats, prayer & devotional practices, attending Mass every week; all of these things are asked of our students with the above goal in mind, because it is through these channels that we grow closer to God who transforms us into saints!

Overview of Program Requirements

What must be turned in by December 17th?

- ◆ Confirmation Information Form
- ◆ Copy of Student's Baptismal Certificate and First Communion Certificate
- ◆ Confirmation Sponsor Form
- ◆ Confirmation Sponsor Verification Letter

What events and programs must I attend?

(Confirmation Classes listed below must be attended by student, sponsor if possible, and parent(s))

- ◆ Confirmation Meeting 1 – August 30th, 7:00pm (Parish Hall)
- ◆ Confirmation Meeting 2 – October 25th, 7:00 pm (Parish Hall)
- ◆ Confirmation Meeting 3 – January 31st, 7:00 pm (Parish Hall)
- ◆ Confirmation Meeting 4 – March 28th, 7:00 pm (Parish Hall)

*Commitment Ceremony - October 1st 2021, after school Mass
Retreat: The Pines Catholic Camp (March 30th- April 1st, 2022)
Discernment Interview – April 26th 2022, 9-11*

Confirmation Rehearsal – May 12th during school hours

Sacrament of Confirmation: TBD

What projects and activities must I work on throughout the year?

- ◆ Saint Project
- ◆ Spiritual Practices & Devotions (ongoing with weekly reflection questions due at your discernment interview)
- ◆ Christian Service (Service/Spiritual Hours)
- ◆ Retreat Reflection Essay
- ◆ Sunday Mass Attendance
- ◆ Reconciliation (ongoing, necessary prior to receiving Confirmation)

What must be turned in at my discernment interview?

- ◆ Interview Questions/Answers
- ◆ Spiritual Practices & Devotions
- ◆ Weekly Reflection Questions/Answers

Initial Registration Materials

These items are due no later than December 17th, 2021

Confirmation Information Form (Pg. 7 of this packet)

This form contains all necessary initial information we need to ensure that your sacrament is recorded properly.

Copy of Candidate's Baptismal and First Communion Certificates

This will be necessary for us to properly record your sacrament information here at the church and ensure that your church of baptism is notified of your reception of Confirmation here at St. Pius X. If your child received these sacraments at St. Pius X we will obtain copies of these certificates.

Confirmation Sponsor Form (Pg. 12 of this packet)

To be a sponsor for Confirmation, like baptism, one must meet certain requirements outlined in the Code of Canon Law. To ensure that all people selected to be sponsors fulfill these requirements, we require that they affirm that they fulfill these qualifications by signing this document. More information about these qualifications and requirements can be found in the packet.

Confirmation Sponsor Verification Letter (The sponsor will obtain this from the parish where they are registered.)

To verify that the above qualifications are met we require your chosen sponsor to submit a signed Sponsor Verification Letter. This letter should state that you are a Catholic in good standing with the Church. Because it is imperative that sponsors fulfill the above-mentioned criteria, he or she is required to have his or her pastor write a letter and emboss it with the parish seal.



St. Pius X Catholic School Confirmation Information Form

(Please print clearly all information)

Date _____

Child's Name: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Father's Name

Mother's name:

Full Mailing Address:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Church of Baptism _____ Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Church's Phone Number _____

**** If not a registered parishioner at SPX Catholic Church, please list below what church you are registered with/attending?**

Other church:

City/State/Zip Code:

Church Phone Number: _____

Expectations of Youth

Part of the purpose of Confirmation preparation is to prepare youth to “be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1309) Therefore, the youth participating in this program should strive to fulfill certain expectations asked of them to better enable them to assume the responsibilities associated with living out their faith.

Youth are expected to...

PRAY DAILY. Without seeking to be close to God in prayer, much of the other things expected of our youth will make little difference in the end. Pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, and fear of the Lord) to help you as you prepare for Confirmation and live out your life as a Catholic Christian.

ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAY. The celebration of the Eucharist is the center of our lives as Catholic Christians because that is where we encounter Jesus in a way that is unlike any other. It is critical that we attend Mass on Sundays to worship God and honor his commandment to “keep holy the Sabbath.”

ATTEND CLASS ON A REGULAR BASIS through the religion classes at St. Pius X Catholic School.

ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MEETINGS. These are the meetings where necessary information will be discussed and questions answered regarding the Confirmation program and key theological concepts associated with the sacrament. It is imperative that you attend these meetings. (August 30th, October 25th, January 31st, March 28th) **ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT.** A retreat can be a life changing experience and all youth are expected to attend a Confirmation-specific retreat prior to being Confirmed. The retreat will March 30th-April 1st at the Pines Catholic Camp.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETING ALL REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THIS BOOKLET. It is your responsibility to find a sponsor, complete and present your saint project, seek out and participate in the Works of Mercy (service/spiritual), write your letter to the bishop, regularly participate in Catholic spiritual practices and devotions, and complete a discernment interview with the Pastor on April 13th.

GO TO CONFESSION BEFORE CONFIRMATION.

ATTEND CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL. Confirmation sponsors are encouraged to attend. (Date TBD)

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE OR UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS MAY RESULT IN CONFIRMATION BEING DELAYED UNTIL A LATER TIME.

Expectations of Parents

As parents, it is a great honor, privilege and responsibility to be entrusted by God with the souls of your children. Our Church teaches that the education of children in the faith by parents “happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel” and that “family catechism precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2226).

“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute. The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2221) Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2225)

To this end therefore, we encourage all parents to view this time of Confirmation preparation as an opportunity to develop and strengthen their role as the primary educators and spiritual leaders of their children. Thus, we ask and encourage you as parents to commit yourselves to the following expectations for the benefit and support of your own spiritual life as well as that of your child(ren).

Parents are expected to...

PRAY DAILY. Without seeking to be close to God in prayer, much of the things we may do as parents will make little difference in the end. Pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, and fear of the Lord) to help you aid your child in their faith journey as they seek to grow closer to the Lord.

ATTEND SUNDAY MASS WEEKLY. Worshiping the Lord together is so important to the life of a family. The family is the “domestic church” and a “center of living and vibrant faith” (Catechism #1656). Please attend Mass on Sundays to pray for your family, yourselves as parents, and your children.

ATTEND THE 4 CONFIRMATION MEETINGS. In order to help your child(ren) through this preparation process, it is important that you are well informed about the program and the theology of Confirmation. It is imperative that you attend these meetings with your child(ren). (Aug 30th, Oct. 25th, Jan 31st, March 28th)

HELP YOUR CHILD(REN) ON THIS JOURNEY. Most of the requirements of these Confirmation program requirements can be fulfilled by the youth if they take the responsibility and initiative. However, they may need a reminder, some help, or guidance. Help them to remember to pray by praying with them. Help them to serve by serving with them. Help them to get to Mass by going with them.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLECT OR UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS MAY RESULT IN CONFIRMATION BEING DELAYED UNTIL A LATER TIME.

Sponsor

Why must I choose a sponsor for Confirmation?

The Confirmation sponsor is someone who will serve as a positive Catholic role model to help you grow in your faith and who will present you to the bishop during the Confirmation ceremony. You should choose someone who is strong in his or her Catholic faith and can help you grow closer to God. Ask them to turn in the necessary documentation. Sponsors must attend the Confirmation meetings, rehearsal, and Confirmation itself.

What is the role and responsibility of a Confirmation sponsor?

“...it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament” (Code of Canon Law 892). A sponsor is someone who can help the confirmation candidate grow in his or her faith and serve as a guide and example of Christian life.

What qualifications must one meet in order to be a sponsor?

The Code of Canon Law states that one must meet the following requirements to be a sponsor:

- ◆ Be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- ◆ Be at least 16 years old.
- ◆ Not be a parent of the candidate.
- ◆ Be a Catholic in good standing who is not bound by any canonical penalty.
- ◆ Be one who leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
- ◆ If married, the marriage must be in the Catholic Church.

In order to illustrate the unity of Confirmation & Baptism, it is desirable that, if possible, one of the candidate's godparents also be the sponsor for Confirmation. This is not strictly necessary.

How are these qualifications verified?+++++

To verify that the above qualifications are met we require your chosen sponsor to submit a signed Sponsor Verification letter. Because it is imperative that sponsors fulfill the above-mentioned criteria, he or she is required to have his or her pastor sign the letter and emboss it with the parish seal. This letter should state that the sponsor is a Catholic in good standing with the Church. Once completed, your sponsor should hand the verification form to the parents of the Confirmation student and the family will turn in the form to Mrs. Merkel by December 17th, 2021.

Expectations of Sponsors

The primary job of a sponsor is to be a spiritual friend to the Confirmand. A sponsor needs to be able to share his or her own faith and needs to be a person of prayer. A sponsor makes a commitment for the period of the Confirmation journey. The duties of a sponsor require a close physical proximity. It is not possible for a sponsor to adequately fulfill his or her responsibilities if he or she does not live within driving distance to the parish.

We encourage all sponsors to view this time of Confirmation preparation as an opportunity to develop and strengthen their role as spiritual leaders of their Confirmand. Thus, we ask and encourage you as sponsors to commit yourselves to the following expectations for the benefit and support of your own spiritual life as well as that of your Confirmand.

Sponsors are expected to...

PRAY DAILY. Without seeking to be close to God in prayer, much of the things we may do as parents will make little difference in the end. Pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, and fear of the Lord) to help you aid your Confirmand in their faith journey as they seek to grow closer to the Lord.

ATTEND SUNDAY MASS WEEKLY. The celebration of the Eucharist is the center of our lives as Catholic Christians because that is where we encounter Jesus in a way that is unlike any other. It is critical that we attend Mass on Sundays to worship God and honor his commandment to “keep holy the Sabbath.”

ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MEETINGS. In order to help your Confirmand through this preparation process, it is important that you are well informed about the program and the theology of Confirmation. If possible we would like you to attend these meetings with your Confirmand. (Aug 30th, Oct 25th, Jan 31st, March 28th)

HELP YOUR CONFIRMAND ON THIS JOURNEY. Most of the requirements of this Confirmation program can be fulfilled by the youth if they take the responsibility and initiative. But sometimes they may need a reminder, some help, or guidance. Help them to remember to pray by praying with them. Help them to serve by serving with them. Help them to get to Mass by going with them.

GO TO CONFESSION BEFORE CONFIRMATION.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE OR UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS MAY RESULT IN CONFIRMATION BEING DELAYED UNTIL A LATER TIME.

St. Pius X Catholic Church Confirmation Sponsor Form

1. Sponsors can be individuals older than 16 years of age that have already received the Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Eucharist). They must be practicing Catholics and in good standing with the Catholic Church.
2. Should the sponsors be married, the marriage must have been in the Roman Catholic Church.
3. A single person may also serve as a sponsor. However, this person may not be living with someone in a civil marriage or in a common law marriage.
4. Sponsors should be attending the Sunday Mass on a regular basis and observing the Holy Days of Obligation.
5. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female.
6. An individual sponsor for each candidate is the requirement. The same sponsor may serve for one or two candidates.
7. Neither the mother nor father of a candidate may be a sponsor.

Confirmand's Name _____

Confirmand's Saint Name _____

Confirmand's Signature _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Phone # _____ Sponsor's Email _____

Sponsor's Registered Church (Include city, state, and zip code)

Sponsor's Signature _____

By signing this form, you are attesting your eligibility to serve as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Saint Project

Why must I choose a Saint for Confirmation?

One of the traditional practices at the time of Confirmation within the Church in the United States is to choose a saint to be one's patron and spiritual role model. All candidates should research and choose a saint with whom they have a connection. This saint should become someone you can learn about, ask for their prayers and intercession, and strive to emulate as a fellow member of the Body of Christ.

How do I choose a Confirmation name?

- ◆ Life-time saint friends

Understand that you are not simply choosing a name you like, you are asking a saint to be your friend for the rest of your life. We called this lifetime saint friends "patrons". Patrons help us live as Christians both through their praying for us (intercession) and through their good example "witness".

- ◆ 2. Read stories about the saints

More than likely, you will not know too many saints. Take time to read lives of the saints. There are many different books on saints. The Internet also has many different websites on the saints. One place to start is <http://catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>.

What is the requirement for the Saint Project?

You should research and choose a patron saint with whom you can connect and whose name you will use as your Confirmation Name. You will be given specific instructions regarding the Saint Project at school.

What information should be covered in my project?

Each project should incorporate and answer the following questions in some way:

- What is your saint's name?
- When is their feast day?
- Give a brief summary of their life.
- What are some things they are well known for?
- How/why did they become a saint?
- What things are they the patron saint of?
- What traditions or practices are associated with this saint?
- Why is this saint important to Catholics?
- Why did you choose this saint?
- How do you hope to be more like your saint?

Internet Resources for Choosing a Saint

Use these websites to help you with choosing your saint and completing your project. We suggest thinking about something you're interested in or care about deeply and looking for a saint associated with that thing or activity.

- ◆ <https://catholicsaints.info/>
- ◆ <https://www.catholic.org/>
- ◆ <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints>
- ◆ <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/patron-saints-for-modern-challenges/>
- ◆ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_patron_saints_by_occupation_and_activity
- ◆ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Catholic_saints
- ◆ <https://www.theworkofgod.org/Saints/>
- ◆ <https://www.jesus-passion.com/Saints.htm>
- ◆ <https://ourcatholicfaith.org/patronsaints.html>

What else do I need to know?

The name of the saint you choose will be the name used for you at Confirmation.

Christian Service

Christian service, also known as stewardship, is a sharing of our time and talent through service of others. It is our way of thanking God for the gifts and blessings we have been given. Serving others is an integral part of our lives as Catholic Christians. It should be something we want to do in following the example of Jesus.

Why should I do service during Confirmation prep?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that preparation for Confirmation should help enable a Christian to assume the apostolic responsibilities of the Christian life (CCC #1309). Further, it is the Church's responsibility to discern whether a person is responsive to God's grace and suitably prepared to receive Confirmation.

What are the service requirements? Due 12/13 and 5/5

You must perform *at least* 20 hours of service hours: 10 service and 10 spiritual. Below are some suggestions and ideas, which may be helpful. Keep track of your hours by recording them on your service log and turn them in by the due dates. Five service hours and five spiritual hours are due by each due date.

Some examples of service:

- ◆ Corporal Works of Mercy
- ◆ Tutor young people
- ◆ Read to younger siblings/children
- ◆ Volunteer at parish functions/ministries
- ◆ Babysit for free or donate money
- ◆ Mow lawns and yardwork without pay
- ◆ Help at Mass
- ◆ Pet sitting for free
- ◆ Altar serve at a weekend mass
- ◆ Pick up litter and trash
- ◆ Make care packages for soldiers
- ◆ Help clean the church (8:30am-10am) every Saturday

Some examples of Spiritual service:

- ◆ Pray for the deceased at a Catholic cemetery
- ◆ Make rosaries for children, the poor and/or soldiers
- ◆ Participate in Eucharistic Adoration
- ◆ Meditate on the mysteries of the rosary
- ◆ Pray the liturgy of the hours
- ◆ Novenas
- ◆ Read Holy Books or spiritual books such as books on the Lives of the Saints.

TOTAL SERVICE HOURS _____

Confirmation Service Hours Log Sheet

St. Pius X Catholic School Dallas, TX

Student's Name _____ Teacher: _____

Guidelines for the log sheet: Log sheet is to be filled in with the date, type of activity; hours served, and must be signed by volunteer coordinator or parent.

SPIRITUAL SERVICE HOURS

DATE	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	HOURS SERVED	COORDINATOR OR PARENT SIGNATURE

TOTAL SPIRITUAL HOURS _____

Spiritual Practices & Devotions

What is the requirement for spiritual practices & devotions?

Strive to do at least 1 spiritual practice or devotion per day, either individually or as a family. You are required to keep a journal/notebook). There is a reflection question for each week of Confirmation Preparation at the end of this book.

Why am I asked to participate in spiritual practices and devotions?

“The objectives for Confirmation preparation begin with a commitment to prayer, community involvement, and a search for deeper faith through continuing study and reflection.” Diocese of Dallas, Catechetical Policies

This is accomplished through religious education classes and retreat experiences, and through individual, family, and community experiences of prayer and living our Catholic Faith. During this time of preparation, you are encouraged to seek out and participate in both new and familiar spiritual devotions and practices to help you deepen your spiritual life and relationship with God.

How many do I have to do?

The simple answer: Enough to grow closer to God. Since we can *always* be closer to God than we currently are, this should be something you do on an ongoing basis, both now and for the rest of your life. Find out which ones really help you feel closer to God and do those as often as you can.

Great Resources for growing in your faith!

On the following pages, you will find some instructions for some of the more common Catholic spiritual practices and devotions to help you if you have never done those before. Also, below we have provided you with a list of online resources focusing on prayer, spiritual practices, and growing in your faith. Use them on your computer at home or your smart phone while on the go!

- Daily Scripture: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/readings/> or [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Daily Readings](#)
- Daily Catechism: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/catechism/>
- Saint of the Day: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/saints/>
- Tweets from the Pope: <https://twitter.com/Pontifex>
- Divine Mercy App for Apple Devices: <http://goo.gl/aSvM5> (I-Tunes)
- Mary App for Apple Devices: <http://goo.gl/wblx0> (I-Tunes)
- Catholic Devotions: <http://catholicdevotions.org/>
- Formed (parish paid link that has all kinds of videos, books, classes, etc.) <https://formed.org/signup?currentStep=groupSearch>
- The Bible Online: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/INDEX.HTM>
- Modern Catholic Music: <http://www.spiritandsong.com/>
- Franciscan Media <https://info.franciscanmedia.org/>
- Daily Reflections [Creighton University Daily Reflections](#)

The Rosary

1. Using regular rosary beads, start with the Sign Of The Cross and pray the Apostles' Creed

See previous page for prayer.

2. On the first single bead say the Our Father:

See previous page for prayer.

3. On the next three beads, pray the Hail Mary on each for an increase in Faith, Hope, and Love.

See previous page for prayer.

4. Between the set of three and the next single bead, pray the Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.

Glory Be: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Prayer: O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

5. Announce the First Mystery to me meditated on during the next set of 10 beads and pray the Our Father.

6. Pray a Hail Mary on each bead in the set of ten while meditating on the Mystery.

7. Pray the Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.

8. Announce the next Mystery, pray the Our Father and continue as before.

9. Conclude by praying the Hail Holy Queen and Closing Prayer.

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation. Grant, we beseech Thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Mysteries of Light

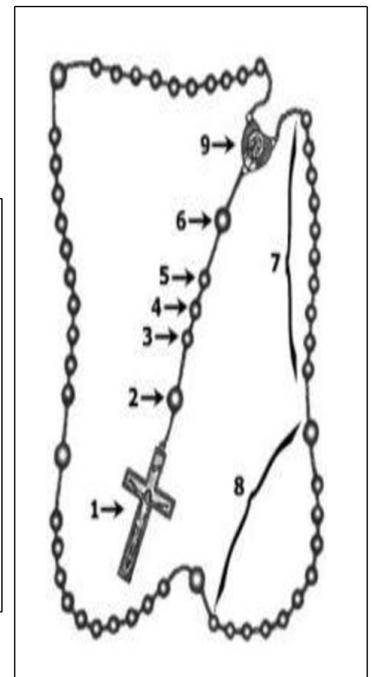
1. The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the cross
5. The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Coming of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary
5. The Coronation of Mary



The Divine Mercy Chaplet

1. Using regular rosary beads, start with the Sign Of The Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. On the first single bead say the Opening Prayer:

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelope the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You! (repeat this sentence 3x)

3, 4, 5. On the next group of three beads, say the Our Father at the first bead, the Hail Mary on the second, and Apostles' Creed on the third.

Our Father: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary: Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting Amen.

6. For every subsequent single bead pray the "Eternal Father" Prayer:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On every bead in the groups of 10, pray the "Sorrowful Passion" Prayer:

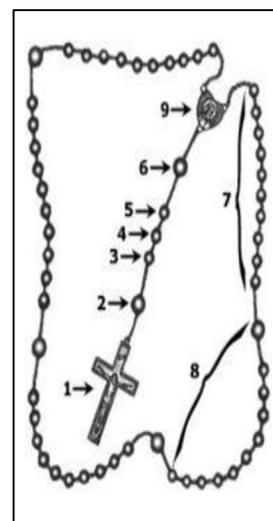
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Once you've gone around the whole ring of beads pray the "Holy God" Prayer three times and then the Closing Prayer.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.



Reconciliation

Why Must I Go To Confession Before Being Confirmed?

“To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- Catechism of the Catholic Church #1310

Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation Important?

This sacrament reconciles us with the Church. Sin damages or even breaks fraternal communion. The sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation repairs or restores it. In this sense it does not simply heal the one restored to ecclesial communion, but it also has a revitalizing effect on the life of the Church, which suffered from the sin of one of her members. (CCC #953)

No matter how alienated we feel because of our sins, in the Sacrament of Penance, we are concretely, surely reconciled with Christ and His Church. Through the priest, we get to experience God’s mercy, love, and peace. Getting into the habit of going to Confession once a month whether we have committed a serious sin or not helps us stay on track in our relationship with Him. But at the minimum, we should confess whenever we commit a mortal sin, or once a year and before receiving a Sacrament such as Confirmation.

When & Where Can I Receive The Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Please check before attending service that time has not changed.

St. Pius X

3030 Gus Thomasson
Dallas, TX 75228

Tuesday, 6:00pm-7:00pm
Saturday, 3:30pm-4:45pm

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

1404 Old Gate Lane
Dallas, TX 75218

Saturday, 4:00pm-5:00pm

St. Patrick

9643 Ferndale Rd.
Dallas, TX 75238

Thursday 5:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday 3:00pm-4:00pm

St. Michael the Archangel

950 Trails Parkway
Garland, TX 75043

Thursday, 7:00pm
Saturday, 4:00pm-5:15pm

Divine Mercy of Our Lord

1585 Cartwright
Mesquite, TX 75149

Monday/Wednesday 7:00pm- 8:00pm
Saturday 3:30pm-4:30pm

Mass Attendance

Why is the Eucharist the source and summit of our Christian life?

It is the source of the Christian life, “because whoever shares in it receives the motivation and strength to live as a true Christian” and it is the summit “because the faithful bring to it all their prayers and good works, their joys and sufferings. These modest offerings are united to the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Thus they are completely sanctified and lifted up to God in an act of perfect worship which brings the faithful into the divine intimacy.”

- Saint Pope John Paul II

Why must I attend Mass every Sunday?

Since Confirmation unites us more firmly to Christ and renders our bond with the Church more perfect, (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303) it is critical that we maintain that bond and unity and fulfill God’s third commandment to “Keep holy the Sabbath” by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The third commandment of the Decalogue recalls the holiness of the Sabbath: “The seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2168) The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2180)

At the Last Supper, Christ commanded that we “do this in remembrance” of Him and St. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes” (1 Cor. 11:26).

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day” (John 6:53-55).

It is expected then that all Catholics who have reached the age of reason, and especially you as a Confirmation candidate, attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Gathering together as the Body of Christ and participating in communal worship of our Lord while uniting ourselves to Jesus through receiving his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist is at the very heart of what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Letter to the Bishop

What is the purpose of writing a letter to the Bishop?

Because it is the Bishop who will convey the Sacrament of Confirmation, he asks that each candidate freely request the Sacrament from him. This is done through writing him a letter.

This is very important because you are of the age to make this decision for yourself. Therefore, if you want to be confirmed, you must ask for it of your own accord, no one else can make this decision for you.

What should be included in this letter?

The letter to Bishop Edward J. Burns should include:

- Candidate's name, age/grade, parish, and catechetical program (parish SPX Faith Formation or SPX Catholic School).
- Statement of personal experience with regard to (1) retreats, (2) how serving through performing the Corporal Works of Mercy has affected his or her view of living as a Catholic Christian, and (3) any other experiences of their faith journey that they wish to share.
- Why the candidate feels he or she is ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- What gift or fruit of the Holy Spirit is he/she asking for and why?
- Specifically state that he or she would like to be confirmed.

What else should I remember when writing my letter?

- Please write legibly in ink or type your letter.
- Remember to sign and date your letter.
- Use a nice piece of paper (not crinkled or ripped out of a notebook).

When and how will I turn in this letter?

Please do not mail your letter to the Bishop. He will be receiving hundreds of letters from all over the diocese. Instead, you will turn in your letter to Mrs. Merkel on the specified date. She will collect all the letters and mail them to the Bishop in one envelope.

Discernment Interview-April 26th

What is a discernment interview and why do I need to do it?

A discernment interview is a chance to sit down with one of our priests or sacramental committee members, to share your thoughts about your faith experiences during your time of preparation for Confirmation. It is an opportunity for you to express and explain why you would like to be confirmed. It is also a chance for the priest or committee member to answer any questions or misunderstandings you may have about Confirmation and determine how we can best support you if we mutually discern that more time or preparation is needed before you are confirmed. *All youth are expected to complete a discernment interview.*

When will I have my interview?

All interviews will be scheduled on April 13th.

What sorts of questions will be asked during the interview?

Examples of the types of questions that may be asked during your interview might be:

- What does being Catholic mean to you?
- Who is Jesus and how does he affect your life?
- What do you think about Confirmation?
- Do you want to be confirmed? Why or why not?

What do I need to turn in at my discernment interview?

Please turn in your entire *Spiritual Practices and Devotion Journal* containing the following:

- Weekly Reflection
- Service/Spiritual Service Log Records
- Interview Questions with answers

Weekly Reflections (To be turned in monthly to your religion teacher)

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Reflection Topic</u>
August 30	What does baptism mean to you?
September 7	What is your baptismal call? (Ephesians 4:1-6)
September 13	Write a definition of service that fits our Catholic heritage.
September 20	How do we learn to serve? (Acts 6:1-7)
September 27	What do the choices you make say about what you believe? (1Jn. 2:4-6)
October 4	How do you affect others?
October 11	Do your values bring you closer to Jesus? (John 14:6-7)
October 18	What do you want to know about God? (Isaiah 48:17)
October 25	When do you most feel the presence of Jesus in your life?
November 1	What attracts you to the Catholic Church?
November 8	The Nicene Creed – Write your own creed. Begin “I believe...”
November 15	Why is going to Mass important?
November 22	What is one of your favorite bible stories? Why?
November 29	How do you feel about being with Jesus? (Luke 24:26-23)
December 6	How do you feel about bringing Jesus to others? (2 Cor. 4:6)
December 13	If you tell people about Jesus, how do you think they’ll respond? Why?
December 20	How do you choose which friends to follow?
December 27	What do you need to do in order to be a better person? (James 1:12-14)
January 4	How do you make big decisions?
January 10	What talents and skills do you wish you had?
January 18	What kind of person is the real you?
January 24	Who is the you most people see? (James 1:23-25)
January 31	Write a prayer for the gift of self-understanding.
February 7	What scares you about religion and the Church?
February 14	When have you seen someone be brave? When have you been brave?
February 22	When have I shown a lack of consideration for others? (1 Jn. 3:18)
February 28	Am I respectful of parents? Siblings? Country? School? Church? Why?
March 7	Tell God something you really need him to hear.
March 14	Why do you want to be confirmed?
March 21	How do you hope confirmation will change you? (1 Cor. 1:4-9)
March 28	Ask the Holy Spirit to give you one of his gifts and tell why you want it.

8th Grade Confirmation “Must Knows”

These will be covered in religion class!

The Five Precepts of the Church

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and remain free from work or activity that could impede the sanctification of such days.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3)

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude (Courage), Knowledge, Piety (Reverence), Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)

The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control, Chastity

The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Seven Sacraments

Of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (Holy Communion)

Of Healing: Reconciliation (Penance or Confession), Anointing of the Sick

Of Service and Vocation: Holy Orders, Matrimony (Marriage)

The Holy Days of Obligation (USA)

Mary, the Mother of God – January 1
Ascension – Thursday after the 6th Week of Easter
Assumption of Mary – August 15
All Saints Day – November 1
The Immaculate Conception – December 8
The Nativity (Christmas) – December 25

Catholic Social Teachings

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PARTICIPATION

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

SOLIDARITY

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION