



St. James RC Church Faith Formation Office
80 Hicksville Rd. Seaford NY 11783
516-796-2979
gdrost@stjamesrcchurch.org

Level 7 Confirmation Preparation

Welcome to Year One of your Confirmation Prep! The following pages are designed to help you navigate the requirements for this year. We are here as partners in you and your family's faith journey and hope that this information is helpful. If you should have any questions please contact us.

Overview

- Homily Reflections: 3 Homily Mass Reflections are Due by Dec 18th
3 Homily Mass Reflections are Due by Mar 16th
- Community Service Hours: 10 total hours
 - 5 Hours of Service to the Church
 - 5 Hours of Additional Service
- Confirmation Information Sheet: Due No Later than Apr 4
- Choosing a Saint Name: Due Week of Feb 6
- InstaSaint Project: Due Week of Mar 26 (To Be Handed Out In Class)
- Letter to Sponsor with Sponsor Form: Mailed Out by Jan 8
- Sponsor Acceptance Form: Due Week of Apr 4



Homily Reflection Sheets

The great Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, when conducting a retreat for teenagers, once gave a talk on the meaning of the Mass. He said, "If you don't get anything out of Mass, it's because you don't bring the right expectations to it."

God tells us that we should attend Mass every week (it's in the Commandments), but do we take the time to understand it? We are asking our candidates to attend 6 Masses during the course of the next 9 months and enter more deeply into the Mass. Go with an attitude of really discovering the meanings of the readings, the songs, and the homily.

Suggestions:

- Bring something to write with and on, such as a journal/notebook just for this purpose? Take some short notes on the Homily for later.
- Arrive early so that you can get some of the information down like the Gospel reading and take a few minutes to pre-read the reading for that Mass.
- Discuss with your family the topic of the Homily. Did they receive the same message as you? Why would you have a same/ different reaction from them.
- Reflect on the music you heard and see if it tied into the reading or theme of the Mass. Did you enjoy the music? Why or why not?

Following the Mass you're ready to write your reflection. We recommend writing it as soon as you get home, this way the information is still fresh in your mind, This reflection is based on how you felt during the Mass, include any thoughts or issues that arose during the Mass or after. Did anything in the Scripture readings jump out to you? Did the words of a song or the psalm "speak" to you? Write about it. There are no wrong answers.

Please Note: 3 Homily reflections are due by Dec 18th. Please turn them into your teacher as soon as you have them. The next 3 are due by March 16th. However, all may be turned in before the due dates. Please keep copies of the forms for your records.

"Know, O Christian, that the Mass is the holiest act of religion. You cannot do anything to glorify God more, nor profit your soul more, than by devoutly assisting at it, and assisting as often as possible."

– St. Peter Julian Eymard



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Level 7 Mass/Homily Reflections

Name: _____ Teacher/Room # _____

Date of Mass: _____ Mass Time: _____

Gospel Reading: (ex. Luke 1:24-28) _____

Celebrant/Priest: _____ Color of Vestment: _____

Church Where You Attended Mass: _____

Please answer in full sentences. Use the back of this page if needed or attach a loose leaf page. Each answer should be at least a paragraph.

What was one thing that stuck with you about the Gospel or Homily?

What was the name of one song and how did it relate to the Mass? Did you like the music?

How can you apply what you heard at Mass today to your life?



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Why do we complete service hours? As part of our belief in building up the Body of Christ as Catholics, one way we can do that is to complete service opportunities, or service hours. Service towards one another is an important part of embracing Jesus' mission to evangelize, or to spread the Gospel to other people. Your teacher for Faith Formation is a volunteer and completes dozens of hours each year. The people who assist the priest at Mass - the altar servers - are volunteers, just like the people in the choirs at Mass.

To help you live this call of your Baptism, we are asking you to complete a total of 10 service hours this year. Five of those hours are required to be completed at St. James, and the remaining five can be completed elsewhere. Please note that the five hours not given to the Church should be for the greater community as an outward sign of our involvement in our beliefs of social justice and concern for the wellbeing of others.

Using the reverse side of this form, keep track of your hours. There are more than enough opportunities to be completed throughout the year. Complete them early because as the year goes on, the number of service opportunities will not be as high as it is over the summer and in the beginning half of the year. All 10 hours can be completed at St. James. **Once you have completed your service to St. James, additional hours completed can be applied to National Junior Honor Society or other service requirements you might have.**

Some examples of service opportunities are: Walks for cancer or other diseases, service to your school, working with younger children in a hobby/sport that you enjoy.



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Name: _____ Class Day & Room: _____

As part of our program for Confirmation, you are required to complete 10 service hours this year. To help you keep track of this, please fill out the following sheet and hand it in to your teacher as soon as possible.

If you complete hours outside of St. James, you will need to have a supervisor's signature and phone number attached as well. If a letter is given by your supervisor, please attach it to this sheet. Don't forget to keep a copy of this form and any letters you may receive for your records.

Service Completed	Date & # of Hours	Supervisor's Signature & Phone Number

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Confirmation Information Sheet

Please fill in the information below and return to your Child's teacher by Apr 4th

First & Last Name: _____

Date and Church of Baptism: _____

Father's First and Last Name: _____

Mother's First and Last Name: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

Relationship to Candidate for Confirmation (grandfather, aunt, brother etc....):

Why was the Sponsor chosen? _____

Saint Name Chosen: _____

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Choosing a Saint Name

“I have called you by name: you are mine” – Isaiah 43:1

Your name is very important, it defines who you are. Your parents put a lot of thought into what you should be named. They may have received a lot of suggestions from family and friends on choices before selecting your name. On the day of your Baptism your name was spoken out loud and you were made a part of the Body of Christ. Now that you're preparing for Confirmation you have the opportunity to think about adding a name of your choosing. So let's look at what your given name means.

Your name at Baptism:

What does your name mean?

Why did your parents choose this name for you?

Although we can choose a new name for Confirmation it is not required. You may want to reaffirm your Baptismal name because the two sacraments are so closely related. Confirmation seals and strengthens the faith and grace you received at Baptism. The name you choose should be significant to who you are, and be a saint or one of the great men or women from the Bible. Spend some time reflecting about your choice as this is an important decision.

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Tips for finding a saint name:

- Discover the saint for the day you were born.
- Do you have a career choice in mind? Or a hobby you love? Find the patron saint for them.
- Who did your sponsor choose? Or maybe their first name?
- Talk with your family about possible choices. Maybe honor a family member by seeing what the saint they are named after is about.

Websites for looking up Saints:

- www.catholic-saints.info
- www.catholic.org/saints
- www.americantholic.org

Names I'm Considering	Patron of	Why Am I Thinking About Choosing Them?

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Once you have chosen a name, get some information on the Saint such as:

- Name:
- Date of Birth/death:
- Where are they from:
- What makes them a saint(their story) :



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InstaSaint Project

How do you use Instagram? I use it to show my friends snapshots of my life along with places and people that I think are important to my life. Just like how you and I use Instagram, we're asking you to make an Instagram post for your Confirmation saint. (Remember, your Confirmation name is from one of the saints or from what we call the great men and women of the Bible.)

For your InstaSaint, we're asking you to provide the following information about your saint AND we've provided a model for you!

- The Name of the Saint (What's their handle?)
- A Place Important to the Saint (Where they born, lived, or died – this is the Location Tag)
- A Picture or Collage of the Saint
- In your caption, you need information about:
 - Their family life – Were they married? Did they have kids? Were they single?
 - Information about why this person is a saint – Why does the Church recognize them as a saint?
 - What are they a patron saint of?
 - When were they canonized? What Pope canonized them? (This might not be available, but if you find this information, include it!)
 - 3 **APPROPRIATE** Hashtags about their ministry, their patron, and/or their devotion to Christ and His Church – If someone asks, you should be able to explain why the hashtags are relevant to your saint

Due Date: Week of March 26, 2019

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How to Choose a Sponsor

A sponsor is someone who:

- Assists the Confirmandi (student) in preparing for Confirmation.
- He/she presents the candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Helps the confirmed to live out his/her Christian faith to its fullest.

It is therefore important to consider who would make a good sponsor. The Church provides us with a few guidelines for who we can choose, they are:

A sponsor must be a fully-initiated (received Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) member of the Catholic Church.

A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.

A sponsor should have an active faith life.

A sponsor **cannot** be a parent (biological, step, or adoptive)

A sponsor's role does not end with the Sacrament of Confirmation but is life long. You should be comfortable with sharing information about your faith journey and praying with the sponsor you choose. With the strong connection to Baptism candidates are encouraged to consider a Godparent as sponsor.

People in my life that fit the above:
