
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

A GUIDEBOOK FOR 1ST YEAR CONFIRMATION
CANDIDATES AND THEIR PARENTS



2019-2020

Church of the Good Shepherd
1370 Grundy Avenue, Holbrook, NY 11741

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your first year of Confirmation preparation at Good Shepherd Church. We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. As you will know, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation. While Baptism is the first step of initiation into the life of the Church, Confirmation can be seen as the completion of the Baptismal commitment. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace” (no. 1285). There are two primary effects from the sacrament of Confirmation: strengthening of one’s bond with the Church, and reception of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The following guide details the requirements and expectations of Good Shepherd Church for those youth enrolled in Confirmation preparation as well as the expectations of parents and sponsors. This commitment involves the whole family and we ask that you carefully examine the expectations.

WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED?

Confirmation candidates must:

1. Have received the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.
2. Be between the ages of twelve and eighteen.
3. Have been adequately catechized (prepared) in the Roman Catholic faith. This is usually accomplished through ongoing participation in a Roman Catholic parish or school-sponsored religious education program.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the obligations of a practicing member of the Catholic Church.
5. **Have a sincere desire to receive the sacrament** as well as an appreciation of sacramental life.
6. Have sincerely attempted to fulfill the expectations as outlined in this guidebook.



EXPECTATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

The following explains each of the Confirmation expectations in detail and in some cases, the reasons the requirements are important to the formation of the candidate. Please remember that while in many cases we list a minimum requirement for Confirmation, the candidates should be encouraged to make many of these activities a regular part of their faith practices.

- **Openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in deciding directions and priorities in life.**
- **Openness to the guidance and appreciation of the efforts of The Church of the Good Shepherd as a community of faith and a willingness to participate in that community.**
- **Regular participation in the worshipping community – making the Eucharist a priority.**
- **Consistent participation in Faith Group gatherings, service projects and daily prayer.**
- **Consider selecting an appropriate sponsor that can participate, support and guide the candidate in their faith not just today but ongoing.**
- **Consider choosing a confirmation name that has meaning to you (It must be a Saint)**
- **Demonstrate a commitment to Christian Service as a way of life. A generous spirit of service is at the heart of this requirement.**
- **Be an active participant in all aspects of the preparation process; what you put into this process is what you will get out of this process.**



Love. Grow. Serve.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

“As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.”(NCD, no. 119)

All parents are expected to:

1. Ensure that their candidate participates in Mass regularly, ideally with the entire family.
2. Being actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate.
3. Engaging in discussions about the material being studied, including sharing your understanding and perspective.
4. Praying for your child’s spiritual growth every day.
5. Supporting and encouraging completion of assignments, activities and expectations.
6. Faithfully bringing your teen (and when necessary yourself) to, classes, retreats, meetings and special events.
7. Volunteer for retreats, service work, meetings, classes, spiritual events and/or social events.
8. Model responsible and active church membership for your child.



Confirmation Year 1 Lesson Schedule

Tuesday, Oct 15

Classes of:

Gina Bardua
Jessica Pantke
Jennifer Vladikin
Zoe Andreizyn
Sharon Elephante
Diane McAlvin

Andrea Hembele (Laura Walsh)

Wednesday, Oct 16

Classes of:

Shari Bruinsma
Kristin Foster
Lisa Haggerty
Lori Kudrick
Jennifer Lessuk

Thursday, Oct 17

Classes of:

Helene D'Agostino
Kelly Kamorowski
Jennifer Rivera
Michelle Spevak
Cheryl Dreyer

Monday, Jan 6

Classes of:

Sharon Elephante
Zoe Andreizyn
Cheryl Dreyer
Diane McAlvin
Jennifer Rivera
Michelle Spevak

Tuesday, Jan 7

Classes of:

Gina Bardua
Jessica Pantke
Jennifer Vladikin
Andrea Hembele
Kelly Kamorowski
Jennifer Lessuk

Monday, Jan 13

Classes of:

Shari Bruinsma
Helene D'Agostino
Kristin Foster
Lisa Haggerty
Lori Kudrick

Lessons are 6:30-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Middle School “Ignite” Youth Group Orientation

Thursday September 19, 2019

Classes of: **Helene D’Agostino**
Jennifer Rivera
Michelle Spevak
Kelly Komorowski

Thursday September 26, 2019

Classes of: Cheryl Dreyer
Sharon Elephante
Zoe Andrieszyn
Diane McAlvin

Thursday October 10, 2019

Classes of: Shari Bruinsma
Kristin Foster
Lisa Haggerty
Andrea Himbele
Lori Kudrick

Thursday October 24, 2019

Classes of: Jennifer Lessuk
Jennifer Vladikin
Jessica Pantke
Gina Bardua
Helene D’Agostino

What is the Purpose of a Confirmation Name?

When deciding on a Confirmation name, the goal is to pick the name of a Saint you admire, can relate to or aspire to be like. This saint will be bonded to you spiritually and will be your model in life and can be the one you turn to for guidance and protection. Throughout the Bible there are many examples of people taking on new names, dating back to the Old Testament . God changed the names of many to reflect the special roles they'd play throughout the history of the church . For example, God changed Abram's name to Abraham meaning "father to a host of nations" . This name change signified that God was making a covenant with Abraham that would make him the first of God's people on earth. Simon's name was changed to Peter, meaning "rock" and refers to Peter becoming the first Pope: "and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:17-18)

Choosing a Saint Confirmation Name

There are thousands of Saints, How do I choose? To help you narrow down your choices to the one St who is your ideal match, consider the following :

- **Pick up a book on saints**

Pick up a book on Saints and read about the lives of popular Saints who had a profound impact on the church. The trials and tribulations that Saints experienced, as well as their triumphs and examples of faith, can be a great source of inspiration for your own life.

- **Hobbies and Causes**

Do you have a hobby or a worthy cause that you are passionate about? Search for the Saint who shares your similar goals and interests. There is a patron Saint for practically every cause. For example, if you have a special connection to animals, consider choosing the name Francis (after the great animal lover Saint Francis of Assisi) If you're looking for a Saint who lived an exemplary life of

selflessness, Saint Maximilian Kobe is a great example. During World War 2 he gave up his life for another person's life in a German concentration camp. If music is your passion, Saint Cecilia, patron Saint of musicians may interest you.

- Maybe a virtue like Bravery or Courage?

Find a virtue that a particular Saint exhibited that connects with you; Bravery, obedience, charity, patience, or courage. Do you find yourself standing up for those who need a little help? Maybe you should pick Saint Michael! Are you well versed in bedside manner? Your Saint name would be Agatha for sure !

- Need Help? Pray!

If you've narrowed down your choices and are stuck and can't decide, pray! Ask God to shed his light on who He thinks is the best name for you.

- God Given Saint Name

If your first name (baptismal name) is a Saints name, the church allows you to use it as your confirmation name. Doing so is actually encouraged because it's a symbolic way of recalling your baptism. Before you receive the sacrament, pray to the Saints who's name you will be using as your confirmation name. Ask the Saint to help you to make moral choices and to be your intercessor before God whenever you call on him or her for assistance. After receiving the sacrament, don't forget about your namesake! Remember to continue to seek his or her protection and guidance.

- Visual Reminders

Set up visual reminders of your saintly namesake throughout your home, office, or in your car. Prayer cards, statues, books, and jewelry of your Saint will help you stay connected and to form is stronger bond.

Mass Attendance Card
Confirmation Year 1

Date _____ Name of Priest _____
Name of Confirmation Candidate _____

Please place this card in the offertory basket during Mass.
*If you are attending another parish, have the Priest sign the card and return it to
your catechist

Signature required for visiting parish _____
Name of Parish _____

REFLECTIONS OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Sunday liturgy (Mass) is the gathering of the faithful to pray and give praise to God.

During the liturgy we hear the word of God proclaimed, the celebrant or deacon shares his thoughts on the Word and we are to take the Word with us as we leave the church.

One way for us to truly live out the Word of God is to spend time reflecting on what those words mean to us.

Each candidate, with the help of his/her parent(s) must write a reflection on the Gospel and homily for 4 masses during the year.

Suggestions on how to write these papers:

Bring a pad of paper with you to church and write down some thoughts or words you hear in the Gospel and homily.

Write down the scripture reference (ie: Luke 5:1-5) of the Gospel so you can refer back to it when you are writing your paper.

Discuss what you heard and wrote down on the way home in the car, asking everyone to participate.

Ask yourself and your family what the Scripture and homily have to do with your life today.

When you get home, write your reflection while it's fresh in your mind.

Remember, this is a reflection paper; what you write is what you feel the Scripture is saying to you at this moment in your life's journey.

Mass Reflection #1

Name: _____ Catechist: _____

Date: _____ Presider: _____

Which Mass did you attend today: (time of mass) _____

What Liturgical color was used at mass? _____

Summarize what the Gospel reading was about: _____

One lesson you heard the Priest teach during the homily: _____

What can you do this week to put the Gospel reading in to action? _____

Email completed reflection to: GSCONFIRMPREP@GMAIL.com _____

Mass Reflection #2

Name: _____ Catechist: _____

Date: _____ Presider: _____

Which Mass did you attend today: (time of mass) _____

What Liturgical color was used at mass? _____

Summarize what the Gospel reading was about: _____

One lesson you heard the Priest teach during the homily: _____

What can you do this week to put the Gospel reading in to action? _____

Email completed reflection to: GSCONFIRMPREP@GMAIL.com

Mass Reflection #3

Name: _____ Catechist: _____

Date: _____ Presider: _____

Which Mass did you attend today: (time of mass) _____

What Liturgical color was used at mass? _____

Summarize what the Gospel reading was about: _____

One lesson you heard the Priest teach during the homily: _____

What can you do this week to put the Gospel reading in to action? _____

Email completed reflection to: GSCONFIRMPREP@GMAIL.com -----

Mass Reflection #4

Name: _____ Catechist: _____

Date: _____ Presider: _____

Which Mass did you attend today: (time of mass) _____

What Liturgical color was used at mass? _____

Summarize what the Gospel reading was about: _____

One lesson you heard the Priest teach during the homily: _____

What can you do this week to put the Gospel reading in to action? _____

Email completed reflection to: GSCONFIRMPREP@GMAIL.com

WHY BE A PERSON OF SERVICE...



So, if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet
(JU13;14-15)

Christian service flows out of our Catholic beliefs, which are articulated in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and especially in the Church teachings on Social Justice. Being familiar with these teachings will help you to see how your being a person of service can impact the world in a positive way.

As you decide on what types of service you will be engaging in over the next year, remember Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples is a symbol of service, humility and purification. No act of service is too small or insignificant. At your baptism you were claimed for Christ and called to follow him. Are you up to the call?

Corporal Works of Mercy	Spiritual Works of Mercy
To feed the hungry	To instruct the ignorant

To give drink to the thirsty To clothe the naked To shelter the homeless To visit the sick To bury the dead	To counsel the doubtful To admonish the sinner To bear wrongs patiently To forgive offenses willingly To ransom the captive To comfort the afflicted To pray for the living & the dead
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Church Service Schedule 2019/2020

Date	Service	Contact to Sign Up	What to bring
9/17/19 6:00 pm-9:00 pm	Chinese Auction Mailer	Ann Hernandez Annhernandez2000@gmail.com	Service Card
10/18/19 6:30-8:00 pm	Rosary Bead making	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service card, scissors
11/16/19 8:30-10:30 am	Chinese Auction preview set up	Ann Hernandez Annhernandez2000@gmail.com	Service Card
11/17/19 1:00-2:30 pm	Chinese Auction preview breakdown	Ann Hernandez Annhernandez2000@gmail.com	Service Card
11/22/19 7:15-10:00 pm	Chinese Auction Prize runner	Ann Hernandez Annhernandez2000@gmail.com	Service Card
11/22/19 8:00-11:00 pm	Chinese Auction Table movers	Ann Hernandez Annhernandez2000@gmail.com	Service Card
11/23/19 9:00 am	Good Shepherd Grounds clean up	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card, gloves, trash bag
12/14/19 9:00 am	Good Shepherd exterior decorating	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card,
1/12/20 9:00 am	Good Shepherd take down Christmas Decs	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card,
1/17/20 6:30-8:00 pm	Rosary Bead Making	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card, scissors
3/20/20 6:30-8:00	Rosary Bead Making	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card, scissors
4/4/20 9:00 am	Good Shepherd Grounds clean up	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card, garden gloves, rake, trash bag
5/2/20 8:30 am	Unload and sort plant delivery	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card, garden gloves, hand trowel

5/16/20 8:30 am	Good Shepherd grounds work	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card. Gloves, hand trowel
6/6/20 8:30 am	Good Shepherd spring planting	Mary Unkel goodshepherdchurchservice@gmail.com	Service Card. Gloves, hand trowel
Every other week Check Bulletin	Peanut butter and Jelly gang	No sign up necessary	Service Card

Community Services

*A community service is a service performed outside of the church for the community.

*A community service is NOT something you do for your family

*Helping to teach a class must be approved by the Coordinator or Faith Formation Office to be counted as a Community Service.

*Alter serving is not a service, it is a ministry

The following is a list of approved (but not limited to) community services

ADOPT A SOLDIER

ANIMAL SHELTER SUPPLY DRIVE

HOLD A BAKE SALE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY

CLOTHING/FOOD DRIVE

COACH YOUNG CHILDREN IN A SPORT

HOLBROOK TOWN OR COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

LOCKS FOR LOVE

RETIREMENT HOME VISIT – SPEND SOME TIME DOING FUN ACTIVITIES WITH THOSE WHO LACK IMMEDIATE FAMILY

SACHEM LIBRARY TEEN VOLUNTEERS

SAFE HALLOWEEN

SHOVEL SNOW OR RAKE LEAVES FOR THE ELDERLY OR DISABLED

TEACH COMPUTER SKILLS TO THE ELDERLY

TURKEY TROT

VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Church Service Journal Log for: _____
(Print your full name)

Date:

Person/Organization you served: _____

Name of Adult Serving with you: _____

What act of service did you offer? _____

What difference did this act of service make? _____

What did you come to understand by doing this act of service? _____

Email completed form to: **GSCONFIRMPREP@GMAIL.com**

Community Service Journal Log for: _____
(Print your full name)

Date:

Person/Organization you served: _____

Name of Adult Serving with you: _____

What act of service did you offer? _____

What difference did this act of service make? _____

What did you come to understand by doing this act of service? _____

Email completed form to: GSCONFIRMPREP@GMAIL.com

CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT COVENANT

Year 1

The Confirmation process is a journey in which the candidate will explore different aspects of faith, church ministry and service. The process necessitates a full commitment from the candidate, parents/guardians, sponsors and parish members as this is a Sacrament that, by definition, calls for a time of reflection on personal faith and a more active participation in the life of the church.

I will honestly commit to the following to the best of my ability this year:

- Participate in Saturday evening/Sunday Mass weekly
- Participate fully in all class sessions
- Participating in service activities, guided by the Corporal Works of Mercy
- Complete an interview with a parish staff member
- Attend 2 Confirmation lessons
- Attend a Youth Group Orientation

Candidate Covenant:

I, _____, understand that it is my choice to enter in the process of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I also understand that receiving Confirmation is not an end to my faith formation or participation in the life of the Catholic Church, including Sunday Mass.

Parent Covenant:

As a fulfillment of the promise made during my child's baptism, I will support and encourage my child in his/her commitment to the Confirmation process. I will support the pastor, and catechists in their effort to prepare my child for the Sacrament of Confirmation. And I will continue to support my child in his/her journey of faith after Confirmation.

Candidate Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____