
Confirmation Preparation

A GUIDEBOOK FOR 2nd YEAR CONFIRMATION
CANDIDATES AND THEIR PARENTS



2019-2020

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

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your second 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.**
- **Selecting an appropriate sponsor that can participate, support and guide the candidate in their faith not just today but ongoing.**
- **Choose 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.

Confirmation will be in the fall. The exact date and the celebrant will be announced (pending the Diocese's scheduling).

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.



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 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

be your intercessor before God whenever you call on him or her for assistance. After 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.

Confirmation Name Report Form

DIRECTIONS: After finding a saint that inspires your faith, complete the form below and email it to gsconfirmprep@gmail.com Your parents should help you.

What saint have you asked to be your friend? _____

How did you ask the saint to be your friend? _____

When is their feast day? _____

Where was the saint born? _____

How old was the saint when they died? _____

How many brothers and sisters did the saint have? _____

Name two ways that the saint was a disciple and witness of Jesus Christ? _____

Why did you choose this saint to be your friend? _____

PLEASE PRINT

Candidate's First Name: _____ Date: _____

Candidate's last Name: _____

Candidate's Confirmation Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Guidelines for Choosing a Sponsor

Complete this worksheet with your parents. Choose up to 4 possible people that you would consider as a sponsor for confirmation. Write the words *Yes* or *No* in each box under each name. Then, along with your parents input, select your sponsor and circle his/her name. Write your name and the date at the bottom of the sheet. Ask your parent to sign the sheet.

Names

Criteria				
Does he/she meet the requirements? (16 years old/Confirmed Catholic/Lives				

Faith/Not your parent				
Does he/she live close enough to meet with me?				
Is he/she free to attend meetings and spend time with me?				
Does he/she live the Christian way of life or worship, prayer and service?				
Is he/she mature enough to guide and challenge me to be a real Christian?				
Can I relate well enough to discuss and pray with him/her?				

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

Student's Name: _____

Sponsor's Formal Name: (Please give legal name, i.e. Kathleen vs Katie – as it should appear in the Confirmation Register)

First

Last

In a sentence, tell us about your relationship to your sponsor: _____

Sponsor Informal Name and Mailing Address: (Please provide your sponsor's name and address as we would write to him/her)

Title (Mr., Miss, Dr. etc) Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Sponsor's email: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

Parish

City

State

Sponsor Requirements:

- Must be a practicing Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken
- Must not be less than sixteen years of age.
- Must not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.
- Preferably not the sibling of one to be confirmed.

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 give drink to the thirsty To clothe the naked To shelter the homeless To visit the sick To bury the dead	To instruct the ignorant 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

Called to Mercy Service Reflection

Name: _____

Who did you attend with?: _____

Where did you go?: _____ What date did you go?: _____

How did you feel when you arrived? _____

Describe what you did: _____

What was the reaction of those you served? _____

How did you feel when you left? _____

Will you do something like this again? _____

Why or Why not? _____

EMAIL COMPLETED REFLECTION TO GSCONFIRMPREP@GMAIL.COM BY JUNE 30

Commitment Ceremonies

Saturday September 21st

5:00 p.m. mass

Sunday September 22

**8:30 a.m. mass
12:00 p.m. mass
5:00 p.m. mass**

Saturday September 28th

5:00 p.m. mass

Sunday September 29th

8:30 a.m. mass

10:00 a.m. mass

12:00 p.m. mass

5:00 p.m. mass

Please attend one of the commitment ceremonies. The child will receive a special blessing from the presider as well as a special gift and the codes required to sign on to the Called to Mercy program.




Log-In and Access Code Information

1. Go to *mlearn.smp.org/enroll*.
2. Enter access code: _____.
3. Enter parent/guardian information and young person information.
4. Read and agree to the terms of service. If the young person is under 13 years of age, a parent/guardian must agree to the terms.
5. Receive a confirmation e-mail. (Both the parent/guardian and the young person will receive this.)
6. Open the e-mail and click on the link to reset your password. Create a new password and save changes. Then click "Continue."
7. Log in with your e-mail address and password.
8. Select your course and begin with learning module 1.
9. Move through the 10 modules sequentially, completing them by the dates indicated on the handout

https://mlearn.smp.org/enroll Enrollment

Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Page Safety Tools



Class Enrollment

Section code* [What's this?](#)

This will be given to you at the Commitment Ceremony

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION	STUDENT INFORMATION
Parent First Name* <input type="text"/>	Student first name* <input type="text"/>
Parent Last Name* <input type="text"/>	Student last name* <input type="text"/>
Parent Email* <input type="text"/>	Student email* <input type="text"/>
Phone Number* <input type="text" value="555-555-5555x5555"/>	Please make sure to keep a note of the email used. (Parent and Student emails must be different.)
<input type="checkbox"/> I have read and agree	

submit
cancel

100%

Called to Mercy Modules

Module 1: Nice to Meet You

Students will create their personal profile
Students will be introduced to Bishop Caggiano
Prayerful reflection on the gifts and blessings in their lives

Module 2: True Happiness

Pope Francis' Top 10 Secrets to Happiness
Where is love most needed in the world today

Module 3: The Gift of Happiness

Discover that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are actually foundations for a life of happiness

Module 4: Doing What we Believe

Exploring the Fruits of the Holy Spirit as the signs of, and witness to, doing what we believe

Module 5: Guides Along the Way

Selecting a Saint who can serve as a spiritual friend and guide in their life.

Module 6: When we Hurt

Sin, forgiveness, sorrow and the unconditional love of God

Module 7: What's it All About

Human Dignity
Being made in the image and likeness of God

Module 8: It's Me and We

What it means to be part of a community
An understanding of what it means to be church
Being a witness to God's love

Module 9: Beyond These Walls

Go out and make a difference in the world
What can they do concretely to make the world a better place
Reflect on Confirmation as the full initiation in to a life of mercy for the betterment of the world.

Module 10: Confirmed to Witness Mercy

This module leads the young people through the order of confirmation

Called to Mercy Module Schedule and Gathering Dates

Gathering 1 – Parent and Student Orientation
7:00 PM
Fellowship Hall
September 17 or September 18

- Modules 1, 2 and 3 must be completed by November 11th in order to attend Gathering #2

Gathering 2 Schedule
6:30-8:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Monday Nov. 18

Classes of:

Albino
D’Agostino
Froeder/Fallon
Hernandez/DiGiantomasso
Holton
Murphy
Rivera
Rossi
Scavo
Rondinella

Tuesday Nov 19

Classes of:

Creighton
Flynn
Guido
Herold
MacIntosh
Newland
Salerno
Smith
Toral

- Modules 4 and 5 must be completed by January 20 in order to attend Gathering #3

Gathering 3 Schedule
6:30-8:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Monday Jan 27

Classes of:

Creighton
Herold
MacIntosh
Salerno
Smith
Toral

Tuesday Jan 28

Classes of:

D’Agostino
Albino
Froeder/Fallon
Murphy
Rivera
Rondinella
Hernandez/DiGiantomasso

Wednesday Jan 29

Classes of:

Flynn
Guido
Holton
Newland
Rossi
Scavo

Module 6 must be completed by February 24 in order to attend Gathering #4

Gathering 4 Schedule

6:30-8:00 PM

Church

Monday March 2

Wednesday March 4

Classes of:

Classes of:

Creighton

Albino

Flynn

D'Agostino

Guido

Froeder/Fallon

Herold

Hernandez/DiGiantomasso

MacIntosh

Holton

Newland

Murphy

Salerno

Rivera

Smith

Rossi

Toral

Scavo

Rondinella

➤ **Module 7 and 8 must be completed by March 23 in order to attend Gathering #4**

Gathering 5

6:30 - 800 PM

Fellowship Hall

Monday March 30

Tuesday March 31

Wednesday April 1

Classes of:

Classes of:

Classes of:

Flynn

Creighton

D'Agostino

Guido

Herold

Albino

Holton

MacIntosh

Froeder/Fallon

Newland

Salerno

Murphy

Rossi

Smith

Rivera

Scavo

Toral

Rondinella

Hernandez/DiGiantomasso

Service Dates and Final Gathering #6 TBD

- **If your child can not make their scheduled gathering, please contact Mary Unkel at 7coord@gmail.com and she will arrange for your child to attend a different gathering.**
- **The children will be planning their service during gathering 5. If your child can not make their scheduled service, they will be placed with another group and complete the service with that group.**