

## Confirmation Preparation Requirements

It is important that you practice your faith and demonstrate your desire to live it during this year of preparation for Confirmation. This year we will focus on your personal faith journey, becoming more deeply aware of Jesus' message, and living your faith through moral choices, prayer, and service. The following is a checklist of the things you will need to do/provide in order to complete preparation for confirmation this year.

1. **Attend all 5 monthly classes:** Classes meet the first Sunday of each month from November to April. Attendance is mandatory at all 5 classes. If you cannot attend due to illness or a special event, then the missed class must be made up. If this is a special event, contact Mrs. Kirk ahead of time to get permission for an excused absence and let Mrs. Ekstrom know before missing class. If you are ill, have your parent contact Mrs. Kirk as soon as possible.
2. **Rite of Acceptance:** Write a letter to Fr. Tim indicating your desire to be confirmed and your willingness to meet all the requirements identified here. The Rite of Acceptance will be at the 11am mass at your December class.
3. **Do all online assignments:** There is an online component for the class that must be done outside of class. You will need to read articles, watch videos, do activities etc. from the web page each month. This includes assignments that are submitted electronically. If you do not have access to the internet, let Mrs. Ekstrom know so hardcopy equivalents can be provided.
4. **Select and Perform Year-Long Service Activity:** You need to select a service activity you can do throughout the year. This may be volunteering for a service organization or putting together your own service activity. The service activity must be selected by the December class at the latest. It must be presented at a Service Expo in September 2016; make tri-fold board to display your service activity and be able to talk to it.
5. **Read one of the Gospel Books:** You will be required to select one of the Gospels and read it completely. There are a few questions you will need to answer about the Gospel you select.
6. **Personal Beliefs Project:** You will be required to do a project expressing your personal beliefs. This will be done before the last class in April. You can work on it by yourself or with others. Instructions for the project are on the web page and will be discussed in class.
7. **Journal:** You will be given a Journal to keep during the year. You need to write in this journal regularly; keeping track of your faith journey. You will be asked to bring the completed journal with you to your interview in August.
8. **Confirmation Name:** The name you take for Confirmation may be the name your parents gave you at Baptism, your Saint Report name, or you may choose a different name. You must select your name by January.
9. **Saint Report:** You need to select a saint to help you on your faith journey. You will be required to write a report on this Saint and turn it in at the November class (October 30).
10. **Faith Conversations with Sponsor:** You are required to have a Sponsor for Confirmation. This person will be helping you prepare for the sacrament. You need to have 3 to 5 conversations with your sponsor on topics of faith; information will be provided with some suggestions for these topics. These must be done by August.
11. **Letter to Bishop:** You will need to write a letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. A template for that letter is on the web page and will be provided. It is due at your interview in August.
12. **Attend Retreat:** You must attend the entire retreat; prayer services, community services; meals, masses. The retreat will be done in 2 parts; community/faith sharing/mass in January and service/prayer in February.
13. **Prove mass attendance every weekend even holidays and summer:** You need to follow the 5 "Precepts of the Church"; these are the minimum requirements for participation as a practicing Catholic.
  - a. *"You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor"*. It is required that you check in at mass each week. If you attend mass at a different church, bring in a signed bulletin from that church
  - b. *"You shall confess your sins at least once a year."* This is only "required" if you commit a mortal sin, but is highly recommended even without mortal sin in order to receive the grace from reconciliation. There are reconciliation services made available so you can make a confession.
  - c. *"You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season"* Receive Eucharist during weekly mass and you will exceed this requirement.
  - d. *"You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church"* Keep the Lenten fasting and abstinence rules; we will discuss this closer to the Lenten season.
  - e. *"You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church"* – although students are often unable to provide money, there are activities, where students can provide non-monetary help.

