

CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES

**St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church
Fredericksburg, Virginia**



Table of Contents

Pages	Title
3	Letter to Parents
4	Parent Responsibilities
5	Candidate Duties & Responsibilities
6	Guidelines for Letter to Bishop Explain why the Candidate wants to be Confirmed
7	Choosing of a Saint Name
8	Saint Report
9	Guidelines for Service Projects
10	Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy
11-18	Confirmation Interview (CCD& Homeschool) Make Up Date Interview (CCD& Homeschool) will be week after
19	Final Interview Questions
20	Sponsors Duties & Responsibilities
21-22	Sponsor/Proxy Forms & Sponsor Promise Sponsors Eligibility Letter (from sponsors parish) Parents Confirmation Meeting
23-24	Service Hours Experience Form
25	Confirmation Record Form

(Copy of Baptismal Cert. or Profession of Faith must be in the RE Office)

Dates in bold reflect important dates to remember. Please see RE calendar for specific dates.

****Dates may be changed according to parish hall availability.**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Patrick's Sacramental Program for Confirmation. I am pleased to offer this booklet, *Confirmation Guidelines*, to assist you in preparing your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important that you review the attached forms and information sheets. Your cooperation in accurately completing the forms and returning them to the Religious Education Office in a timely manner is greatly appreciated. You may deliver them in person, by mail, or email to religioused@saintpatrickparish.org by the due dates indicated.

It is extremely important that the student (Candidate), sponsor, and parents collectively participate in the Confirmation preparation process. By working together with the catechists and priests of the parish, the candidates will be properly prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and become valuable citizens of the Church and our country. In addition to the specific requirements, please be advised of the following policies in place at St. Patrick Parish:

- a. **Candidates at St. Patrick Parish must be interviewed prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.** This will be completed within the last couple of weeks prior to Confirmation. The students will also be interviewed by the bishop.
- b. **Mass attendance on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is mandatory and will be tracked by their attendance slips.**
- c. **Dress Code for Confirmation:**
 1. Boys: Please ensure that boys wear neckties. They are **NOT** to wear jeans or tennis/athletic shoes.
 2. Girls: Please wear dresses (no spaghetti straps). Dresses should be at or below the knees and cover the shoulders. Do not wear tennis/athletic shoes or slacks/pants of any type.
 3. For the Confirmation service, robes will be rented for each Candidate. Information on sizing will be requested before Confirmation.
- d. **Photography/Videography:**
 1. **Please do not take pictures or videos** in the church during the solemn Confirmation service.
 2. There will be ample opportunity to take your own pictures at the reception in the Parish Hall after the Confirmation Mass. In the past, the bishop has graciously posed with Candidates and/or families to have pictures taken.

If the required paperwork is not received by the scheduled due dates, it will be assumed that your child will not be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Patrick Parish. It is our pleasure to serve you. Our aim is to assist you and your child in whatever way possible to make the Sacrament of Confirmation a spiritually rewarding and memorable event.

To Jesus through Mary
Phil Camill

Director of Religious Education

Parent Duties & Responsibilities

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children... Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children... Parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2223, #2225, and #2226) (Emphasis added)

As a parent, you have *the primary role* in the sacramental preparation process for your child. You will help your child grow in the faith as you prepare him/her for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. *You and your child’s attendance at required events and especially Sunday Mass is vital. Even more importantly, your interest, example, witness, and prayers make a difference in your child’s decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and live the Catholic life. REMEMBER, YOU ARE THEIR FIRST LOVE.*

Requirements:

- **Prepare your child** for the decision to be confirmed through instruction, example, and prayer. **Ensure** your child goes to Mass every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation.
- **Complete the Confirmation Record Form.**
- **Ensure a copy of your child’s Baptismal certificate or Profession of Faith is in the Religious Education Office.** If your child was validly baptized in another denomination, please provide us with a copy of their baptismal certificate.
- **Assist your child in ensuring all class assignments are completed.** Please assist the Candidate as necessary with the materials presented in the classes.
- **Ensure your child fulfills the required service hours and attends the mandatory Confirmation Retreat.** It is important that the service hour requirements and experience forms be completed by the required date.
- **Most importantly, each Candidate must pass the Confirmation interview.** The “Confirmation Question and Answer Sheet” can be found in the back of this booklet. Preparation for this interview will begin in the sixth and seventh grades with basic prayers and conclude in the eighth grade. Any unfinished interviews will be held just before Confirmation. *If your child has any special learning needs, please advise the Religious Education Office so we may best serve your child and accommodate him/her as necessary. Just prior to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, each candidate will participate in a final interview. Refer to the “Final Interview Questions.”*
- The celebrating bishop may choose to interview the Candidates before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- We use a threefold tier of catechesis to ensure that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation: *physical, intellectual and spiritual.* The **physical** is accomplished through the faithful completion of a **minimum** of ten hours of spiritual and/or corporal works of mercy; the **intellectual** is accomplished through the faithful taking and successfully completing the Confirmation Classes, passing the Confirmation test, and the final interview; and the **spiritual** is accomplished through attendance at Mass every Sunday, Holy Days of Obligation, and a Confirmation retreat. We deem all three areas to be of grave importance and that each area provides complimentary opportunity to ensure that our Candidates are properly instructed.
- Candidates **MUST** go on a Confirmation retreat within the Arlington Diocese before receiving Confirmation. *It is your responsibility to find an available retreat if you cannot attend Saint Patrick’s retreat.*
- Should there be a schedule conflict on the actual date of Confirmation, we will work with the parents to reschedule their child’s Confirmation at another parish.

Candidate Duties & Responsibilities



“A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the Sacrament [of Confirmation], and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial [Church] community and in temporal affairs.” (CCC, #1319)

Each candidate, with the help of his/her parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, one of the Baptismal sponsors be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective.

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church and perfects the original Baptismal grace imparted by the Holy Spirit. The confirmed are expected to worship God by taking an even more active part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and to receive Confession as often as needed at least once a month and the Eucharist as often as possible when they are in the state of grace. A confirmed member of the Church is expected to strengthen and support the Body of Christ, the Church, by prayers and good works.

Requirements:

- **Attend and participate at Mass on All Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.**
- **Attend and participate** in the weekly scheduled religious education program.
- **Prepare letter to the bishop** explaining why you would like to be confirmed.
- **Select a patron saints name** (of either gender; blesseds are permitted) as a Confirmation name. Candidates are required to **write and submit a two or three page report on the chosen saint.** See procedures under *Choosing of a Saints Name.*
- **Select a sponsor and have them fill out a sponsor form. The Sponsor must then obtain a sponsor’s eligibility form from their pastor or Parish Office and return it to the St. Patrick Religious Education Office.** Should a proxy be needed they must satisfy the same requirements as the sponsor.
- **Perform a minimum of 10 hours of community service** as outlined on Page 9 of the guidelines.
- **Complete the Service Hours Summary and Experience Form.**
- **Participate in the Confirmation Retreat.** If a candidate does not attend the Confirmation retreat offered at St. Patrick Parish, he/she must find and attend another Confirmation retreat within the Diocese of Arlington prior to the date of the Confirmation Mass.
- **Study, participate and pass, the Confirmation Interview.**

Guidelines for Writing the Letter to Bishop

Each candidate for Confirmation is required to submit a *one page, single or double-spaced, typed letter, 12 point font*, to the Bishop of the Arlington Diocese telling him why she/he would like to be confirmed. Please follow the format below.

Use the following format to write the letter to the bishop:

Candidate Name
Address
Date of Letter

Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge
The Catholic Diocese of Arlington
200 North Glebe Road Suite 904
Arlington, VA 22203

Your Excellency,

(Before writing your letter, you need to gather your thoughts. Use the answers to the following questions to help you gather your thoughts and write your letter.)

As you are gathering your thoughts, in your letter answer the following questions:

Why do I wish to be confirmed?

How am I preparing for Confirmation?

What good experiences have I had on my journey to being confirmed? (e.g., While doing service hours)

What will I do to continue to grow in my faith as a Catholic after Confirmation?

What other thoughts do you have about Confirmation?

After you have assembled your thoughts on paper, use this space to actually write your letter. (**Do not use these questions in the body of your letter. They are just a guide.**)

Sincerely,

Candidate Name (signed)

Candidate Name (printed)

Please use proper letter format and be sure to sign your letter before turning it in.

Please return the letter to the bishop to the Religious Education Office. Do not mail it directly to Bishop Burbidge. The Religious Education Office will collect and mail the letters to the bishop.

The Choosing of a Saint Name

A Confirmation saint is a special person in heaven that you will be bonded to for the rest of your life. Is that the only saint that you will learn to love in your life? NO! In your lifetime, you will fall in love with a variety of saints for various reasons. But the one you choose will be forever special.

How do you pick a saint for Confirmation? Before you start, pray to God that He guides you in picking a saint. Then there are a variety of ways to potentially pick a saint. First, you may want to continue with your Baptismal Saint; you can pick a saint because of a particular date e.g., a birthday, anniversary, or a special event. You may pick a saint because of the occupation you are currently in or want to be e.g., doctor, lawyer, engineer, etc. Perhaps you can pick a saint because of your current life situation: a son or daughter, student, musician, scout. And finally, you can consider a saint by the possible vocation God may be leading you to for example married, single, or religious.

If a new name is taken, it should be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation.

The Confirmation saint chosen should serve the Candidate as patrons and models for life. So, the saint selected should be chosen because of the life and the struggles that led them to holiness.

Find out more about your Confirmation saint's life. When you have a saint, use the guide that follows to help you learn more about your saint. Fill in the information below:

Saints Name: _____ Feast Day: _____

Name or derivative you have selected to use to honor this special saint:

Saints place of birth: _____ Symbol for the Saint: _____

Find out something about the saint's life: Family: _____

Occupation: _____ When was the saint born: _____

How did the Saint die and his/her date of death: _____

What virtues did this saint practice in his/her life? _____

How is this saint a model for Christians today?

Ask your parents or whoever named you how they picked your given name and baptismal name at birth? Then write a brief history about what you found out below.

What aspects of their Christian life attracted you? _____

****Note, filling this page does NOT count as your saint report****

****Keep this page for your notes****

GUIDELINES FOR SAINT REPORT

Using the information from the selection of a saint name, each Candidate is required to write a Saint Report featuring the saint whose name has been chosen.

Hopefully, the student has chosen a saint that they can emulate as they grow in the Faith. It may be that a student has selected a certain saint based on: life situation, profession, personal holiness, etc.

This report should be a **minimum of two, single, typed pages** with a font not more than 12 PITCH. A sloppy hand-written report will not be accepted, nor a report which does not include all the requirements.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR REPORT IN A FOLDER. STAPLE THE PAGES TOGETHER AT THE TOP LEFT HAND CORNER.

The following minimum information **MUST** be included in your report:

- † **Cover Page with student name**
- † **Biographical information on the saint**
- † Dates and place of birth and death
- † Description of saint's service to God and others
- † Feast Day of the saint
- † Symbol, if any, associated with the saint
- † Circumstances of death
- † If the saint is a patron of any group, discuss the reason and significance
- † Discuss any specific devotion(s) that were attributed to this saint
- † **What was there about the person that moved the Church to name him/her a saint?**
- † **Personal influence of the saint on the Candidate including:**
- † Why did the Candidate choose this saint?
- † What is it about the saint that the Candidate would hope to emulate?
- † **Bibliography**

Sources for this information are available in books such as *Lives of the Saints* or individual books on saints. Check online, our books in the Religious Education office, or any Catholic store.

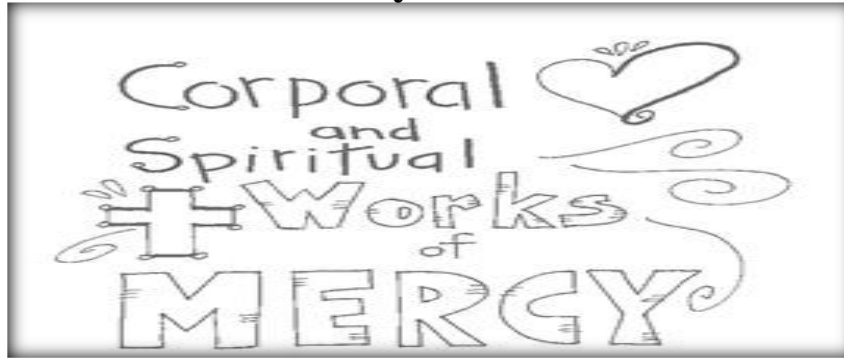
Please remember that the Saint Report is to be completed on the name chosen as the Confirmation Name.

Additionally, you will only be allowed to use the saint name you indicated on the Confirmation Record Form.

- <http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php> http://www.scborromeo.org/patron_p.htm
- <http://www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/PATRONS.htm>
- <http://www.aboutcatholics.com/beliefs/alphabetical-list-of-patron-saints/>



Christian Charity as an Act of Service



Part of the Confirmation charism is charity to the community. The purpose of doing Service Projects is to build that virtue of charity for the benefit of the community. A **minimum of 10 hours** of community service is required. Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and most of all, the example of Christ who came to serve. When providing service, the following points should be considered:

- † Your service is not just a job to be done, but a life-long commitment of service to others.
- † You should reflect on how your service project is helping you to take on the mind and heart of Christ; fulfills the needs of others, and builds up the Christian community.
- † The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation day and all through your life.

The following does not fulfill the service requirements:

- † Sports activities, secular activities or after school projects that have already been committed to.
- † Candidates who **currently** participate in the parish choir, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or Altar Servers. (They have already made a commitment, which should continue.)
- † Baby-sitting for your own parents. (This should be done out of love for your parents, but not as a service project)

Below is a list of suggested service projects. You may wish to do some of these or perhaps you may find some other unique ways to serve.

- † Many parish groups are in need of additional help during the year. Be sure to contact any groups that advertise such a need in the church bulletin. The RE office will also send out emails for upcoming service opportunities with our office namely workshops, meetings, Vacation Bible School, etc.
- † Offer your service (without pay) to an elderly neighbor to do special projects such as mowing, raking leaves, shoveling snow or weeding. You may also baby-sit (free of charge) for other parents who are providing a service, for example, scout leaders, catechists.
- † As a service, join the Choir, Scouts, or Altar Server. (Those currently participating have already made a commitment, which should be kept. New members are doing so specifically as a service project.)

Service hours must be listed on the sheet found in this packet. Verification of service is guaranteed by the signature of the person who was the recipient of the service. The forms should be returned to the Religious Education Office when complete.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

The **Works of Mercy** are charitable actions by which we aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. (CCC 2447) They are acts of love, which we show to Christ in the members of His Mystical Body.

- † **Admonish the sinner:** Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ. In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times.
- † **Instruct the ignorant:** Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith. Invite someone to go to Mass with you this weekend.
- † **Counsel the doubtful:** Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way.
- † **Comfort the sorrowful:** Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference. Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time. Make them a home cooked meal. Write a letter.
- † **Bear wrongs patiently:** Accept the consequences of another's thoughtlessness or carelessness, and to suffer inconveniences which another should bear. Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation; take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.
- † **Forgive all injuries:** To forgive all those who have injured us in any way, even deliberately. Christ demands that His followers have great love and forgiveness for one another in imitation of His own forgiveness of His enemies as He hung on the Cross.
- † **Pray for the living and dead:** Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into Gods care. Request a Mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a rough time. We will accept ½ hour increments of someone spending time in prayer, especially in church and during Adoration.

Corporal Works of Mercy

- † **Feed the hungry:** Help others to obtain their bodily nourishment, especially those in greatest need. Share your candy, bring food to a needy family, help parents cook, do dishes.
- † **Give drink to the thirsty:** What was said of food applies to the need all have for drink i.e., give a friend a drink on a hot day; lift a child to get a drink at a fountain. Make an effort not to waste water. Remember to turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or washing dishes.
- † **Clothe the naked:** help others with clothing, especially those who need help i.e., through clothing drives, helping with the wash, etc.
- † **Visit the imprisoned:** besides prisoners, many suffer dangers to freedom, helping them or protecting them is an act of love e.g., protecting a little boy from the bullying of a bigger child.
- † **Shelter the homeless:** Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face. Donate time or money to build homes for those who need shelter.
- † **Visit the sick:** helping sick people in any way is an act of love i.e., running an errand, or reading to a sick person. Give blood. Spend time in a nursing home.
- † **Bury the dead:** show respect for the dead i.e., go to funerals, cutting grass on a grave, or putting flowers on it. (*New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism #2, Lesson 15.*) Send a card to someone who has lost a loved one.

Confirmation Interview Questions & Answers

“Bishops are ‘beyond all others the ones primarily for catechesis, the Catechists par excellence.’ As chief catechist in the diocese, the bishop is responsible for the total catechetical mission of the local church. Catechesis is one of the fundamental tasks of the bishops’ ministry” (National Directory for Catechesis #54).

*It is with this mandate that I put forth the following questions and answers to assist the faithful in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is my firm desire that all Catholics know and live the Catholic Faith to the fullest. The content below is divided into three main focus areas: **Faith, Worship, and Witness**.—Bishop Michael Burbidge*

Each candidate will be interviewed. As a minimum for the interview, they are to know the answers to the following questions. This interview is to be completed before the Sacrament of Confirmation is administered.

Faith: God is revealed to us through Sacred Scripture & the teachings of the Catholic Church.

1. Define the mystery of the Trinity. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 253-255*)

The Blessed Trinity is the central mystery of our Catholic faith. There are three Divine Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

When you bless yourself, how can you be more aware that you are invoking the Trinity?

2. Where can we find the teachings of the Catholic Church (*CCC 95*)

The teachings of the Catholic Church can be found in Scripture, Tradition (precepts of the faith continuously transmitted from the Apostolic Church to the present day) and the Magisterium (teaching authority of the Church).

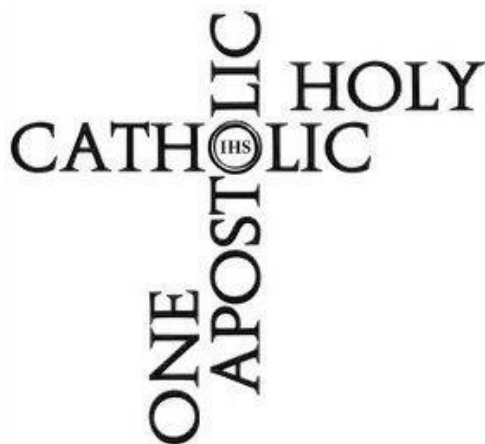
Knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic Church is essential for one being confirmed in the faith. What are you doing to gain greater knowledge of your faith?

3. What is Scripture and how do we as Catholics understand it? (*CCC 101-141*)

Scripture is the inspired word of God as found in the Bible in human words.

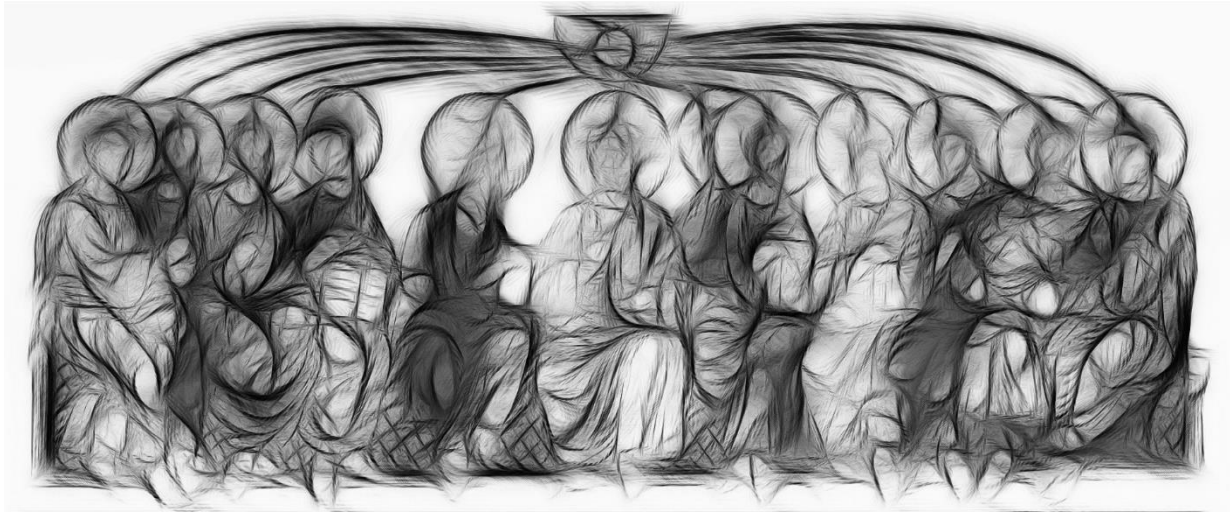
How often do you read Sacred Scripture and what is your favorite book of the Bible?

4. What are the four Marks of the Church? Briefly explain. (*CCC 813-870*)



The four marks of the Church are Only, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. The Church is **One** because of her source, foundation, and bonds of unity in Christ. The Church is **Holy** because she is united with Christ, Who through the Church sanctifies all people making possible holiness in life. The Church is **Catholic** in that the church is universal (all people in all times and all places) The Church is **Apostolic** because she can trace her teaching and authority back to the Apostles and thus to Christ.

How have you experienced that the Church is “One” when you have worshipped in different parishes?



5. When did Jesus' disciples first experience the gift of the Holy Spirit? How does Sacred Scripture describe the event? (CCC 731-732)

The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. "When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts 2: 1-4)

What are the signs that tell you that the Spirit is alive in your life?

6. Name the Ten Commandments. (CCC 2083-2557)

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.

6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Two Commandments of Love: *Matthew 22:36-40*, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37. And He said to him, "'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38. This is the great and [a]foremost commandment. 39. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

How does your family honor the third Commandment? Is the order of the Commandments important?

7. What are the three central teachings of our Church concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary? (CCC 490-493, 966)

The three central teachings of our Church concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary are:

Immaculate Conception: Mary was conceived without original sin.

Perpetual Virginity: Mary was and remained a virgin—before, during, and after the birth of Jesus

The Assumption (Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven).

What is it about Mary that inspires you and makes you want to imitate her?

Worship: We encounter God through prayer and the Sacraments both as the Body of Christ and as individuals who have been baptized into life in Christ

1. What is a Sacrament? (CCC 1113-1131)

A Sacrament is an outward (visible) sign instituted by Christ to give grace.
Which Sacraments have you already received?

2. Name the seven Sacraments. List the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments of Service. (CCC 1210-1211)

The seven Sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

The Sacraments of Healing are Penance and Anointing of the Sick. The Sacraments of Service are Holy Orders and Matrimony.

How can you show a greater appreciation for the gift of the Sacraments?

3. How is Christian initiation brought about through the Sacraments? (CCC 1212)

Christian initiation is accomplished by means of the Sacraments which establish the foundation of the Christian life. The faithful born anew by Baptism are strengthened by Confirmation and nourished by the Holy Eucharist.

What does "being initiated" mean? How does initiation apply to your faith?

4. How does the bishop confirm? (CCC 1299)

The bishop extends his hands over a person to be confirmed and calls upon the Holy Spirit. He then confers the Sacrament by laying hands upon the head of each candidate, anointing the forehead with the sacred chrism, and saying: "(Name)...be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Candidate responds "Amen." Bishop says, "Peace be with you." Candidate responds, "And with your Spirit."

Think about the name you will choose for Confirmation. What are the qualities of that saint that you wish to imitate?

5. What is sacred chrism and why is it used? (CCC 1293-1296)

Sacred chrism is oil mixed with fragrance and consecrated by the bishop; it is used for anointing in the Rite of Confirmation. Anointing, in the Biblical and other ancient symbolism, is rich in meaning: oil is a sign of abundance and joy; it cleanses, limbers and heals, since it is soothing to bruises and wounds. Oil makes radiant with beauty, health, and strength.

Choose one of the above benefits of oil. How does this connect to your life at this particular moment?

6. Why does the bishop anoint in the form of the cross? (CCC 1303)

The bishop anoints the forehead in the form of a cross to remind us that we belong to Christ and that we must defend our faith with gratitude for Christ's redeeming death on the cross.

What difference in your life does it make that you belong to Christ?

7. What is the Paschal Mystery? (CCC 1067, 654)

The Paschal Mystery is Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension. The Paschal Mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin, and by his Resurrection he opens for us the way to new life.

How are you strengthened and comforted by the Paschal Mystery?

8. How is Christ present in the Eucharistic species? (CCC 1374, 1375)

Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharistic species in a unique and incomparable way. He is present in a true, real, and substantial way in His Body and Blood, together with His Soul and Divinity.

What does the gift of the Eucharist mean to you?

9. What is prayer? (CCC 2558-2565)

Prayer is turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with God.

At what times during the day do you pray?

10. What are the various ways to pray? (CCC 2699-2721)

The various ways to pray are vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer. All three ways of prayer presuppose recollecting one's mind and heart.

What is your favorite way to pray and why?

11. Name the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous mysteries of the Rosary. Briefly explain them.

Joyful Mysteries: Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, Finding of the Child Jesus after Three Days in the Temple.

Sorrowful Mysteries: Agony in the Garden, Scourging at the Pillar, Crowning with Thorns, Carrying of the Cross, Crucifixion and Death.

Glorious Mysteries: Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Assumption of Mary, Crowning of the Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Luminous Mysteries: Baptism at the Jordan, Miracle at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, Transfiguration, Institution of the Eucharist.

Which mysteries of the rosary do you most like to pray? Why?

Witness: We live in the world as Disciples of Christ who are called to share the Good News through service and evangelization.

1. Name the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Describe them briefly. (CCC 1831)

(WiCKPUFF) Wisdom. Counsel. Knowledge. Piety. Understanding. Fortitude. Fear of the Lord.

Wisdom helps us to know God's will for our lives.

Counsel aids us in making right judgments.

Knowledge allows us to come to know God better, that we may have a personal relationship with Him.

Piety assists us in being more prayerful, reverent, and holy.

Understanding enables us to appropriate the faith to make it our own.

Fear of the Lord is a holy and healthy awe and reverence for God, the creator of heaven and earth.

Fortitude helps us to be courageous in the defense of our faith.

What gift of the Holy Spirit do you most greatly need at this time? Why?

2. Name the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1832)

The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

Which fruit do you most admire in someone in your family?

3. What is conscience? How do we develop a well-informed conscience? (CCC 1776-1780, 1795-1797, 1799-1800)

Conscience is our God-given capacity to understand the law of God written on the heart of every human being. In building our relationship with God, we form our conscience in harmony with the teachings of Christ through the Church and through fervent prayer. An upright and true moral conscience is formed by education and by assimilating the Word of God and the teaching of the Church. It is supported by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and helped by the advice of wise people.

What are you doing to form your conscience?

4. What is the Sermon on the Mount? Where is it found in Sacred Scripture? What are the Beatitudes? (CCC 1716-1719) (*Matthew*, Chapters 5-7)

The Sermon on the Mount is the first public sermon given by Jesus Christ. It begins with the Beatitudes but contains many other exhortations on the life lived according to the will of God. The teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount are the way to true happiness. By describing Jesus' own charity, they also show us how God expects us to live.

The Eight Beatitudes are:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Which beatitude do you find easiest to practice? Why?

5. What is mortal sin? (CCC 1855, 1857) What is venial sin? (CCC 1862)

A mortal sin is a grave infraction of the law of God that destroys charity in the heart and constitutes a turning away from God. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: grave matter, full knowledge, and full consent of the will.

Venial sin offends and wounds, but does not destroy. It weakens charity; it manifests a disordered affection for created good; it impedes the soul's progress in the exercise of the virtues and the practice of the moral good; it merits temporal punishment.

In living a Christian life, what worldly voices seek to disguise sin? Name a spiritual work of mercy that you have seen a friend or teacher practicing.

6. Define the meaning of **virtues** and list the **four cardinal virtues** and the **three theological virtues**? (CCC 1804-05, and 1812-29)

Virtue is the power from God to accomplish some kind of moral good. The **cardinal virtues** are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. The **three theological virtues** are faith, hope, and charity (love).

Why is it important to practice the cardinal and theological virtues in your life?

7. What are the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching?

1. Right to life and dignity of the human person.
2. Call to family, community, and participation.
3. Rights and responsibilities.
4. Option for the poor and vulnerable.
5. The dignity of work and the rights of workers.
6. Solidarity we are one human family.
7. Care of God's Creation.

In this time in which we are living, which theme do you find the most important and want to find more information? This information can lead to practice.

A Framework for a Christian Life

1. What are the five precepts of the Church? (CCC 2041-2043)

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor.
 - A. Solemnity of Mary, January 1
 - B. Ascension Thursday (forty days after Easter)
 - C. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15
 - D. Solemnity of All Saints, November 1
 - E. Immaculate Conception, December 8
 - F. Christmas Day, December 25
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during 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 Church.

2. What are the three main liturgical times of the Church Year?

1. Advent/Christmas
2. Lent/Easter
3. Ordinary

3. What are the Seven Capital Sins and their corresponding Virtues? Their extremes? *Remember: PALE GAS.

Capital Sins	Opposite Corresponding Virtue	Opposite Extreme
Pride	Humility	Self-Loathing
Avarice	Generosity	Wastefulness
Lust	Chastity	Prudishness
Envy	Kindness or Brotherly Love	Cowardice/Timidity
Gluttony	Temperance	Deficiency
Anger	Meekness or Patience	Servility
Sloth	Diligence	Work-aholism



Pieter Brugel the Elder, *Seven Deadly Sins* (1500s)

Encountering Christ in Prayer

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

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be 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.

Grace before Meals: Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive, from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 God, the Father Almighty. 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.

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 your mercy.

St. Michael: Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Act of Contrition: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Guardian Angel: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom Gods love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule, to guide. Amen.

Act of Faith, Hope & Love: Jesus, I believe in you. Jesus, I hope in you. Jesus, I love you.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Francis of Assisi Prayer: Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

Morning Offering: O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all our associates, and in particular for the intentions of our Holy Father for this month.

Angelus:

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done to me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. Let us pray.
R. Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord, Amen

Hail Holy Queen: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, morning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us.

And after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your 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.

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

Memorare: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Regina Caeli: Queen of heaven, rejoice. Alleluia. For He whom thou didst deserve to bear, Alleluia.
Hath risen as He said, Alleluia. Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.
R. Because Our Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who by the resurrection of Thy Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, hast vouchsafed to make glad the whole world, great, we beseech Thee, that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen



Final Interview Questions

1. Do you want to be Confirmed? The answer needs to be an assertion of your intention to receive the sacrament.

2. Why do you want to be Confirmed? There needs to be a well thought out answer.

3. Who is your Confirmation Saint? Why did you choose that Saint? (Stay away from answers like: I like the name) What appeals to you about that Saint? When was he/she born; where did he live; and what did he/she do?

4. What are you going to do with your life now that you will be an **adult** in the eyes of the Church?

5. Be able to answer any of the questions or discuss the subjects from the above pages.

Keep this page as a study guide.

This page intentionally left blank.

St. Patrick Catholic Church

9149 Elys Ford Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22407 (540) 785-5299

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

CCD Parish Office
 RCIC Homeschool
 School Prog: _____
INTAKE INITIALS: _____

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION FORM

1. ASPIRING CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION:

Name of Person _____ Male Female
Desiring Confirmation: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Maiden, if applicable)

Address: _____
_____ Biological Gender at Birth
 Male Female

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____
(Month) (Day) (Year) (when you expect to be Confirmed)

Place of Birth: _____
(City) (State) (Country)

Father's Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Mother's Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Maiden)

2. ASPIRING CANDIDATE'S BAPTISM & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION:

BAPTISM

Date: _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Church: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Is this a Catholic Church? Yes No
If not, the Church of FHC is the Church of Record for all Sacraments.

Please provide proof of baptism. → Done

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Date: _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Church: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Please provide proof of First Holy Communion. → Done

3. PARENTS' MARITAL STATUS:

Father's Marital Status (check all that apply):

Single
 Married
 in the Catholic Church
 NOT in the Catholic Church

NAME of CHURCH:

Separated
 Divorced and not remarried
 Cohabiting (living with a partner, not a spouse)
 Previously married:
 in the Catholic Church
 NOT in the Catholic Church
 Marriage was annulled
 Marriage was not annulled
 Previous spouse now deceased
 More than one previous marriage

Mother's Marital Status (check all that apply):

Single
 Married
 in the Catholic Church
 NOT in the Catholic Church

NAME of CHURCH (if not married to father):

Separated
 Divorced and not remarried
 Cohabiting (living with a partner, not a spouse)
 Previously married:
 in the Catholic Church
 NOT in the Catholic Church
 Marriage was annulled
 Marriage was not annulled
 Previous spouse now deceased
 More than one previous marriage

4. SAINT & SPONSOR INFORMATION:

SAINT NAME CHOSEN: _____ Not Yet Chosen
*A report on the saint who bears the name chosen by the aspiring candidate will be due into the Religious Education Office.

SPONSOR: _____ Member of St. Patrick Church?
(First) (Last)

What is the sponsor's relationship to the aspiring candidate? _____

WILL THE SPONSOR BE PRESENT FOR THE CONFIRMATION? Yes No

If no, name of Proxy: _____ Member of St. Patrick Church?
(First) (Last)

Instructor to Complete:

Sponsor Letter of Good Standing Received Proxy Letter of Good Standing Received (if applicable)

Date of Confirmation: _____ Celebrant: _____
Church of Confirmation:
 St. Patrick Church
Other: _____
_____ city _____ state

Celebrant: _____

INSTRUCTOR: SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO MAIN OFFICE

This page intentionally left blank.