

2017 Confirmation Program using *Confirmed in the Spirit* (Loyola Press)

Events For:	Date and Time:	What:
Parent/Candidate	11-16-2016, Wed @7 pm in Pine Room (PR)	Program Overview
Parent/Candidate	12-4-2016, Sun	Due: Confirmation Registration
Candidate/Sponsor/Parent	12-7-2016, Wed @7 pm in Church & PR	Inscription Service
Candidate/Parent*/Sponsor*	1-14, Sat 10am-6pm (Off Campus)	Service Day*
Candidate	2-7, Tue @6:30 pm or 2-12 Sun @10 am in PR	# 1 Candidate Formation Mtg
Candidate	3-12, Sun @10 am or 3-14 Tue@6:30 pm in PR	# 2 Candidate Formation Mtg Due: Paper #1 – Holiness & Saints
Candidate	4-2, Sun @10 am or 4-4, Tue@6:30 pm in PR	# 3 Candidate Formation Mtg
Candidate/Sponsor	5-20, Sat @3pm plus 5 pm Mass	Presentation: Gifts of the HS followed by Mass Due: <i>Confirmed in the Spirit</i> Books & Paper #2 – Bible Reflection & Sponsor Conversations
Candidate	9-8, 2 nd Friday of Sept.	Due: Service & Faith Booster Logs & Paper #3 – Faith & Service
Candidate/Parent*/Sponsor*	TBA – Sept or Oct 2017	Spirit Day Retreat* (off campus or outside presenter)
Candidate	9-15, 3 rd Friday of Sept.	Due: Bishop's Letter
Candidate	10-1, Sun@10 am or 10-3, Tue@6:45 pm	# 4 Candidate Formation Mtg
Sponsor/Candidate	10-27, Fri @7:00 pm in the Church	Prayer Vigil & Confirmation Rehearsal
Entire Family	10-28, Sat @10:00 am or @2:00am	Confirmation Mass
Newly Confirmed/ Parent*/Sponsor*	TBA – Fall 2017 or Winter 2018	Post Confirmation Retreat* (off campus or outside presenter)

* indicates that Adult volunteers/chaperones are needed

Homework:

Families	Sacraments - Attend Mass weekly & Reconciliation regularly
Candidate/Families	Religious Education - During 7 th & 8 th grade (both before and after Confirmation), do either of the following: 1) Attend Ascension school and receive a passing grade in Religion Class. Or 2) Attend Religious Education classes at Ascension.
School/RE classes/Candidate	Read and work through the chapters in <i>Confirmed in the Spirit</i>. Candidates will work in and out of class on assignments that will be turned in or checked by their Catechist or Religion Teacher. For example, at the end of each chapter, there is a review page that needs to be filled out. The books will be turned in at the Presentation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit Meeting, on May 20 th .

Candidate/Sponsor/Parents	Bible & Faith Conversations - Read the selected passages from the Bible and discuss them as well as questions the Candidate has about his or her faith. Questions will be provided to help prompt the conversations.
Candidate/Sponsors/Families	Service Work – Make service a habit. Serve in many ways (esp. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy) around the parish and in the surrounding community. The Candidate is to complete a Service Log detailing at least 15 hours. At least 5 of the hours should be spent serving each of the following (overlapping) categories: the Parish, the wider community, and the poor. The RE office will send out emails with available service opportunities. Some ideas can be found below.
Candidate/Sponsors/Families	Faith Boosters – Grow your faith life. Participate in many faith based activities that are outside of the normal life of the Candidate. These should enliven the Candidate’s faith and/or introduce them to some aspect of Catholic faith life with which he or she is unfamiliar. These should also help the Candidate get into the good habit of living a vibrant faith life. A minimum of 5 faith boosters must be detailed in the Confirmation Log. It is suggested that at least one faith booster is done multiple times and that there are at least two different types of faith boosters. For example, the Candidate could attend Taize Prayer twice and three other faith boosters. The RE office will send out emails with available suggested activities. Some ideas can be found below.
Candidate/Parent/Sponsor	<p>Written Reflections - Complete three 1-2 page typed papers discussing aspects of our faith. More formal descriptions of the papers will be forthcoming.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the first paper, due at the #2 Confirmation Formation Meeting in March, the Candidate will write about the Candidate’s call to holiness. In addition, this paper will discuss the Candidate’s choice of saint name, including background information on that saint and how that saint can help the Candidate become the saint he or she wants to be. 2. For the second paper, the Candidate will write about one or more aspect of our faith as well as the Candidate’s reflections on the selections from the Bible. This should be based on conversations the Candidate has with his or her sponsor. This second paper will be due at the Presentation of Gifts of the Holy Spirit Meeting on May 20th. 3. For the third paper, the Candidate will reflect on the various faith boosters and acts of service that he or she has done over the course of the program, including how these events have caused him or her to become a better disciple of Jesus. This paper will be due on Friday, Sept. 8th (the second Friday in September).
Letter to Bishop	Request to be Confirmed - Write a typed letter to the Bishop asking to be Confirmed. More detailed instructions will be sent out over the summer, in August. The letter is due by Friday, Sept. 15.

Bible & Faith Conversations

Please read, reflect on, and discuss the following Bible passages with the Candidate's sponsor:

1. Isaiah 11:1-4ab
2. Isaiah 61:1-9
3. Psalm 23
4. Matthew 5:1-12a
5. Matthew 16:24-27
6. Luke 17:6, Mark 11:22-24
7. Matthew 25:14-30
8. Acts 19:1b-6a
9. 1 Corinthians 12:4-13
10. Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25

When working on this part of the program, please read the passage, and then, before discussing it, sit quietly for a few minutes, thinking about the passage and letting God's Word rest in your heart. Here are some questions to consider while reading, reflecting, and discussing these Scripture passages.

- Is there a word or phrase that jumps out for you? What does this mean to you?
- How does this passage relate to your life?
- What can you learn from this passage?
- What resolution(s) can you bring into your everyday life?

In addition to discussing the above Scripture passages, please discuss any questions you might have regarding your faith. The Magazine *Faith to Faith* might provide some ideas of questions you might have about being Catholic. The Candidate can also ask his or her sponsor about why the sponsor is Catholic and how he or she lives his or her faith.

Additionally, here are some questions that might prompt a good conversation:

- What is the purpose of life?
- How can I become the best version of myself?
- Why is it important to pray daily?
- Does my life fit around God or does God fit around my life? Is one better than the other?

Be sure to take notes during these conversations so that you can write the paper on faith. If a Bible is needed, you can find a free online one at the Vatican's website: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/bible/index.htm>

Service Work

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

Corporal Works of Mercy

are kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

are acts of compassion, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs:

- Help people who sin
- Give advice to the doubtful
- Instruct people about God
- Comfort people who suffer
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive people who have hurt you
- Pray for the living and the dead

Pope Francis has said that Care for God's Creation is also considered both a Corporal and Spiritual Work of Mercy. While the required service hours do not need to be Works of Mercy, service that incorporates Works of Mercy are especially good. Have your parents watch their email for service opportunities, and come up with your own actions to help those in need. Make sure you log your Service Work in the Confirmation Log and perhaps take notes about the experiences to help you write your paper on Faith and Service.

- *Christmas Angels (In Dec.)*
- *Make PADS Lunches*
- *Serve at PADS*
- *Volunteer at the Oak Park Food Pantry*
- *Help at the Parish Community Garden*
- *Say a Rosary for the Souls in Purgatory*
- *Share Your Soles Shoe Drive*
- *Ronald McDonald House*
- *Mardi Gras (Tue. just before Lent)*
- *Coat Drive (in the Fall)*
- *Help at the Summer Lunches for the Needy*
- *Visit a sick relative*
- *Help with the Children's Liturgy of the Word*
- *Organize a Sock Drive*

Faith Boosters

Faith Boosters should enliven the Candidate's faith and/or introduce them to some aspect of Catholic faith life with which he or she is unfamiliar. These should also help the Candidate get into the good habit of living a vibrant faith life. Below is a sampling of Faith Boosters. This list is definitely not exhaustive. Be creative! If you aren't sure if something would be considered a Faith Booster, please feel free to ask.

- *Attend Taize Prayer (First Friday of each Month at Ascension)*
- *Attend Mass at our Sharing Parish, St. Martin de Porres or at another parish.*
- *Perform an Examination of Conscience before bed every night*
- *Spend time each day reading and reflecting on Scripture*
- *Attend Stations of the Cross during Lent*
- *Keep a prayer journal*
- *Read the Sunday readings before or after Mass and spend some time reflecting on them*
- *Read a Daily Devotional during Lent and spend time reflecting on it*
- *Read a book on Catholic Faith or Spirituality*
- *Attend a Retreat*
- *Go to Daily Mass*
- *Spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration*
- *Visit a Shrine (for example, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe)*

Make sure you log your Faith Boosters in the Confirmation Log and perhaps take notes about the experiences to help write the paper on Faith and Service.