

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH
Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P)
Theme: "Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

1. Spirit Day

1st Saturday or Sunday of November. Spirit Day is an annual one-day event designed for Level 7 students. It is a celebration of faith designed to awaken the Holy Spirit in young people and get them excited about receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

2. Spiritual Project-Mass Journal

To attend Mass on Sundays is the obligation of all Catholics. A confirmed Catholic should love the Mass and desire to receive Holy Communion, in the state of grace, each time they attend. This is our closest contact with Christ and the gift of His Holy Spirit. This is the source and summit of our Catholic faith!

To help our students prepare for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, they are asked to take a special interest and to listen well, as they attend Sunday Mass. After each Sunday, they are to answer the following questions, with the help of their parents:

The name of the priest who celebrated Mass and the parish's name and date.

- What was the Gospel about? (A brief explanation – use the Missal)
- What did the priest say in his homily?
- Points he made
- Examples he used
- Your own reflections **Must be more than three lines.**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Mass Journals

Q: Can I write my journal during Mass?

A: Try to listen more and write down on lined paper just the key points of the gospel message and Father's homily. You can use missal book during Mass. Complete the summaries as soon as you get home. If you are an altar server Father would prefer that you did not journal during Mass.

Q: What if I am not able to go to Mass on one of the dates listed?

A: You can substitute any Saturday afternoon Mass that fulfills your Sunday obligation. This Mass is known as the Anticipated Mass.

Q: Do I need the Sunday Missal to do my journals?

A: It helps to have a Sunday Missal so you can go through the readings and gospel before and after Mass.

Q: Do I have to use the form?

A: Not necessarily. You may use a computer or lined paper but it must have the same format as the form.

Q: Whose name will I write if there are two priests at Mass?

A: The main celebrant if the priest who gave the homily, and offers, blesses and consecrates the bread and wine.

Q: What else do I need to know?

A: Before submitting your journals (a) make sure it has your complete name and that your parent has checked and initialed it.

4. SPONSOR

A Sponsor at Confirmation witnesses the commitment to Christ which you are making. Your sponsor presents you to the Bishop and stands with you at the anointing with Christ. Your sponsor can be a god-parent or another qualified witness. During your life your sponsor should be available to help and encourage you. **A parent cannot be a sponsor.**

Sponsor's forms must be signed by the **parish priest of the Church that the Sponsor attends and returned by November 29th.**

ALL SPONSOR FORMS (St. Matthew's) are to be handed into the PREP office NOT to the parish office or Fr. Tran directly.

5. Saint's Project: CONFIRMATION (SAINT'S) NAME:

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents choose your name. Now that you are about to be confirmed, it is time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in faith.

Your confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian. Perhaps you would like to take the name of the person whom you admire. Many candidates, recognizing the growing bond of love with their parents, take a parent's name. The only limit that is placed on your choice is that it must be a saint's name (or a variation of that name)

- What name have you chosen?
- Explain your choice of this saint's name – Criteria sheet provided

Your **Saint's Project** is to be on the **Saint you have chosen** and **whose name you will use as your Confirmation name. Due Date: November 29th**

Content Suggestions for Parents:

- Why are you asking for this Sacrament for your child?
- How did you help prepare your child for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- How does your family pray together?
- How will you help your child remain close to Jesus Christ?

In conclusion, emphasize the most important reason why you are asking for this Sacrament for your child. The letter is to be about one page and is intended to provide an opportunity for sincere and honest reflection. The letter should be handed into the PREP office or via email in PDF format.

- The PREP office sends the letters to the Archbishop's office via email prior to Confirmation as per instructions from the Archbishop's office.

Please note that the PREP office does not read any of the letters and sends them all together via email to the Archbishop's office.

The letters are an important requirement of the Confirmation program.

If you (parents) struggle with language issues please feel free to complete the letter in your own language His Excellency will find an interpreter if necessary.