

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SUMMARY

PREPARATION OVERVIEW

- Sacrament preparation is a 2 year process in the Diocese of Memphis
- Because Confirmation is during the winter of 8th Grade (C2), 7th Grade (C1) is when the bulk of the service requirements are met as well as identification of sponsor
- Team approach between student, parents and staff
- Consists of classwork, service and retreat

STAGES

- Students progress through three Stages of Preparation (Status)
- Determined based on the completion of the requirements for preparation for Confirmation
- It is ultimately the pastor's responsibility to ensure that the candidate for Confirmation is properly prepared

SERVICE ENCOUNTERS

- We do not require hours for service
- We require service encounters
 - Focus on the type of experience vs. the number of hours
 - Encourages formation of service and stewardship as a habit and way of life
- Service encounters focus on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as well as serving the Parish Community

CONFIRMATION 1

- Parent class
- 6 Service Encounters complete
- Selection of Sponsor
- Proof of Baptism and Eucharist

CONFIRMATION 2

- Confirmation Retreat
- 3 Service Encounters complete
- Letter to the Bishop
- Selection of Confirmation Name
- Rite of Enrollment
- Sacrament of Confirmation

Expectations/Responsibilities

Confirmation 1 and 2 Preparation

St. Ann School and Church

Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation starts at Baptism, through which we enter into the body of Christ. This initiation continues through the Eucharist and is completed in the sacrament of Confirmation but is not the end of formation in the Christian life of virtue.

The goal of formation for the sacrament of Confirmation is discipleship in Jesus Christ, participation in the life and mission of the Catholic Church as well as the personal, spiritual growth of each young person. This formation is a result of collaboration between the parents, catechists (teachers), and the pastor (parish office staff).

It is ultimately the pastor's responsibility to ensure that the candidate for Confirmation is properly prepared. As such, we have set out these Expectations/Responsibilities for each of the members of the formation team to demonstrate the preparedness of each candidate.

Student Responsibilities

1. Attend and participate in classroom discussions, small group discussions and individual reflections as assigned by the catechist
2. Complete service encounters and submit as outlined in Service Requirements document
3. Select a sponsor, with guidance from parents and catechists, that meets the requirements set forth; and ensure the appropriate paperwork is complete and submitted
4. Write a letter to the Bishop expressing your understanding of and desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
5. Attend Confirmation retreat
6. Attend all Rites as outlined in Important Dates

Parent Responsibilities

1. Attend Diocesan-required parent class
2. Ensure attendance at mass each weekend
3. Ensure attendance in all classes, retreats, Rites, etc.
4. Payment of sacrament preparation fee to offset additional costs with preparation for and celebration of the sacrament
5. Submit Proof of Baptism if not on file
6. Registration with the church; families must be an active registered parishioner for at least 3 months before the sacrament OR
7. When needed, obtain permission for sacrament to be provided at St. Ann. *This applies to families that are parishioners at a parish other than St. Ann. It is required that the pastor from your parish gives his permission for candidates to be Confirmed at St. Ann.*

Parish Office Responsibilities

1. Tracking record of all student requirements
2. Provide feedback to parents and catechists about each student's preparation status
3. Providing ideas/opportunities for service encounters
4. Serve as a resource for parents, students and catechists as needed

Stages of Preparation for Confirmation

Confirmation 1 and 2 Preparation

St. Ann School and Church

Preparation for Confirmation is a two year process in the Diocese of Memphis. During this process, students progress through three stages. The Stage of Preparation (Status) is determined based on the completion of the requirements for preparation for Confirmation.

The stages of preparation are as follows:

1. Preparation student
 - a. In good standing
 - b. Not in good standing
2. Recommended Candidate
3. Candidate

Preparation Student

This status is used to describe a student as he/she enters and during his/her first year of Confirmation preparation. There are two categories for **a preparation student**, In Good Standing and Not in Good Standing

In Good Standing: current with all requirements and responsibilities of students and parents during year 1 of Confirmation prep

Not in Good Standing: behind on requirements or responsibilities of students and/or parents during year 1 of Confirmation prep

A *Preparation Student* who is *not in good standing* at the end of the first year of preparation, must fulfill the requirements before progressing to the next stage of preparation. A *preparation Student in good standing* at the end of the first year of preparation will enter the second year as a *Recommended Candidate*.

Recommended Candidate

As a student enters his/her second year of confirmation preparation, he/she may be considered a *Recommended Candidate*. This means that all the requirements for the first year were met and he/she is moving forward in the preparation process for the sacrament. A *Recommended Candidate* is on track to become a *Candidate* for Confirmation if the mid-term and December requirements are met on time.

Candidate

Candidate is the final stage of preparation. Students in the second year may become a *Candidate* if all requirements and responsibilities have been met of students and parents. Candidacy is determined in December of Confirmation 2 prior to the Rite of Enrollment. Only students who are considered *Candidates* are able to participate in the rite and are assessed as properly prepared to receive the sacrament on the scheduled date.

Service Requirements

Confirmation 1 and 2 Preparation

St. Ann School and Church

*Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands, but ours, no feet, but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out upon the world.
Ours are the feet with which He goes about doing good.
Ours are the hands with which He blesses His people.
~St. Teresa of Avila*

When we give ourselves to others in loving service, we live out our Catholic Christian faith. Requiring service as part of Confirmation preparation is less about checking a box and more about living lives of service, recognizing Jesus in all persons and creation.

Service is a requirement during the preparation for Confirmation in the Diocese of Memphis. Over the past several years we have transitioned away from requiring a set number of service hours, to a number of service encounters. These encounters help us practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and move toward being active participants in the parish community.

Key Requirements for Confirmation

- Confirmation 1 Service encounters focus on the community in which we live
 - Each encounter must focus on a specific Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy
 - 6 total Service Encounters are required by April 30th of Confirmation 1
 - 3 different Corporal Works
 - 3 different Spiritual Works
 - 3 Service encounters are due by December 1st of Confirmation 1
 - 3 Service encounters are due by April 30th of Confirmation 1
- Confirmation 2 Service encounters focus on the parish community
 - Each encounter must focus on Liturgical and Parish Ministries
 - 3 encounters due by December 1st of Confirmation 2

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the Hungry
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty
3. Clothe the Naked
4. Shelter the Homeless
5. Visit the Sick
6. Visit the Imprisoned
7. Bury the Dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counsel the Doubtful
2. Instruct the Ignorant
3. Admonish the Sinner
4. Comfort the Sorrowful
5. Forgive Injuries
6. Bear Wrongs Patiently
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead

Parish Community Activities

1. Weekend Mass Altar Serving
2. Weekend Lector
3. St. Meinrad Hospitality Ministry
4. Jr. Sacristan
5. Weekend choir
6. Kid Zone volunteer
7. Pup-Up Catechesis
8. Campus Clean-Up
9. Volunteer at Parish Events