



DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Important Information for Confirmation

The Confirmation Retreat will be held on Sunday, March 25 2012 from 11:30 AM to 5 PM at the Educational Center in Paulding. This retreat is **mandatory** for Confirmation Candidates and their sponsors. If a sponsor cannot attend, a parent or grandparent can come in their place.

Confirmation will take place on Sunday April 15 at 3 PM at the Paulding location. Candidates for Confirmation and their sponsors will have reserved seating for the Confirmation Mass. **All candidates and sponsors need to be in the church basement in Paulding no later than 2:30 PM that day.** Remember to respect the one hour Communion fast. Flash photography is not permitted during the liturgy, nor should any persons approach the front for photographs when the candidates receive the sacrament. The Bishop will be available directly after the liturgy for pictures with the candidates.



The following guidelines for appropriate attire come from the document “Sacramental and Liturgical Planning” from the Diocese of Toledo.

For the Liturgy of Confirmation the candidates and their sponsors should wear “appropriate attire.” Contemporary society does not provide much guidance as to what is truly “appropriate,” so some specific direction needs to be given.

The U. S. Bishops state that “as Christians we should dress in a modest manner, wearing clothes that reflect our reverence for God and that manifest our respect for the dignity of the liturgy and for one another” (Happy Are Those Who are Called to His Supper, p 15).

Jeans, shorts, tennis shoes, and flip-flops are not appropriate. Girls’ shoulders should be covered. If they wear sleeveless, strapless, or spaghetti strap dresses, then they are to wear a sweater or shawl as well.



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Information for Permanent Records

The following information is needed for our permanent record books. Please fill out the form completely.

Student's Full Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street Address P.O.

Box

_____ City State Zip

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please include an email address only if you wish to receive updates this way

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

City State

Date of Baptism: _____

Place of Baptism: _____

State Name of Church City

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Maiden Name

Does the student have any allergies or special needs? _____

This form is due back at the next Confirmation class.



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Confirmation Commitment Form

“A candidate for Confirmation . . . must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the [church] community and in [everyday life].”

-- Catechism of the Catholic Church #1319

As a candidate for Confirmation, I recognize the following requirements:

- + Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation
- + Continue to attend religious education classes for my grade level
- + Attend all Confirmation sessions and turn in all required work on time
- + Complete all required mentoring hours
- + Complete all required service hours
- + Memorize the required common Catholic prayers
- + Attend the Confirmation Retreat
- + Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Confirmation
- + Commit to daily personal prayer
- + Continue to live my life as a witness to Jesus Christ through prayer, service, and worship long after my Confirmation.

I understand that these requirements help me to assume the role of “disciple and witness to Christ.” I understand that the Sacrament of Confirmation is a GIFT from God, rather than a requirement to get out of the way. Therefore, I take this step freely and without reservation.

Candidate’s signature

Date

As the primary educator of my child, I pledge to make my best effort to prayerfully support my child in this endeavor, and I will work with my child to successfully meet these requirements in preparation for his/her Confirmation.

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

COMMON CATHOLIC PRAYERS

Students are required to have the following prayers memorized before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 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. 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.

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

(you may memorize any version of the Act of Contrition; there are many versions and here is one just for an example)

O My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.
Amen.

THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

THE APOSTLE'S 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;
on 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 there he will 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.



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Sponsor Information and Guidelines

To most Catholics, being asked to serve as a Confirmation sponsor is a real honor! Please do not feel like you are asking too much of a person by asking them to take on this important role. In selecting your sponsor, please consider the following guidelines:

1. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
2. A sponsor **MUST** be a fully initiated Catholic who has celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist and who practices their faith.
3. Whenever possible, a baptismal godparent serves as sponsor to the Confirmation candidate.
4. A sponsor may not be the mother or father of the candidate.
5. A sponsor must demonstrate a willingness and capacity to engage in the Confirmation process as a means of enhancing his or her own growth as a Catholic adult..
6. A sponsor will be willing to provide spiritual guidance and prayerful support. He or she serves as a companion and mentor to the candidate and will be expected to communicate openly with the candidate, helping the candidate with questions and concerns that may arise as a result of the Confirmation process.
7. It is important that sponsors be active, participating members of their parishes in order to model the expectations we have of the candidates. Therefore, we reserve the right to contact your sponsor's parish to verify active membership.





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Sponsor Form

Please fill out the following information about the sponsor you have chosen for Confirmation and return by Wednesday, November 16.

Confirmation student's name _____

Sponsor's full name _____

Sponsor's mailing address _____
Address City State

Zip

Sponsor's telephone number _____

Sponsor's email address _____
(Please get permission from your sponsor before giving us his/her email address)

Sponsor's current parish _____
Parish Name City State

Any special needs? _____

Why have you chosen this person as your sponsor? _____

I acknowledge that my teen has chosen the person named above to serve as his/her Confirmation sponsor.

Parent's signature: _____ Date _____



DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Affirmation of Baptismal Name OR Selection of Confirmation Name

The tradition of selecting a new name for Confirmation dates back to pre-Vatican II times (before the 1960s). At that time in church history, Confirmation candidates were encouraged to take on the name and characteristics of a saint of their choosing. The Second Vatican Council called for the revision of the ritual of Confirmation, which was completed in 1971. Neither the revision, the Code of Canon Law, nor the Rite of Confirmation calls for the candidate to choose another name. As a result, the Church encourages candidates to keep the name given to them at Baptism, since part of the Rite of Confirmation calls for the renewal of baptismal vows parents made on behalf of their infant children.

Find out if you were named after a beloved family member. Did that person have a Christian or Biblical name? Are you named after a favorite saint? Do you still wish to choose a Confirmation name? ***Please research the name, whether given at birth or chosen for your Confirmation, and complete a summary on the reverse side.***

Please complete the following information:

_____ Date

_____ I wish to affirm (keep) my baptismal name for Confirmation.

_____ I wish to select a new name for Confirmation. The name I have chosen is:

_____ Date

This form, front and back, is due by Wednesday, March 14.



DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Parish Mentoring

A Confirmation candidate must be “prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ . . . within the ecclesial (church) community” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1319). Therefore, we are giving you the opportunity to learn from members of Divine Mercy Catholic Parish who are already actively serving the parish community. You will be required to complete service to the parish 3 times under the guidance of a mentor and complete the forms on pages 10 and 11 by **Wednesday, March 14**. Add another sheet of paper if you need more room.

The following are some suggestions for ministries you might consider. For a complete list, go to the parish website and click on “Parish Ministries.”

- + Usher
- + Greeter
- + Lector (reading at Mass)
- + Singing in a choir (one of the adult choirs or the children’s choir)
- + Decorating the church for special holy days
- + Helping out with religious education classes for younger children
- + Helping out with Liturgy of the Word for Children
- + Sacristan (filling up holy water fonts, replacing candles, etc)
- + Helping to clean the church
- + Ride along with someone bringing Communion to shut-ins
- + *Leading* the Rosary before Mass
- + Maintaining the prayer garden or helping with lawn care
- + Going to a wake for someone from Church

Please note: if you are already doing a ministry within the parish (i.e. Altar server, cantor, usher, singing in the choir, etc) this will count towards the 3 times needed. Please complete the necessary forms as usual and get the signature of the person in charge of that ministry. **However, we do encourage you to try a new ministry in addition to your current ministry.**

We hope that you will be able to continue in some form of ministry after your Confirmation.



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Parish Mentoring Journal

Student's Name _____

Date of Service: _____ Time of service: _____

Mentor's signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____ Time of service: _____

Mentor's signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____ Time of service: _____

Mentor's signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Parish mentoring continued:

About how many people would you guess volunteer their time at a weekend Mass in our parish? _____

What would you guess is the average age of a person who ministers in our parish? _____

How did your ministry/ministries serve God and the people of the parish?

How did your service to the parish make you feel? Would you do this again? _____

In what ways did you see the Holy Spirit at work in your ministry to the parish? _____



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Community Service

A Confirmation candidate must be “prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs (everyday life)” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1319). We need to be good Christians both within and outside of the church building. Christians have an obligation to help others. Therefore, you will be required to complete 5 hours of service and complete the following forms by **Wednesday, March 14.**

Here are the guidelines to remember when choosing service work:

- + You cannot get paid for your service.
- + Your service cannot be done for your parents or immediate family members
- + You will need to get a signature upon completion of each service project from either the person in charge, the person receiving the service, or one of your parents.

Here are some forms of service you might consider:

- + Raking leaves or shoveling snow for an elderly neighbor
- + Visiting someone in a nursing home or hospital
- + Working in a local food pantry
- + Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle at Christmas time
- + Tutoring younger students
- + Helping to coach a t-ball team
- + Offering to set up chairs or clean up after an activity
- + Helping to teach a computer class for older adults
- + Baby-sitting for free for someone who cannot afford it



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Community Service Journal

Student's Name _____

Date of Service: _____ Time spent: _____

Required signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____ Time spent: _____

Required signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____ Time spent: _____

Required signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Community Service Journal continued

Name _____

Date of Service: _____ Time spent: _____

Required signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____ Time spent: _____

Required signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____ Time spent: _____

Required signature: _____

Description of Service: _____

Community Service Journal continued

How did you use the gifts God has given you to serve others? _____

It is our obligation as Christians to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Do you agree with this statement? Has your service work influenced your view of this? _____

In what ways can you see the Holy Spirit at work in your act of service?
