



Confirmation Preparation Booklet
St. Mary's Class
2018 - 2020



Welcome and Introduction:

We are so excited that you will be joining us for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If we look up word “confirmation” we get a number of interesting definitions, but if we look at the origins of the word, we get a better sense of what we are pursuing - “con” means “with” and “firm” means “strong.” So in a very real sense, Confirmation means “strengthening.”

What is being “strengthened” are the promises made at Baptism. This is our entire effort. Confirmation is a freely given gift that no one can earn, buy, or even deserve. It is not a graduation or a completion of religious education. In fact, what we experience in our faith after Confirmation is often more important than what we experience before.

What we can do is participate in the process of strengthening. An athlete prepares for a big game by drills and lifting weights. A pianist prepares for a big concert by exercising his/her fingers. So just as these individuals exercise to strengthen their muscles, enhance their dexterity, and increase their skill, we will engage in a number of exercises to strengthen our relationship with God and commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ.

If at anytime during this preparation process you have questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me at davidheimann@saintandrewchicago.com

In Christ,

David Heimann



Saint Andrew Parish

GATHER • LEARN • LOVE

Expectations of the Program:

Here are some of the expectations a candidate must do to prepare for Confirmation. These exercises must be completed by the assigned dates:

- Baptismal Certificate: Confirm the parish/school has a copy of a Catholic Baptismal Certificate on file. (due February 1, 2019)

- Participation in Religious Education: Regular participation in the RE program at Saint Andrew or religion classes at Saint Andrew are expected. These continue before one prepares for a sacrament and continue afterwards. Religious Education is an ongoing process that is life-long.

- Attendance:
 - o Attend 13 of the 15 preparation classes that take place over two years.
 - o Candidates must also complete the written reflection questions presented at the end of each class in their Confirmation Journal.
 - o Participants must also attend two retreats for Confirmation Retreat. The retreats will be held in October. (NET Ministry Retreat & Holy Fire)

- Confirmation Stewardship Hours: Service hours which are completed with the learning of objective of teaching each candidate about the gifts they have been given and how they can use those gifts in the service of God's church, the local community, our nation, and the world. 

- Attend a Baptism as a witness. Baptism are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at Saint Andrew after the 10am Mass or an excellent opportunity is to observe the Easter Vigil on April 20, 2018 (Time TBA). Complete the attached reflection form about the experience. 

- Confirmation Sponsor: Identify a practicing Catholic, above the age of 16, who is not a parent, and can serve as a Confirmation Sponsor. If appropriate, it is ideal for the sponsor to have been the Godmother or Godfather of the candidate, but this is not necessary. (Due March 1, 2019) 

- Reflection Journal: Complete the reflection exercises for Confirmation which are provided in the Confirmation Journal delivered to you by Google Doc.

- Sacramental Preparation Fee - (\$25 per year or \$50 once)

Confirmation Stewardship Hours

Learning Objective: For students to discover their role in being stewards of their parish, community, and world by making use of their time and talent.

Areas of Concentration: Over 18 months of preparing for Confirmation, students will be expected to serve in the four different areas we at St. Andrew exercise our responsibility to service.

Or candidates may complete all these requirements by participation in Just 5 Days during the summer. Must be registered by January 15, 2019.

Expectations:

Parish: 8 hours of service to the parish & complete a reflection.

Examples of service to the Parish include:

Altar Serving
Singing at Family Mass
Reading at Sunday Mass

Setting up for Family Mass
Greeting at Mass
Serving at Fish Fry

Setting up for Wearin.. Green
Working the Garage Sale
Etc...

Local: Participate in 1 of 4 service projects prepared by Saint Andrew Confirmation Program & complete the reflection form provided.



Service Project #1 –
Lakeview Pantry
Saturday, March 9, 2019
TBA



Service Project #3 –
St. Thomas of
Canterbury Soup
Kitchen
Friday, November 20,
2019 TBA



Service Project #2 – Our
Lady of the Angels Mobile
Food Pantry
Saturday, April 6, 2019
8:30am to 11:30am



Service Project #4 –
Lakeview Pantry
Saturday, September
21, 2019 TBA

National: Write a representative of the United States government advocating for a Catholic Moral Concern important to you. Some suggestions may include:

- 1) Immigration Policies that defend migrants.
- 2) An end to the Death Penalty.
- 3) Support for persons experiencing homelessness or food insecurity.
- 4) Protection for the unborn and assistance to mothers in crisis pregnancy.
- 5) Dismantling systems that favor racial division.
- 6) Rights of workers and issues regarding a fair wage.

You can discover more areas of concern online at www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk

International: Attend or Observe at 1-hour presentation or video on international charity and justice work. Examples include One Heart Uganda, Catholic Relief Service, Feed My Starving Children, etc. Make a response to the presentation that should also take one hour of time, and then complete the reflection form provided.

Examples of Response that you could make:

- Take responsibility to organize your family's care packet to their One Heart Uganda Scholarship recipient.
- Find a job to do to earn some money and offer it to the charity or cause.
- Create a presentation about what you have learned and present it to a class, scouting group, club, family, or other group.
- Assist in the organization's operations, such as writing "Thank You" letters on behalf of One Heart Uganda.

Do Service Hours "Count" ?

As a general rule, hours and projects are completed independent of school required service projects that take place during the school day. The learning objective is to make stewardship of the church and service to others a normal part of one's daily life. There is a sense of sacrifice that we must access in our life to fulfill Jesus' commandment to serve others. So serving at an all-school Mass or signing at an all-school Mass is a beautiful gift to offer, but it is not an activity in support of the whole community. Sunday Mass is where that gift is offered and "counts."

Likewise there are service projects done at school which are part of the curriculum of the school such as visiting Feed My Starving Children. Because it is done for school and is compulsory, it is a good thing to do, but doesn't fulfill the learning objective of the Confirmation Stewardship Hours.

Summer Service & Retreat Option –

As an alternative to the retreats and service projects which are done during the week. Candidates for Confirmation may attend Just 5 Days, a service-learning Catholic retreat that last 5 days in Appleton Wisconsin from June 24- June 28, 2019. Find out more at cmdnet.org/j5d