

Confirmation Sponsor & Candidate Booklet

5th & 6th Grade & RCIT



Candidate Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Patron Saint: _____

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

By asking to receive the sacrament of confirmation, you have chosen to take the next step in your spiritual journey toward Heaven. Your preparation this year will involve getting to meet new friends who have made the same decision, growing in community with those friends and with other members of the Catholic Church, and developing a special spiritual relationship with the person you have chosen to be your sponsor. This year you will study the Catholic Faith on a deeper level, learn to pray in a more mature way, deepen your commitment to follow Christ, and find new joy in your relationship with him.

Give this process your best effort. Choose your sponsor early and spend good quality time working through this booklet together. The amount of time varies, but please plan to meet at least 4 times for 1-2 hours each. If your sponsor lives far away, work through the booklet on Skype or Facetime. Approach the year with an open mind and enthusiastic heart. When spring comes, you will be ready to receive the Holy Spirit in a great and beautiful way that will give you the strength and joy that will serve you as an adult Christian.

Dear Confirmation Sponsor,

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a sponsor this year. By saying "yes", you have become a very important person in the life of your candidate. You have been chosen because you are seen as a spiritual role model by the confirmation student. As a sponsor, you agree to formally take on that role for the rest of that person's life. As a sponsor, you have committed to walk alongside and support your young Christian for the rest of his or her earthly journey.

Work through this booklet gradually with your candidate over the entire year. Plan to set aside several afternoons or evenings going through the material. **You will need a Bible and the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" to help do the exercises in this booklet.** Use it as an opportunity to share your own faith experiences with your candidate. Plan to spend some fun time with your candidate as well. If questions arise, feel free to approach a Priest or The Confirmation team - we are eager to help.

May God bless you both - sponsor and candidate - as you begin this journey together.

May you be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit as He guides you during your time together.

Dear Parent,

If you feel the need to modify this booklet for the learning level of your child, please feel that freedom. If your student is overwhelmed, consider cutting out the catechism parts. Please keep in mind the method is to help your student learn and build a relationship with their sponsor. This booklet helps facilitate good conversations about the faith.

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Section One: Review of the Faith

Sponsor and candidate read and discuss each section together. Look up and read together the listed references. Check off each section as you complete it.

God

- As Catholics, we believe that God exists. The world did not occur by random chance or accident. Everything was created by an all-powerful, all good, all wise and all loving God. There is a design and purpose to creation. As humans, we are created in the image and likeness of God. We are God's children - that is to say we were created to love. We are happiest when we are loving and being loved. Our purpose in life is to become more and more like God i.e. more loving in this life so as to join God in Heaven after we die.

- Read from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) paragraph 27. "The desire for God is written in the human heart ..." Sponsor, share with your candidate the reason why you believe in God.

Trinity

- Our search for God is not enough to discover who he really is. As humans we have known that some sort of "higher power" must exist, but we didn't know what that was like until God revealed Himself to us. God entered history and told us what He is like. He spoke directly to Abraham and Moses. He spoke to his chosen people through the prophets. And He showed us what He is like most clearly through Jesus. Through all this we have learned that God is Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Father is pure love from all eternity. The Son reflects back that love to the Father perfectly from all eternity. The relationship of Father to Son is so perfect that it is a third person - the Holy Spirit. As John Paul II says, "God, in His essence, is a family."

- The Bible does not use the actual word "Trinity" to describe God's nature but we get a glimpse of the Trinity at Jesus' baptism in the Jordan and at His Transfiguration. Read Luke 3: 21-22 and Matthew 17:1-8. How are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit represented in each instance?

Jesus

- We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He said so, himself. He is more than just a good person, or moral example, or great teacher (as many non-Christians will say). He is God. He came to show us the way to Heaven and to help us fight Satan. His coming was predicted by many Old Testament prophecies. He showed us complete love by his suffering and death on the cross. In doing so, he overcame the power of Satan over humans and gave us the grace we need to do the same. He rose from the dead which proved he was God and also gave us a glimpse of the Glory that awaits us after we die. He now is in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father but is also present here on earth through the Holy Spirit, the Church and one another. He gave us the Eucharist so that he could live within each of us in a very real and personal way. As Christians we have made the decision to believe in him, follow him, and give our lives to him. This is a process that begins at baptism and grows ever deeper as we mature as Christians.

Jesus

- There are many prophecies referring to Christ. Two of the more well-known are Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. Read these and discuss the similarities with the life of Jesus.
- Jesus said He was God and it almost got Him killed. Read John 10:30, 31.
- Sponsor, share with your candidate about your own relationship with Christ. What have been the highs and lows over the years? At what time in your life did you feel closest to Christ and when did you feel farthest away?
- Candidate, share with your sponsor what is your relationship with Jesus like now at this point in your life. When have you felt the closest to Christ and the farthest away? What would you like to do this year to deepen and strengthen your relationship with Jesus?

The Church

- We believe that Jesus intended to establish the Catholic Church. The Church is the "Body of Christ" - Jesus' presence in the world until he returns. The Church was founded on Peter as the first Pope and there has been an unbroken line of popes since that time - leading up to our own Pope Francis. Jesus gave the Church his own authority to teach the truth about God and instruct us about the Christian life. We call this the "Magisterium". (In Latin, *magister* means master or teacher - the title people used for Jesus.) The Apostles also gave us what is called "Sacred Tradition" which has been passed down from the apostles through the Bishops. This also is protected by the Holy Spirit to ensure truthfulness and has God's authority. Some examples of Sacred Tradition are the Creeds, The writings of the Councils, the teachings of the Church Doctors and Fathers like St. Thomas Aquinas or Saint Augustine, the Sacraments, and the witness of the saints and martyrs. Whereas most Protestant Churches teach that the Bible is the sole authority for the Christian, the Catholic Church teaches that *God's authority is made known to us in three ways; Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium.* That is why when the Church teaches about a moral question like abortion for example, she speaks in truth with the authority of God.
 - Read about how Jesus makes Peter the first Pope in Matthew 16:13-19
 - Read about the authority of the Church and the protection she receives from the Holy Spirit in the following verses. John 16:12-13. Luke 10:16. Matt 18:15-18.
 - Read about how the Catechism explains Tradition and the Magisterium in CCC paragraphs 76 and 85.



The Bible

- The Church teaches that the Sacred Scriptures are the inspired word of God. Each book of the Bible has two authors; the human author and the divine author - the Holy Spirit. Since it was written by God, the Bible is without error. The Bible is the story of God's plan for mankind and His relationship with us throughout history. It is the story of how he Fathers his family and it is our guide of how to be his children. The Old Testament is the story of our spiritual older brothers, the Jewish people, and of God's covenants with them. The New Testament is the story of how God extended his covenant to all people - a universal covenant. (The Greek word for universal is *Catholic!*)
- Read what the Bible says about itself in 2Timothy 3:16.
- Read what the Catechism teaches about the Bible in CCC paragraphs 105-107.
- Sponsor, share the role of the Bible in your own spirituality. Candidate, is reading the Bible part of your daily habit? If not, how can you practically develop a way to include scripture as part of your daily routine?



Mary

- Mary is our spiritual mother. Catholics do not worship Mary. We ask her to pray for us just like you would ask a friend to pray for you. What better person to ask for prayers than the Mother of Jesus? We believe she conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit; also that she was a virgin her whole life. She, herself, was conceived without original sin; this is called the "Immaculate Conception" We believe that, after she died, her body was taken up into Heaven; this is called the "Assumption. "As Catholic we have an opportunity to form a close personal relationship with Mother Mary.
- The best way to describe the role of Mary is that she always points us to her Son. Read John 2:1-11 where she tells the people (and us), "Do whatever he tells you." Even the rosary is a meditation on the life of Jesus and leads us closer to him.
- Sponsors, pray the rosary together with your asking for God's blessing on his or her journey this year. If you have not done so, consider praying the new "Luminous Mysteries" (The mysteries of light) given to us by Pope John Paul II.

The Saints

- The saints are our older brothers and sisters in the faith. They have "finished the race and gained the prize." Like with Mary, we do not worship the saints or statues. We look to them for inspiration and encouragement. We ask them to pray for us to help us with the battle here on earth. The Patron saint you choose will have a special relationship with you for the rest of your life.
- Sponsor, share the name of your patron saint with your candidate. Why did you choose that particular saint? How has your saint helped you in your Christian walk?

The Sacraments

- These are special gifts given to the Church by Christ. They are sources of special grace to us at key moments of our life. Baptism welcomes us into the family and washes away original sin. Reconciliation takes away our sins and gives us strength not to keep repeating those sins. The Eucharist nourishes us throughout our life and gives us strength for the daily battles we face. Confirmation is the completion of baptism. It stirs up the gift of the Holy Spirit first given in baptism. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are our tools to live as a Christian adult. Marriage and Holy Orders are sacraments of vocation. If God calls us to marriage or to the priesthood, these sacraments give us additional grace to carry out that specific calling. Anointing of the Sick prepares us for death and helps us deal with the suffering associated with serious illness.
- Read the story of the woman in Matthew 9:20-22 and the man in John 9:1-7. They experienced the power of Jesus through physical objects. In the space below, write the physical objects that were used to transmit Jesus' power.

The sacraments are very physical expressions of God's love. God uses things we can see, taste, smell, touch, and hear to experience a spiritual reality which otherwise would be invisible to us. In the space below, list the physical things used in the sacraments which we can experience with the five senses.

The Last Things - Heaven, Hell, Purgatory

- At the moment of our death, we will be judged by God who is all just and all merciful. If we have believed in God and have loved well and have his life (grace) fully within us, we will be welcomed into Heaven.

Because of human nature, to love completely in this life means, to a certain degree, to suffer. If we have loved incompletely in this life, and still have some remaining sin in our soul, we will go to Purgatory; a spiritual reality, a place of suffering but of hope where our sin will be purged through the suffering we experience until we are able to enter Heaven. Everyone in purgatory will be welcomed to Heaven eventually. We can pray for the souls in purgatory that their suffering and our sacrifices for them will bring about their purification sooner.

If we have completely rejected God and His life within us (mortal sin), then we condemn ourselves to eternity in Hell. "The door to Hell is locked from the inside."

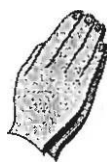
- Read and discuss what the Bible has to say about these things.
- Heaven: 1 Cor 2:9
- Judgment: 2 Cor 5:10 & Romans 2:6-11
- Purgatory: 1 Cor 3:12-15 (The foundation is Christ - if we build on that foundation with good works, we will be rewarded. If we build on that foundation poorly, we can still be saved but only after we suffer loss through fire.)
- Hell: 1 John 5:16-17 (Mortal and venial sin) & Matthew 18:8-9



Section Two:

Personal Prayer

- When we get to heaven, we will see God face to face. Prayer is the way we communicate with God in this life. It is our way to speak to God and express our thanks, praise, needs and concerns. As we mature in prayer, it also becomes the way we hear God speak to us. Read together the following passages about prayer and write what principal each one teaches.
- Mark 1:35-36
- Matthew 15:21-28
- Matthew 6:5-6
- Luke 4:16
- Matthew 26: 36-39
- Read the following paragraphs from the Catechism and discuss what they teach about prayer. Sponsor, share which of these aspects of prayer you practice and give specific examples of how they affect your daily life as a Christian? CCC 2626, 2628, 2629, 2634, 2637, 2639, 2700, 2705, 2709, 2725.
- Candidate, how is your personal prayer life? What aspect of your prayer life is particularly strong and what do you feel needs more work? Write below what part of your prayer life you would like to develop more this year.



Public Prayer - Understanding the Mass

- Review the outline of the Mass that follows.
- Agree on a time when you can attend mass together. Date
- Sponsor; share your memory of the most meaningful mass you ever attended. What made that moment so significant to you?
- Read the following scripture passages and discuss how they relate to the *mass*.
- Exodus 12:1-32 The Passover story. (Look at the blood of the spotless lamb, eating the Lamb in a meal, no broken bones, the Hyssop branch (the same type of branch they put a sponge on to offer wine to Christ on the cross), Passover from slavery to freedom - (from death to eternal life.)
- John 6:48-58 (Jesus does not back down from saying "You must eat my flesh and drink my blood" even when they walk away from him.)
- Matthew 26: 17-29 The Last Supper (Note the Passover connection, the words of consecration which now make sense out of John 6.)
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-30 A glimpse from Paul of the early Church's understanding of the Eucharist.
- What would you do if the evening news said that Jesus was walking the streets of downtown Windsor? Would you run down there right away to catch a glimpse of him? Jesus is just as real in the mass. We have an opportunity to listen to him teach (the readings and homily) at every mass. We can bow in adoration of him at the consecration. We can accept him spiritually into our heart and physically into our body every time we receive communion. Sponsor, share your experiences of Christ in the real presence either at mass or in Eucharistic adoration. Consider attending adoration together.



PARTS OF THE MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ProceSSIONal Gathering song	Reminds us that we are on a journey - a pilgrim people
Greeting Penitential Rite	"He who sings prays twice" -St. Augustine (Participate!) "In the name of..." We are a family.
Gloria	Like at the last supper, Christ washed the feet of the apostles, at the beginning of mass, he washes our souls.
Opening Prayer	Like the angels sang at Bethlehem, Christ is about to come to earth again in this mass.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Responsorial	
Psalm Second Reading	
Gospel Acclamation Gospel	From the Old Testament From the New Testament
Homily	We stand for Christ present in His Word.
Profession of Faith General	Christ teaches us through the words of the Priest or Deacon The Nicene
Intercessions	Creed The mass is a powerful prayer for the needs of the world

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts	Along with the offertory, we offer ourselves on the altar
Prayer over the gifts	
Eucharist Prayer	The high point of the mass where the bread and wine become the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.
Communion Rite: The Lord's Prayer Sign of Peace Lamb of God	Now, with Christ present we can truly say "Our Father" See Mt 5:23-24 Before the real holiness of Christ, all we say is "Have mercy". God's Passover Lamb. See John 1:36
Lord I am not worthy Communion	Our response as we prepare to receive Christ into our souls. See Mt 8:5-10
Silence or Song of Praise Prayer after communion	Here we enjoy oneness with Jesus but also with the whole Church around the world as well as the Church in Heaven. Savor the presence of Christ within us.

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing	
Dismissal	We are sent out to share God's love in the world.

Understanding The Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Each candidate is asked to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to being confirmed. Make arrangements to attend the sacrament together.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift Jesus gave us as a way of receiving forgiveness for the sins we commit. The grace of the sacrament also gives us strength to avoid future sin. One of the things that got Jesus into trouble with the religious leaders of his day was when he would forgive people their sins. The religious leaders said only God could forgive sins - and they were right. When we go to confession, it is God who forgives our sins. But like the other sacraments, we experience the work of God in a very human way - in this case, the voice of the priest, the atmosphere of the confessional, the prayers of penance. Read John 20: 19-23.
- Sponsor, the Church encourages frequent confession as part of a sacramental lifestyle. Share with your candidate your own practice of confession. Discuss together the following questions and have the candidate summarize your discussion in the space provided.

1. Why do you think Jesus made this sacrament a major part of the Church's life?

2. Which parts of your actual experience with the sacrament have been positive? Which have been negative? Why?

3. How would you answer the person who says "I don't need to confess my sins to a human priest, I can tell the directly to God and be forgiven"?

Understanding the Sacrament of Confirmation

- Confirmation is the completion of Baptism. In this sacrament, we receive God's spirit in a new and fuller way. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts which we can call upon throughout our life to deal with the various situations in which we will find ourselves. The sacrament calls us to be committed Christians. It is not a graduation but the beginning of a more deeply committed faith.
- Read about confirmation in Acts 19: 1-7 & Acts 8:14-17
- The Holy Spirit takes our human weakness and turns it into God's power. Read about Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit and about the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost. Acts 1:1-8 & Acts 2:1-4.
- At confirmation you will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Read about these in Isaiah 11:2.
- Candidate, memorize the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. A helpful device is to think that they are tools used for God's work. Think of "Work Crew" to help you. (Spelled W-U-R-K-C-R-W)

W	Wisdom	C	Courage
U	Understanding	R	Reverence
R	Right judgment	W	Wonder and awe
K	Knowledge		

Wisdom	Helps us to see through God's eyes. Helps us to look upon life as a great and remarkable gift from God. It helps us recognize God's presence in all people, places, and things. Helps us judge events in our lives according to our belief in God.
Understanding	Is one step deeper than knowledge. We grasp the deeper meaning of what we believe and act in ways that show us our Christian faith makes a difference. It helps us discover God's plan in our lives. It helps us touch the lives of others in service.
Right Judgment	Helps us to know the difference between right and wrong. It helps us choose the right path when faced with difficult choices. It helps us give good advice to others and to seek the guidance of others when we need it.
Knowledge	Helps us know the truths of our faith. It gives us certainty that God exists and cares for us. It gives us direction and guidance in our lives.
Courage	Helps us to be strong in our beliefs as Christians. It helps us to choose what is right in spite of the price we might have to pay.
Reverence	Helps us to honor God as our loving Creator and to respect all people as his creatures. It encourages us to praise God freely and it increases the more we pray. This gift helps us to act peacefully with love for all people and things.
Wonder & Awe	Helps us to be aware of the greatness and majesty of God. It helps us to treasure God's plan for the world and gives us the desire to help build His kingdom on earth. We view all of God's creation with respect and amazement because it conveys God's love. It helps us to be grateful to God for the gift of life and encourages us to worship Him.

Choosing a Patron Saint

- The saint you choose will have a special relationship with you for the rest of your life. Much like you have chosen your human sponsor to be your spiritual partner here on earth, your Patron Saint will be your heavenly Sponsor. He or she will be a role model for you, will be your inspiration, and will pray for you in a special way. You may choose your saint based on how he or she inspires you e.g. St. Francis Assisi or St. Clare for their love for the poor. You may admire their courage e.g. Maximilian Kolbe for his willingness to die for another man in a Nazi concentration camp or Maria Goretti for giving her life rather than lose her purity. Or perhaps you have a special interest and would choose your saint according to that e.g. Peter the fisherman, Thomas More the Lawyer, Luke the Physician, Edith Stein a scholar and martyr. Or maybe you admire the spiritual qualities of a saint - Mary Magdalene for having been forgiven much, Mary the sister of Lazarus for her love of sitting at Jesus feet and listening to him, Thomas the Apostle for his skeptical and questioning nature, or Michael the Archangel the warrior. No matter who or why you choose, the relationship will always have a special meaning to you.

To help you, there are several resources:

www.catholic-forum.com (go to patron saints index)

www.catholic.org (click on "saints and angels")

<https://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/>



Using the Catechism

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a wonderful gift to the Church inspired by Pope John Paul II. It is a deep explanation of the essential elements of the faith. It is also provides the Church teaching on many of the moral issues we face in our present day. Become familiar with the Catechism and it will serve you well in your adult faith. You have already referred to the Catechism (CCC) in previous exercises. This activity will help show you how to look up specific topics.

- Beginning with the table of contents, the Catechism is divided into four main parts. Name them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Part Three: References

- Read through this final section together and review and discuss areas with which you may be less familiar.

Common Catholic Prayers

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.

Doxology

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, world without end. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you will renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you, O virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to the Guardian Angel

Angel sent by God to guide me, be my light and walk beside me; be my guardian and protect me; on the paths of life direct me.

Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander the world for the ruin of souls.

Amen.



Act of Contrition

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 who 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.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God. He will come again 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.

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Birth of Our Lord
The Presentation in the Temple
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
The Wedding Feast at Cana
The Kingdom of God
The Transfiguration
The Institution of the Eucharist

Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging at the Pillar
The Crowning with Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection
The Ascension
The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven



What Catholics Live By



Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shalt not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Beatitudes

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Warn the sinner.
- Instruct the ignorant.
- Counsel the doubtful.
- Comfort the sorrowing.
- Bear wrongs patiently.
- Forgive all injuries.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

Corporal Works of Mercy

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

Precepts of the Church

1. To worship God by participating in Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
2. To receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
3. To study Catholic teachings in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to continue to stud and advance the cause of Christ.
4. To observe the marriage laws of the Church.
5. To strengthen and support the Church.
6. To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.

Letter to your Pastor & The Confirmation Team asking to be Confirmed

Sponsor and Candidate, great job! Each candidate will write a **letter to Father and the Confirmation Team** requesting to be confirmed. Parents and Sponsors please feel free to help your student as needed. **The letter is due March 31st.** The following information is to be included in the candidate's letter:

- tell us about yourself and your relationship with Jesus Christ
- how you have changed or grown in your faith since the beginning of Confirmation
- who or what are the main Catholic influences in your life and why
- An example of how you live so that others will know you are a Christian
- which gifts of the Holy Spirit do you think you need most during this time in your life and why, and how you will use them in the OLV parish community
- why you chose your particular patron saint-tell us about your relationship with that saint and how they affect your life

