

7th Grade Preparation for Confirmation

“You Are The Light Of The World...”

Dear Young People,

Ask yourselves: Do I believe these words of Jesus in the gospel? Jesus is calling you the light of the world. He is asking you to let your light shine before others. I know that in your hearts you want to say: “Here I am, Lord. Here I am. I come to do your will.” But only if you are one with Jesus can you share his light and be a light to the world.

Are you ready for this?

Confirmation is about you because what you can do depends on the unique person you are and the talents you possess. Jesus blends all of our gifts together in the Christian community we call the Church. You can help do the work of Jesus! You can be Jesus’ light.

A Confirmed Commitment

Now you have the chance to choose Christ and His Church for yourself. You can confirm your life in Christ in the Sacrament of Confirmation. You can commit yourself to living as Jesus did. ***When you are confirmed, what happened at Baptism is sealed or confirmed in you. The Spirit and the Spirit's gifts are strengthened in you. You are linked more closely to Christ and the Church.***

Through Confirmation you come to fulfill the words of this prayer:

We believe in you, Lord Jesus Christ. Fill our hearts
with Your radiance, and make us children of light!

—*Song from Ancient Liturgy*

Christian Idea of Service

Jesus came “not to be served but to serve.” —Matt 20:28

Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just your own. —Phil 2:3&4

Guidelines For Service

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ who came to serve.

Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To visit the imprisoned
To shelter the homeless
To visit the sick
To bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

To correct the sinner
To instruct the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To comfort the sorrowful
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive all injuries
To pray for the living and the dead

What can you do?

- Whatever the task, it needs to be done freely for your family.
- You can freely help your neighbor in need.
- You can be a better friend.
- Spend 12 hours during this school year helping others.

The person you are helping must document all projects. This documentation must be entered on your envelope and submitted to Mrs. Astrowski and Mrs. Trasko by way of your teacher.

When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You have to journal on one of your projects and how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community. A form for this is in the back of the packet.

The Church is a servant community and all those accepting **full membership** are also accepting the responsibility to serve.

What Is Prayer And How Should We Pray?

I believe that prayer is communicating with God and it is one of the most important aspects of a person's relationship with God. It is through this type of communication that we get to know and understand God.

Many people view prayer more as a list for a Santa-God, than a conversation with God. Sometimes we are more concerned with what we think we can get out of God through prayer than what we really need. This communication involves listening as well as asking for things. Listening is hard because it means we have to be quiet.

There Are Many Ways To Pray

Saint Paul encouraged the Ephesians in chapter 6 verse 16: *“At every opportunity pray in the Spirit, using prayers and petitions of every sort. Pray constantly and attentively...”*

Prayer is what fuels us to be bearers of God's love. This is a lifelong task and one we must take up daily. Some forms of prayer are: participating at Mass, saying the rosary, meditation on Scripture, and the singing of hymns. These are ways that contain ritual prayers and ceremonies, they are important, but prayer should not stop there. Prayer should be on the personal level, so we can lean to listen to God also. Prayer needs to be more than a group activity with one's parish or family. Prayer in a group is very valuable especially in the family setting. When we pray on those special occasions and while celebrating key family moments, families can experience their relationship with God in a more personal way.

Prayer also needs to be individualized at least at some level, especially because it involves God speaking to each person as an individual. Prayer can include writing and drawing along with a quiet time. You could focus on gifts and talents of those around you or your own gifts and talents. You can imagine yourself walking alone on a beach carrying the worries of the day. Then you can invite Jesus into the scene to help you carry your burdens. You can then write your worries in your journal. You can also write the gifts that you feel you possess in your journal.

Prayer, like breathing, is part of our day, essential for life. In Romans chapter 8 verses 26-28: *“The Spirit comes to help us, weak as we are, for we do not know how we should pray: the Spirit pleads for us in groans that words cannot express. And God sees into our heart and knows what the thought of the Spirit is.”*

Variety is the spice of life, so be open to different prayer forms.

- The Breath Prayer: Seated with back straight and eyes closed, the person focuses on the flow of breath in and out of the body. As breath is exhaled, one can “breathe” a simple word or phrase like “Jesus” or “Here I am, Lord.”
- Prayer with Scripture: Herein lie unlimited riches. Place yourself in the scene; try gospel meditations using your imagination. Read the Psalms, learn personally chosen passages by heart; and practice proclaiming the Word of God.
- The Symbol Prayer: Potent symbols from the Bible and the liturgy (water, wind, oil, fire, light, incense) may speak more powerfully to meditating youth than words or explanations.
- The Prayer of Music: This native tongue of youth speaks to them of God as they reflect on, participate in, and respond to music (religious, classical, contemporary).
- The Prayer of journaling: Prayers, Scripture responses, poems, dreams, doubts, questions, dialogues with Jesus and the saints are recorded in words and/or art in the young person’s book of life. He or she comes to know God and self more intimately.
- Traditional vocal Prayer: Prayer of the Catholic community is the most used and taken-for-granted form of prayer. When they are prayed slowly and thoughtfully they can be a source of comfort, rootedness, and connectedness for young people. You might pray these traditional prayers with a background of beautiful music or visual images.

The Blessings Of Keeping A Prayer Journal

Even when we try to spend time with the Lord in daily prayer, once our workday begins, we often find ourselves engulfed in a busy, active life. It may be hours before we have an occasion to think about God again. Yet prayer is where we meet the Lord face to face. It is the point of love where we can pour out our hearts to God and allow Him to fill them with His grace.

That is why a prayer journal can be so helpful in our spiritual walk with the Lord. It is the “transcript”, so to speak, of our conversations with God. Even when it seems that we are the only ones speaking, a journal can affirm that we have lifted our minds and hearts to God. For those times when we do sense the Lord speaking to us, writing down what we think He is saying is a way of capturing and building on those precious moments.

Journaling-Service Projects

Journaling is a way to bring to the surface your story. Reflect on your journey these next two years as you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- Reflecting on your service projects is a way of understanding the situation and your involvement in it.
- Reflecting on your life and the everyday experiences will help clarify your thoughts and allow you to see God’s presence in your life.
- Reflecting on the Gospel and homily after Mass will help you to integrate what you have heard at church and your life situations.

You will be expected to keep this journal for the next two years and use it daily. We will also expect you to bring this journal to class when your teacher requests.

This is your 7th grade preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. You must complete this packet and perform 12 hours of service to be considered ready to start the final year of the Confirmation Program. Please read about your commitment, prayer and journaling before you start this project.

Name of Candidate _____

Parent Signature _____

Your own life is a story, and like all stories, it can be shared with other. In this project, you are asked to share some facts and thoughts, which together help make the person that is totally and completely YOU!

Date and place of birth _____

Names of people in your immediate family and their relationship to you
(i.e. John / Father, Suzie / Sister)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Write a short paragraph about yourself. Write down the things that make you a good person and a unique individual.

Finish the following statements:

My friends would describe me as _____

The person who has most touched my life is _____

Because _____

When I think about Jesus, I wonder if He _____

When I think about Jesus, I wonder why He _____

I consider myself a follower of Jesus because _____

I want to be confirmed follower of Jesus because _____

My Baptism

Name of Candidate _____

Parent Signature _____

In Baptism we begin the process of initiation into the Catholic faith. We become members of a faith community with a 2000-year family history. In this project you are asked to list some facts dating to your Baptism. Find out some facts about the sacrament in general and reflect on the meaning of Baptism in your own life.

My Baptism took place on (date) _____

at _____ Church. My parents chose to have me
baptized at that church because _____

My godfather was _____

My parents chose him to be my godfather because _____

My godmother was _____

My parents chose her to be my godmother because _____

I was Baptized as (baptismal name) _____

Because _____

All sacraments have outward signs—objects or actions we can see, taste, hear, touch, or smell. On the lines below, list four of the outward signs of Baptism.

1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____

Write the words used by the priest when he poured water over your head on the day you were baptized _____

As a baptized member of the Catholic Church, you are called to live your life according to the gospel values of Jesus Christ. List three ways that you are living out your Baptismal call. (List how you are living your life as a Catholic Christian)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

My First Holy Communion

Name of Candidate _____

Parent Signature _____

In “*making our First Communion*”, we partake of the consecrated bread and wine (Holy Eucharist) so that we might be one with Christ. In this way Christ becomes the life source and sustenance of our Christian lives, *our* Christian action. In this project you are asked to list some facts relating to your First Holy Communion. You are also asked to identify some liturgical terms and reflect upon the meaning of Eucharist in your own life.

My First Holy Communion took place on (date) _____

at _____ Church.

What made your First Holy Communion special? (write at least 4 good sentences)

We Catholics believe that during the celebration of the Eucharist, the gifts of bread and wine are consecrated and become _____

In our celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, we use special objects and special words, which highlight the importance of the sacrament. Define these objects and terms.

altar _____

assembly _____

cantor _____

chalice _____

lector _____

liturgy _____

presider _____

tabernacle _____

vestments _____

Why do you think Jesus chose food (bread and wine) as the means by which we remember Him and become one with Him?

MY PARISH COMMUNITY

Name of Candidate _____

Parent Signature _____

As members of the church, we are people who share a common understanding of the basic teachings of Jesus Christ regarding our relationship with the Creator and His kingdom. Together we pray, worship, and celebrate the God who loves us. IN this project you are asked to read the history of our parish community of Most Holy Redeemer and are asked some historical as well as some reflective questions about this faith community.

In chronological order, list the names of the five priests who have been appointed pastor

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

In what year was Most Holy Redeemer Parish founded with the celebration of the first parish Mass? _____

What group of religious sisters first staffed the parish school?

Name the current members of the parish staff (full names please)

Pastor _____

Associate pastors _____

Retired resident _____

Deacon couple _____

School principal _____

Director of Religious Education _____

Music Director _____

How many families of Most Holy Redeemer Parish does this staff currently serve?

If you were the pastor of Most Holy Redeemer what would you do to make it a more vibrant, more lively Christian community?

Looking at the church in general, what do you think needs to be done to get more young people involved and to get these young people to come to Mass regularly to worship with their faith family?

Parish History

Most Holy Redeemer Parish was established in 1941 at 97th and Millard. It was a "country" parish at first, with boundaries from 87th to 103rd Streets and Western to Pulaski Avenues. The building boom after the long depression years brought many home seekers to the gravel roads of Evergreen Park.

Father Louis J. Briody became the pastor of the church in 1941 and celebrated the first Mass on Sunday, December 7, unaware that this date would go down in history because of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Father Briody was most fortunate and able to enlist the services of the Sisters of the Holy Cross to open a school. The first school was opened in the old wooden church. With determination and the help of many parish members, Father Briody saw the completion of a school in December 1942.

In 1953 a suitable convent was provided for the sisters. The chapel was and still is beautiful, with unique touches. The twelve room new school was completed in 1958 with classrooms for the blind school as well as our own.

Through the years the parish continued to grow. The present church was dedicated in 1961 and the first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day. The first church, an old wooden church, was razed in the summer of 1962. After the death of Father Briody, Monsignor Patrick J. Hayes, P.A., was appointed in February 1966. He was succeeded by Fathers Peter Franzen, William Devine, Richard Dempsey, Michael Foley, and the present pastor, Father James Hyland.

A parish founded on care and concern, Most Holy Redeemer rejoices that it has many highly motivated and enthusiastic persons, many of whom are second and third-generation parishioners.

Service Project of my choice Reflection

My service to My Parish, Community, Family

Description of service: describe one service project you did. Talk about the people you helped. How did you think they felt when you served them? How did you use your gifts to help?

Reflection Questions: How did you feel about serving others? Did you learn anything about yourself? Did this project made you sensitive to other people's needs?
