



St. Mary Parish Dartmouth, MA

Confirmation Program Responsibilities 2017-2018

Rediscover Jesus Book

Each candidate is required to read Matthew Kelly's, *Rediscover Jesus*. This book will help start the process of preparation for the Confirmation Journey. The book includes 40 small 1-2 page chapters with a reflection question to be answered. A word document should be created to write down all responses, numbering each response to match the Chapter Number. All the responses should be at least a few sentences long and not one word answers or yes/no. When all the chapters are complete the document can be printed and turned in.

Deadline: September 15, 2017

Individual Meeting

Each candidate will be asked to set aside time for an opportunity to meet with Director of Parish Faith Formation and at least one parent/guardian is asked to accompany the Candidate. This gives everyone an opportunity to begin knowing each other on a more personal level, understand the Candidates' responsibilities and to ask any questions.

Deadline: TBD

Letter to the Pastor

Each candidate will write a letter to the Pastor explaining why he/she wants to be confirmed. Guideline will be provided.

Deadline: September 15, 2017

Mass & Confirmation Sessions/Nights

Our goal is to help the Confirmation Candidate build a deeper relationship with Jesus and to learn how to be a stronger disciple. This will be done by attending weekly Mass and monthly Confirmation Sessions/Nights. All Confirmation Candidates should be attending weekly Mass throughout the summer and Faith Formation Year. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and will strengthen each of us during this journey. Candidates are free to choose any Mass schedule during the weekend. There are certain Masses outside of the weekend Masses that we ask all Candidates to attend, as well. Please check your schedule for those particular dates. There are Online Confirmation Sessions (Refer to Calendar), there will be no in-person sessions on these evenings. Assignments for the online sessions will be due the following Session. In order to successfully complete the program no more than 1 Confirmation Session (Online Sessions must be completed) can be missed and Mass should be attended weekly.

Retreat & Days of Reflection

Candidates are asked to attend a three day Retreat and various Days of Reflection.

The Retreat is scheduled for November 17-19, 2017 and will be held at Cathedral Camp in Freetown. Transportation will be provided to and from the facility. More information will be shared as final arrangements are made.

The Sponsor Day of Reflection is scheduled for Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 6PM-8PM.

Parish Service Projects

As part of our Christian responsibilities, the candidate is responsible for completing (10) ten hours of community service. Community Service Opportunities will be provided by the Parish OR must be approved by the Director of Parish Faith Formation.

Deadline: April 2018 (Hours Completed)

Bible Study Series

One of the best tools that we have as Christians is the Bible, and yet many of us know so little about or actually spend time to reflect, meditate and understand the word of God. Bible Study will be emailed once available and additional information on how to complete the study will be sent. Each candidate is required to complete the Bible Study by the set deadline.

Additional information on how to complete the Bible Study will be provided and will also be online, once posted.

Deadline: April 2018



Parents

St. Mary's Confirmation Program, following the teachings of the Catholic Church, recognizes the importance of parents in the lives of teens. Pope John Paul II called the family the "domestic church" and parents "the spiritual leaders of their families". The influence of parents on the faith lives of teens cannot be denied and so throughout the year we will provide opportunities for you to enrich your own spiritual lives and participate actively with your children. We will share dates and times for Parent events and even retreat that you may wish to attend as they become available.

Sponsor

Candidates will explore what a Confirmation Sponsor is and why the Church asks that one is present during the ceremony. All Candidates will need a suitable sponsor and will need to submit the paperwork by their Confirmation Meeting. We will also provide opportunities for the Sponsor to grow in their own faith lives throughout the year. Please refer to the "Sponsor Form" for additional information and specific dates that sponsors are to attend.

Deadline: September 15, 2017 (Sponsor Form and Certificate)

Confirmation Name

Each Candidate will be asked to pray about choosing a Confirmation name. We choose a name as a sign of growth in our faith. This name that is chosen will represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking and will show the need for strength and guidance. It is important that the Candidate has an understanding of the Saint or person they have chosen to use for a Confirmation name. The Candidate will be asked to write a brief summary why they chose the name they did and about the person whose name they chose. The write may be done online. A guide will be given to help with the write up.

Deadline: September 15, 2017 (Name and Write Up).

Final Interviews

Each candidate will be asked to set aside time for an opportunity to meet with either the Youth Minister or Program Coordinator. At least one parent/guardian is asked to accompany the Candidate. This gives everyone an opportunity to discuss the growth that has been made throughout the year, what being Confirmed now means to the Candidate, why the Candidate feels they are ready to be Confirmed, and what the Candidate plans on doing now that they are being Confirmed. All paperwork and responsibilities should be completed and turned in at this time.

Deadline: April – May 2018.

Deeper Sessions

Deeper Sessions are various other events, activities, or sessions held throughout the year at St. Mary's that will minister to, and help the candidate strengthen their faith and their relationship with Christ and His Church. Candidates must choose 2 Deeper Sessions to attend. 1 Deeper Session must be either the Parish Advent Reconciliation Service or Lenten Reconciliation Service, dates will be provided for these. The 2nd Deeper Session must be any Friday Mass and Stations of the Cross during Lent held from 6:30pm-7:30 pm dates will be provided. You must keep track of your Deeper Sessions on the tracker form.

Deadline: April 15, 2018.

Prayer

It is expected that all Candidates entering the Confirmation Program know and understand some of the most fundamental prayers of our faith. The following prayers should be known by the Candidates: Lord's Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostle's Creed, Seven Sacraments, and The Ten Commandments. Candidates will be tested on their prayers and basic Catholic knowledge April 3, 2017. In order to successfully complete St. Mary's Confirmation Program all candidates must pass the assessment. (Written)