

CONFIRMATION JOURNAL

2018-2019

Welcome to your Confirmation Journal! This journal is to be utilized as a tool for our candidates to help they stay organized through a lot of decisions they will be making this upcoming year. It is expected that parents will work alongside their children to assist in decisions as the parents are the primary catechists of their children.

This journal is to serve as a guide for which every candidate must complete. This Journal is to help you make your Journey of Faith. It is not just a notebook; it is a record of where you have been and where you are going.

As a practicing member of our Catholic Community, a candidate will be able to ask to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and complete the process of Christian Initiation that began at Baptism, is carried through by Eucharist, and is finalized at Confirmation.

A candidate will be considered as one who:

- Weekly attends liturgy within the Community of Faithful on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Demonstrates the basic knowledge required to be Confirmed.
- Participates in the Confirmation Program completely, demonstrating a willingness to grow in the understanding of the Catholic Faith.

Confirmation does not mark the end of religious instruction. It is only the completion of the first part of our Faith Journey. As a full member of the Church, e person should be anxious to learn more about this Jesus whose life, death, resurrection, and ascension affects us and whose journey we embrace in Baptism.

Because this sacrament entails a tremendous responsibility, it would be inappropriate to indiscriminately approve all those students who have reached eighth grade. Not everyone can say that they are ready to make such a decision at this time. That is fine. Those who are not truly ready should not be afraid to admit it.

Name Project

Each candidate should choose a Confirmation name. You must choose a Catholic name that referenced in the Bible or is a Saint of the Catholic Church. Choosing a name of a relative may be nice but does not necessarily lead to what is desired for confirmation. The students are to research the history of his/her patron saint and prayerfully make their decision by December. **Your confirmation name needs to be added to the last sheet of this Journal and submitted to the Religious Education Office by December 11th.**

Name

Patron Saint of:

(Due: January 22nd)

Service

**Service hours are required to be performed by each eighth grader.
(There are three specific projects!)**

#1 - Wednesday, July 11th thru Saturday, July 14th Parish Festival 3 hours either during the set-up, the festival itself, or the clean-up.

(Following this page is the adult sign off page for this project.)

#2 – Fall Service Project – “Rake’N’Run” - Sunday, November 4th after the last Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish.

#3 - Perform a minimum of 5 hours of service of your choice. The confirmed Catholic is a person of service and witness after the example of Jesus who came to serve and give witness to God, the Father. As a way to motivate the candidate toward a Christian life, students are expected to perform service projects for family, neighbors, community, school, and parish. Examine the ways in which you have been a person of service in these areas and report on them. Also give details on the service you have done. Any activity for which reimbursement is gained is not a service nor are service hours granted for tasks performed that have been on-going, such as altar serving.

Date: _____

Signed by an adult witness: _____

(Due: January 22nd)

Festival 2018 Service Project – 8th Grade

The confirmed Catholic is a person of service and witness after the example of Jesus who came to serve and give witness to God, the Father. To motivate the candidate toward a Christian life, students are expected to perform various service projects for family, neighbors, community, school, and parish.

One of the biggest social events of this parish family is the Summer Parish Festival. All family members are encouraged to participate in one way or another. Eighth grade students are expected to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours either during the set-up, the festival itself, or the clean-up. Parents are strongly encouraged to sign-up with their child.

This form needs to be completed by September when School/CCD begins – no exceptions – with a brief description written by the 8th grade candidate telling of the service that was performed and date. Also, a signature and phone number of the person for whom the service was given i.e., Fr. Kevin, booth chairman, etc.

(Candidate's Name)	(Date)
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(Adult's Signature)

Sponsor

It is strongly suggested (*but not mandated*) that one of your Godparents (he/she must be Catholic) serve as your sponsor at Confirmation. This continues to show the connection between Baptism and Confirmation. Your sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic, practicing his/her faith, be at least 16 years of age, and a registered member of a faith community.

(Parents may not serve as a sponsor.)

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Church: _____

Relationship to Candidate: _____

Your Sponsor's name and church affiliation needs to be added to the last page of this Journal and turned into the Religious Ed. Office by December 11th.

If your sponsor is a registered member of Saint John's Parish, the form needs to reflect that information. If your sponsor is from another parish, please obtain, via your sponsor, a Sponsor Certificate from the parish where he/she is a member no later than December 11th. Please submit the certificate with the last sheet of this Journal to the Religious Education Office at that time.

(Due: January 22nd)

Sacraments/Sacramentals

Sacraments/Sacramentals are key events in the life of a Catholic. These are not “magic” moments, but encounters with Christ through His Church. All students must witness and report on a Baptism or a Sunday evening Vesper Service or a Divine Mercy Chaplet or an Anointing of the Sick, held here at St. John’s. Baptisms are usually scheduled for the first and third Sunday’s of the month following 11:00 AM Mass (at approximately 12:00 PM). Please contact the Religious Education Office (412-793-4511) to verify that a Baptism is being celebrated on the Sunday you wish to attend. Or if you would like to attend a Sunday evening Vespers Service check the bulletin; they are usually held Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM, but only during the Advent and Lenten Seasons.



I attended a Baptism on _____

Priest’s Name: _____
(Signature)

I attended a Vesper Service on _____

Priest’s Name: _____
(Signature)

I attended a Divine Mercy Chaplet on _____

Priest’s Name: _____
(Signature)

I attended an Anointing of the Sick on _____

Priest’s Name: _____
(Signature)

(Due: January 22nd)

Letter of Petition

In the form of a letter, each student petitions the pastor to be considered as a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The reason for wanting to receive this sacrament and what it entails are to be included in this letter. Remember spelling and neatness are very important. Each letter must be hand written and NOT done during class time.

Below is space for you to begin your rough draft after January 1st. At which time more detailed directions and special paper will be distributed for the actual writing of the letter. The final copy must be submitted to the Religious Education Office by date noted.

(This space is for the candidate's rough draft.)

Date: _____

Dear Father Kevin:

(Due: March 5th)

Retreat

Students will be required to participate in a retreat in preparation for Confirmation. The date of this retreat will be determined once the date of Confirmation has been received. We typically receive the date of Confirmation from the Bishop's Office prior to Christmas.

The retreat itself is held in the Spring and is a mandatory event.



Preliminary Confirmation Information Sheet
2018-2019

On or before – **Tuesday, December 11, 2018** – the following information needs to be completed and this sheet **MUST** be submitted to the Religious Education Office. Completed Journal projects will be collected and reviewed on January 22, 2019.

Candidates Name:

Church of Baptism:

NOTE – If not at St. John’s, a copy of the certificate must be presented at this time.

Name of Sponsor:

Church Affiliation of Sponsor:

NOTE - If not from St. John’s, a sponsor certificate must be presented at this time.

Confirmation Name:

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE FOR CONFIRMATION
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

For the sponsor:

After prayerful consideration and awareness of my responsibilities, I declare myself ready and willing to assume the office of Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for:

(Name of Confirmation Candidate)

I am dedicated to my Christian Faith and in my membership in the Catholic community. Relying on God, I accept the Church's appointment with joy.

_____ (Signature of Sponsor) _____ (Please Print)

I declare that I am a registered member of the faith community of St. John the Baptist.

(Signature of Sponsor)

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH OTHER THAN ST. JOHN'S, A PRIEST FROM YOUR PARISH MUST SIGN THIS SECTION.

For the sponsor's priest:

As a priest responsible for the welfare of God's people and the integrity of Christian faith, I certify that _____ is a member of this parish who, having made this declaration before me, is capable of the office of Sponsor at Confirmation.

(Signature of Priest)

(Church)

(Address)

(Date)

(SEAL)

Please return to: St. John the Baptist Parish Religious Education Office 444 St. John Street Pittsburgh, PA 15239 Fax: 412-793-4311
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