

St. Mary, Mother of the Church
Confirmation Preparation Program 2019 Checklist

General Pre- Requirements

- **Currently enrolled in, and in good standing in 7th or 8th grade in either our School of Religion or St. Mary's School.** (and attended 2 consecutive years prior to 7th grade in our School or Religious Ed Program) (Religious Ed Students must be in good standing with no more than 2 absences during the fall prior to Confirmation. 2 early dismissals = 1 absence.) All missed work must be made up.
- **Proof of Baptism** (we should have this on file, but will let you know if we need it)
- **Must be a Registered Parishioner of St Mary's Parish AND have Regular Mass Attendance:** It is a REQUIREMENT of this process that you are part of the St. Mary Parish Community & actively and visibly attending Mass on a regular basis. We reserve the right to remove you from the Confirmation process if you are not participating in this central prayer of the Church.
***Families who are not parishioners and attend in Mass in other parishes must obtain a letter from their pastor giving permission for the candidate to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's parish.

All Paperwork is Due by July 26 :

This includes ALL Required Documentation and Fees: -

Please : submit all paperwork at one time - together.

- ✓ **Confirmation Application – completely filled out. (included in this packet)**
- ✓ **Letter to the Bishop: written by the candidate- see Guidelines in this packet. (no pencil is to be used in writing this letter--please)**
- ✓ **Sponsor Certificate from the chosen Catholic sponsor** (Sponsor Certificate must have a raised seal from the sponsor's home parish. Sponsors who claim St Mary's Fishkill as their home parish MUST make an appointment at the Parish Office to secure a Sponsor Certificate as well: ph# 896-6400.)
 - Sponsors certificates need to be attached to the Confirmation Application and NOT mailed separately.
- ✓ **Confirmation Registration Fee:** \$100 per Candidate – Fee covers: Program materials, retreat, and gown, altar flowers etc. Please make checks payable to: St Mary's Religious Education Program
- ✓ **Non-parishioners: Pastor Permission Letter-**
- ✓ This letter MUST be on file prior to beginning the Confirmation process.

******* If we do not have ALL required documentation by August 15th, you are not eligible to be Confirmed with this year's group. Please get started right away!**

Our CONFIRMATION is: Saturday, November 23, 2019 – Mass time to be assigned.
Bishop Peter J Byrne will confer the Sacrament on the Candidates.

There is ONE REQUIRED Practice Session: The week of Confirmation TBA.
Gowns will be distributed at the Practice and returned immediately following the Confirmation Mass.

We will have a professional photographer at the Confirmation Mass who will offer packages of photos of our candidates being Confirmed.

Our Program for the Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- ❖ **Confirmation Parent /Student Orientation Session-** Parents and Students Either Monday, June 3rd or Tuesday, June 11th. Both parent ***and*** student must attend.
- ❖ **Completion of the ON-LINE Called to Mercy Program – per dates on the program guide.** Admission codes for Called to Mercy will be emailed to candidates parents upon completion and submission of initial paperwork and program fee.
- ❖ **Saint Report: REQUIRED and Due at the Retreat in October (can be submitted earlier)**
A two (2) full page typed report in font Arial 12, double spaced, on the Saint chosen for Confirmation Name. If picture is used it is NOT included in the page total.
 - **Report MUST INCLUDE:** Saints biographical information and one (1) page on what you ADMIRE about this Saint and one (1) page on WHY you are choosing this particular saint. Incomplete reports will be returned.

❖ **Confirmation Retreat: Candidates will be assigned one of these dates:**

October 8th, 9th or 10th : 9 AM – 5 PM

Location: Capuchin Youth & Family Retreat House, Garrison, NY

(Transportation via parish provided busses following 9 AM Retreat Mass here at St. Mary's.)

**We will send letters to schools as this is an excused absence from school.

If a candidate opts to attend another church's retreat there is **NO refund of any part of the Confirmation fee.
(Any additional fees charged by other churches are the candidate's responsibility.)

❖ **Christian Service: "Our Mercy Project"**

Candidates must complete a service activity of their own design. The Act of Mercy (Christian Service) should meet at least ONE Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy and be substantial. The one pg write up will be brought with the candidate on the Confirmation Retreat for sharing.

*** Please See Act of Mercy Guide Sheet for criteria.

Confirmation 'Mercy' Project: Act of Mercy Guide Sheet

You must select and submit one of the service options- summary of experience is due at the Retreat.

Confirmation Christian Service

As Catholics we are called to continue the work of Jesus, we embrace our commitment to live our faith in service to others. We do not want token service or a 'counting hours' mentality to sabotage our call. Make the connection between living out your Catholic faith via the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy to the Service you choose. Consider this service as a partnership between you and Jesus. Consider your service an ongoing commitment to living out your faith.

Essential Connections to Make- which work of mercy is your service working towards?

<p>Corporal Works of Mercy To feed the hungry; To give drink to the thirsty; To clothe the naked; To shelter the homeless; To visit the sick; To ransom the captive; To bury the dead.</p>	<p>Spiritual Works of Mercy To instruct the ignorant; To counsel the doubtful; To admonish sinners; To bear wrongs patiently; To forgive offenses willingly; To comfort the afflicted; To pray for the living and the dead</p>
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3 Options:

<p>Option A</p> <p>Plan and Implement a Service Project based on the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. You must identify a need and plan an activity that works towards ministering to this need.</p> <p>Project must be pre-approved at the Orientation Session and take place prior to Confirmation.</p> <p>A written reflection on your experience will be required.</p> <p>*** Cannot be something you 'already' do.</p> <p>If you choose Opt A- you may email us your idea for feedback if you'd like.</p>	<p>Option B With Parent</p> <p>Sign up and work at a Local Lunch Box or Homeless Shelter with your parent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beulah Baptist Lunch Box- with parent: Gessie LaGuerre: 473-0888 • Dutchess Outreach Lunch Box, Poughkeepsie- with parent: Nyhisha Gibbs : nyhisha@dutchessoutreach.org <p>OR: Schedule regular visitation at a local Nursing Home doing an activity with 'general' residents.</p> <p>OR Arrange a large scale food collection. Contact : Fishkill Food Pantry Food Drives and More: Sue Doyle 914-474-1232 OR Suedoyle1@aol.com. No more than 8 children working together on one drive.</p> <p>A one page write up on your experience will be required – TO BE BROUGHT TO RETREAT</p>	<p>Option C</p> <p>Actively participate in a parish ministry: Music Altar Serving Usher/ Greeter</p> <p>**Must partake in ministry EVERY weekend from mid-August through Confirmation in November (and hopefully longer).</p> <p>***Occasional' participation will not be counted.</p> <p>A one page write up on your experience will be required at your Retreat.</p>
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What will NOT count as Confirmation Christian Service:

- Animal Shelters or collections for thus.
 - Cleaning your closet and donating to charity.
 - Visiting relatives or neighbors and doing chores for them.
 - Tutoring/ Walkathons/ Races etc. are all nice things but we want a stronger link to service of others
- *** This cannot 'double count' as your Honor Society 'hours'. (that's "double dipping")