



PARENT AND CANDIDATE
HANDBOOK FOR SACRAMENTAL
PREPARATION

7th Grade for Confirmation

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation.

We are delighted that you and your child will be part of our program this year and we look forward to working with you to make this year a meaningful one.

We understand that you and your family have many work, school and social commitments. This is a sacramental preparation program which is required to be eligible to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and attendance is not optional. We encourage you and your child to have a conversation regarding the commitment and potential sacrifices which you will need to make to accomplish this.

We share in your enthusiasm in having your children grow in the commitment to their Catholic faith during the Confirmation process. While the team here is committed and ready to make this happen for your child, you and your family remain the principle role models for the candidates and your active participation in that role is essential. Regularly attending Mass each week and receiving the sacraments are things you can do to help the candidate understand the importance of this sacrament.

This is also a year for them to look outside of themselves and participate in many different types of service. This would include service at home, in the school and town and at St. Mary donating their time to perform community service.

We hope this handbook will be informative for you as the year progresses. Should you have any questions during the year please feel free to contact Larry Boland at confirmation@stmaryrutherford.org.

Attendance and Behavior

Attendance is a must – it is not optional. You will be provided a calendar of dates in September of all required sessions and liturgies. As always regular weekend Mass attendance is also required and tracked.

We have made every attempt to accommodate the regular schools holiday schedules as best as possible.

Make up policy

Mass Attendance – there is no make up for missing weekend Mass. It is one of the most important things we do as Catholics. We understand, however, that an occasional weekend may be missed due to a family emergency or illness. Mass attendance is tracked for each candidate based on the completion of the Mass Attendance Form.

Sessions – there are (2) two Sacramental sessions which are required. There is no makeup sessions for the 7th Grade. Next year the candidates will be required to attend (6) sessions.

Liturgies – like weekend Mass attendance it is not possible to make up attendance at a required liturgical occasion such as the Sacred Triduum or Parish Feast Day.

Parents need to be aware that the dates for these events, once set, will not be changed.

Behavior

Please note there is a zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate or disruptive behavior out of respect for the volunteers and fellow candidates. Good behavior is expected during sessions, community service, and the retreat and at all Masses and liturgical events. Candidates who are disruptive, rude or impolite to any volunteers or other candidates will be immediately removed from the program.

Cell phones are to be placed in silent mode and cannot be used during all sessions and liturgical events including weekend Mass.

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Your child's sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic. He or she must be a baptized Catholic and have made their First Holy Communion and their Confirmation.

According to Canon Law, a parent cannot be his/her child's sponsor. In addition, Canon 893 recommends that it is desirable that the sponsor chosen to be the one who undertook this role at Baptism.

All sponsors are required to get a sponsor certificate to be permitted to serve as a sponsor for Confirmation. There are specific eligibility requirements;

- a.) Be a member of a parish.
- b.) Be committed to the Catholic Faith, into which they have been Baptized and Confirmed
- c.) Be at least 16 years old
- d.) Not be married outside the Church or otherwise compromised in their sacramental life.
- e.) Meet the fundamental Catholic obligations of participating in Sunday Mass, receiving Eucharist often and Reconciliation (Penance or Confession) as necessary, and by being open to the work of God as revealed in Scripture and taught by the Church.

Please discuss possible sponsors with your child this year and let your choice know of the requirements above. It will make the process for you next year much easier.

Notifications

Once the calendar has been published it will be the parents and candidates' responsibility to attend the required sessions and liturgical events.

All notifications and reminders will be posted on the Confirmation Table downstairs outside the Parish Center and in the bulletin. **This is the principle source for information.**

Email reminders will be sent when possible, however this is done as a courtesy and should not be interpreted as your source of information.

Program Fee

Beginning this year, we are going to collect the Confirmation Fee in the 7th grade. A fee of \$50.00 is due with your registration.

Required Paperwork

Please send a photocopy of your child's Baptismal Certificate with the registration form.

1.) **Community Service.** All participants are required to fulfill 15 hours of community service. The hours should be divided 5 hours – Family, 5 hours – Church and 5 hours – Community. The participants should perform the service willingly and there can be no monetary payment for the service provided. We will from time to time post service opportunities at the Church which the participants can volunteer to perform. If you have any questions regarding what qualifies as service please contact Larry Boland (confirmation@stmaryrutherford.org). The form below will account for the community service.

Participant Name

NAME _____

Confirmation Service Record Card

Service _____

Date Performed _____ Hour(s) _____

Place Performed _____

Approved by _____

Service _____

Date Performed _____ Hour(s) _____

Place Performed _____

Approved by _____

Service _____

Date Performed _____ Hour(s) _____

Place Performed _____

Approved by _____

Service _____

Date Performed _____ Hour(s) _____

Place performed _____

Approved by _____

Service performed – example – raked leaves for neighbor, babysitting. Help decorate the church for Easter.

Hours – the number of hours for this service.

Date – the date the service was done.

Place – where the service was done.

Signature of person the service was performed for - a parent, the neighbor, etc.

2.) **Mass Attendance Form.** As part of their demonstrating their readiness to receive the sacrament all candidates are required to attend Mass regularly. Whenever possible Mass should be attended at St. Mary in Rutherford and we encourage parents to attend Mass with their children. If the candidate and family will be away the candidate should obtain a bulletin from the church they have attended that Sunday.

The form below should be completed in **both** instances. The candidate should listen carefully to the Homily given by the priest and then write the main message of the sermon. The forms and the boxes to leave them are downstairs outside the Parish Office entrance on a table. After Mass is over and the final blessing given the candidate should put the form in the completed box. The candidates should not move around the church during the liturgy or before the final blessing is given.

Failure to attend Mass regularly could delay the candidate's ability to receive Confirmation. It is the parent's responsibility to monitor their child's Mass attendance and the completion of this form.



**St. Mary Confirmation
Mass Attendance Form**

As part of your preparation for Confirmation, you have made a commitment to attend Mass every Sunday. After you have attended Mass, complete this form and return it to the designated area in the Church.

1.) I attended Mass at (time) _____ on (date) _____

2.) The Gospel was from (gospel writer, chapter and verse)

3.) The homily was given by _____

4.) The main ideas given in the homily were:

Participant Name

Candidates Name _____

Parent Signature

Parents Signature _____

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
IF WE CANNOT READ YOUR NAME WE CANNOT GIVE YOU CREDIT**

The time and date of the Mass attended.

Gospel Reading – can be found in the missalette in the pew. Example – John 2 1-12

Homily given – usually the Homily is given by the presiding priest. In some cases the Deacon will give it. Example – Fr. Mike, Fr. Peter, Deacon Jim.

Main idea of Sermon – in their own words they should write what they understood from the sermon.