

8th GRADE CONFIRMATION PACKET AND ASSIGNMENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 8th graders should be working towards completing their Confirmation Community Service requirement of 30 hours which was assigned in 6th grade. Hours are due by **December 31st, 2023**. All 8th graders should be using the Mobile Serve App to track hours. Instructions for creating a Mobile Serve Account can be found on both the school and parish websites. Please note that when entering hours, students should be using the email tnolan@smiparish.org as the Supervisor of service so that notification is sent through our database of hours completed. Our organization code is **E3CC3D**.
- For those who have already completed the 30 hours of community service, we congratulate and commend you for your efforts, but encourage you to continue to make the Corporal Acts of Mercy a part of your lifelong faith journey. There are many opportunities to help others in need so please check the bulletin and parish websites for volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

CONFIRMATION ASSIGNMENTS

- 8th grade students must interview their Confirmation Sponsor. The interview questions are included in your Confirmation folder and can also be found on the Parish website www.smiparish.org under the Faith Formation tab. This assignment is due on **January 9th, 2024**. (Please turn the assignment in during class time, prior to taking PART I of the Truths of the Faith Test.)

IN ADDITION:

- Please Choose one of the following options on the second side of the sheet and provide a detailed explanation:

- **Option 1:** List the Seven Sacraments and explain what each means. Identify which are considered Sacraments of Initiation and then identify which one Sacrament completes the Initiation into the Catholic Church.
- **Option 2:** List and explain the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit then choose the gift which you feel is most important and meaningful in your life at this point.

This assignment is due **February 20th, 2024**. If you have any questions regarding these assignments, please contact Mr. Todd Nolan, Director of Religious Education at tnolan@smlparish.org or call 609-654-8208, ext. 315.

- The Truths of the Faith Test will be administered during class on **January 9th, 2024**, and again on **March 5th, 2024**. Students need a passing grade of **70**. There are 170 questions which students should have been studying and mastering since 6th grade. Students can take the test as many times as needed. A Study Guide will again be provided to each student at the start of classes in the fall.

8th Grade Retreat & Confirmation Information

Retreat: Saturday February 24th, 2024
1:30 pm-6:30 pm
Emmaus Center/Church

Confirmation: Thursday March 21st, 2024
6:00 pm in the Church
***Report to Emmaus Center by 5:15**

The 8th grade Confirmation Retreat will be held on **Saturday February 24th** from 1:30-6:30 pm in the Emmaus Center. This year, retreat will conclude with 5:30 pm Mass in Church.

Our retreat leader is John Paul Kasperowicz who is a dynamic and spirit-filled person, who has been leading our retreats for the past 16 years. He incorporates interactive media, song, and personal faith witness into his retreats. We are grateful and blessed for his continued commitment to running this retreat for our Confirmation Candidates.

The afternoon will include a break around 3:30 pm for pizza prior to mass. Please make sure your child has lunch before arriving at 1:30 pm.

We invite parents to join us for the 5:30 pm mass. Since Confirmation on **March 21st** is a prayer service and doesn't include mass, this is a wonderful opportunity for all preparing for this sacrament of Confirmation to gather as a community and celebrate the source and summit of our Catholic faith in the Eucharist.

Confirmation Rehearsal: Wednesday March 13th from 6:30-8:00 pm (Snow Date: March 20th)

The group will report directly to the Church at 5:45 PM. ***Sponsors do not need to be present.***

***Confirmation is Thursday, March 21st (6:00 pm). Those receiving the sacrament include:**

SMLS students
SML Parish PREP students

All 8th grade assignments must be submitted on or before **February 20th**; specifically, the 8th grade **Confirmation Sponsor Interview** and **Reflection paper** that were assigned. Additionally, **those** students who still have outstanding **Certificates of Eligibility for sponsors** were notified via email and phone. We must have this certificate in by **February 20th**. If we do not receive this required document for your child's sponsor, your child's Confirmation may be postponed.

We are looking forward to a joyous and grace filled experience as your child becomes a fully initiated member of the Body of Christ.

Please feel free to call Todd Nolan, Director of Religious Education at 609-654-2546, ext. 315 or email smlprep@smlparish.org with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Confirmation Sponsor Interview

St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church

Name of Candidate _____

Name of Sponsor _____

Date of Interview _____

The candidate will discuss the faith questions with the sponsor and write the answers below- neatly. Answers can be typed on an attached paper or download and typed.

1. Have you been a Catholic all your life? _____

At what age did you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? _____

What do you remember most about your Confirmation Day?

2. Who was your sponsor? Why did you choose that sponsor?

3. What is your Confirmation name? Why did you choose that name?

4. Is there an organization or group where you most like to share your time and talent?

5. When is a time that you felt closest to God- you felt God's presence?
6. Was there ever a time where you felt God was far away or you had doubts?
7. What is the best thing about being Catholic? Does anything challenge you about being Catholic?
8. Give me an example of how you use 1 Gift of the Holy Spirit in your everyday life. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: **Wisdom, Understanding, Reverence, Knowledge, Courage, Right Judgement, Wonder and Awe.**
9. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?