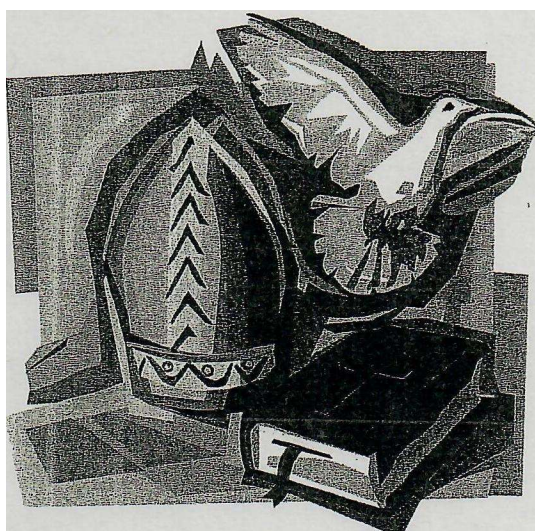


Candidate's Name _____

Candidate's Name _____ Phone # _____

Catechist's Name _____ Room # _____

STAGE 2 (Grade 8) WORKBOOK ALIVE IN OUR FAITH



LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL COMMITMENT

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROCESS 2022-2023

Office of Faith Formation
Church of Saint Aidan, Williston Park, New York

Unpublished Work 2019, Church of Saint Aidan, Williston Park, New York
Adapted with Permission from Unpublished Work 2000, revised 2008 St. Frances de Chantal Parish; Wantagh, New York
and from Unpublished Work 2007, St. Mary's Parish, Manhasset, New York

(revised 7/31/22)

LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL COMMITMENT
STAGE 2 - GRADE 8

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors,

***God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, .
given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
and welcomed you into his holy people.
He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest,
Prophet, and King, so may you live always as members of his body, sharing
everlasting life.***

[Rite of Baptism for Children]

These words speak of the power we receive to be Alive in the Spirit. It is the power of the Spirit that enables us to continue on our Faith Journey. We journey as people who must pray for the needs of others, who must speak the words of love before a world of hatred, and who must recognize the gifts God has given to us. These gifts are to be used to the best of our ability to continue the building up of God's Kingdom upon the earth. This is how we worship God in spirit and truth, and this is how we keep the promise of our Baptism.

Again, we ask that you take some time to pray and reflect upon your Faith Journey. Ask the Holy Spirit, to continue being your guide and strength throughout this process

This workbook will be your .guide to understanding the life commitment you make to the Church in the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It will help you expand your knowledge and understanding of your baptismal life in God. It will also give you the opportunity to put into practice all that you have learned.

The pages of your workbook will be submitted to the Office of Faith Formation at specific times throughout the year. These workbooks should not be looked at as "tasks" to get done, but rather, as milestones on a Faith Journey that will lead you to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Know that the parish community of the Church of Saint Aidan will be praying for you during these preparation years of your faith journey. May the Cross of Jesus strengthen you and the Holy Spirit enlighten your mind and heart with God's Truth.

Rev. Adrian McHugh
Pastor

Elaine Smith
Director of Faith Formation

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is one of the few sacraments that we can receive more than once in our lifetime. It is a wonderful experience of God's mercy and love for each of us. Many young people who receive this sacrament say that it lifts the burdens from their hearts.

It is important for all Catholics to participate in this sacrament regularly. Jesus told his apostles, "Whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven ..." This established the apostles, and today, priests, as the representatives within the Christian family invested with the power of forgiving sins in Jesus' name.

Our parish celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) every Saturday afternoon from 12:30 - 1:30 pm and 4 - 5:00 pm in the church, or by appointment with one of the priests. Additional times for celebrating this sacrament are:

- during Advent and Lent
- the Monday of Holy Week
- additional times immediately before Christmas and Easter

Each Confirmation candidate is encouraged to celebrate this great sacrament of God's healing forgiveness and love in the course of his/her Journey of preparation. Advent and Lent are good times to seek God's forgiveness through the sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance.

THE EUCHARIST- SUNDAY MASS

Eucharist (Holy Communion) is another sacrament that we receive more than once in our lifetime. At the Last Supper Jesus changed the bread and wine into His own Body and Blood. He told the disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me." That is what we do when we come to church on Sunday to celebrate Mass. We are doing what Jesus asked us to do.

On Sunday, we gather together as the Body of Christ, believing in the true presence of Jesus who continues to teach and guide us through the Liturgy of the Word and enliven us through our reception of His Body and Blood during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is one of the precepts of the Catholic Church that all Catholics attend Mass on Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation.

All Confirmation Candidates are expected to participate in Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation

LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL COMMITMENT**STAGE 2 - GRADE 8****Calendar of Events**

Project	Project Description
---------	---------------------

Due Date: January 19, 2023

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Confirmation Sponsor |
| 2 | Confirmation Name |
| | Mass Reflections 1, 2, and 3 |

Due Date: February 16, 2023

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| * | Confirmation Registration Form |
| * | Sponsor Testimony Document |

Due Date: April 20, 2023

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 | Spirit Night |
| 4 | Letter to the Pastor Requestion Confirmation |
| | Mass Reflections 4, 5, and 6 |

Due Date: June 28, 2023

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 5 | Community Service |
|---|-------------------|

Continuous Study

Catholic "Basics"

********Required paperwork/documentation for Confirmation.***

This is the second of two Confirmation project packets that all Confirmation candidates are expected to complete. Every Confirmation candidate must submit all the materials in the Stage 2 packet before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please complete and submit your work (in hard-copy form only) ON or BEFORE the indicated Due Dates to the Faith Formation Office or you may use the Drop Box outside of the building. (**Note:** Each "Due Date" has specific items to be turned-in, e.g. January 19, 2023 consists of Projects # 1 & # 2 as well as Mass Reflections 1, 2 & 3; staple all five of these together and submit as one – individual projects/Mass Reflections **Will Not** be accepted.) If there is a situation that may prevent you from submitting your work on time, please contact the Faith Formation Office as soon as possible. Ensure your name is on each submission!

REMEMBER TO MAKE A COPY OF YOUR COMPLETED PROJECTS
AND MASS REFLECTIONS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THEM.

PROJECT #1 – CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

The role of sponsor is an important one for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Church sees the sponsor as a fully-initiated Catholic who supports the one receiving the sacrament with example and instruction.

In choosing a sponsor, the Church's law gives us some requirements that must be met:

- A sponsor must be at least sixteen years old.
- A sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (one who has celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) who "leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken."
- A sponsor must not be bound by any Church penalty (i.e. married outside the Church [a civil marriage], divorced and remarried without an annulment).
- A sponsor must not be a parent of the one to be confirmed.

It is also helpful to reflect on the following characteristics when choosing a sponsor:

- Local residency, to ensure consistent involvement throughout the Confirmation process
- A positive and comfortable relationship with the candidate.
- A willingness and capacity to engage in the Confirmation process as a means of enhancing his or her own growth as a Catholic Christian adult.

The person you choose for your sponsor should be willing to communicate with you on a regular basis in the preparation for the sacrament. It is our hope that when you make a final choice about who your sponsor for Confirmation will be, you will select someone who will be a good listener, a guide and confidant; a person who is interested in not only your growth as a Christian, but willing to grow in faith along with you.

Please Note:

Each sponsor MUST complete the enclosed Diocesan Sponsor Testimony Form (next to last page of this packet) by bringing it to their "home" parish for the required signature and official parish seal (lower left) before submitting it.

Candidate's Name _____

Grade 8

Due Date: Jan. 19, 2023

PROJECT #1 – CONFIRMATION SPONSOR
REFLECTION ON YOUR SPONSOR

Answer each of the following questions with at least 3 sentences.

Why did you choose this person as your sponsor?

What is it about your sponsor that makes him/her a good Catholic role model for you?

PROJECT #2 – CONFIRMATION NAME

One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a Saint's name that will remind you of this sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. You might want to recommit yourself to your baptismal name. Whether you decide to pick a new name or stay with your baptismal name, you will need to explore the root meaning of the name, for as Scripture says, "I have called you by name and you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

Which name have you chosen?

Write a few sentences about the saint whose name you have chosen to be your Confirmation name. (at least 3 sentences)

How can this saint's life be a role model for you? (at least 3 sentences)

Candidate's Name _____

Grade 8

Due Date: Apr. 20, 2023

PROJECT 3 – SPIRIT NIGHT

Spirit Night Reflections

"Spirit Night" will be held in the Church of Saint Aidan for all 8th Grade and/or Stage 2 Confirmation candidates on Monday, February 13 and Wednesday February 15. **Each candidate will be assigned a session and must be accompanied by a parent. If neither parent can attend, the candidate must be accompanied by a responsible adult.** This evening will give all participants an opportunity to join together in prayer and hopefully deepen their understanding of God's call to them.

Please provide your reflection on "Spirit Night" below. Please include not only your thoughts and impressions of the evening, but also what you particularly did like and did not like about the experience.

Spirit Night helped me to think about _____

What I liked best about Spirit Night was _____

How can I include and use what I learned during Spirit Night in my everyday life to be a better follower of Jesus?

PROJECT #4 – LETTER TO THE PASTOR

Outline of your Letter to the Pastor Stating Your Readiness to Receive

Using this outline, compose a draft of your letter to the Pastor requesting Confirmation; **then transfer your letter to the page provided**. Be sure to include your responses to the outline below in your letter.

Rev. Adrian McHugh
Church of Saint Aidan
505 Willis Avenue
Williston Park, NY 11596

Dear Father Adrian,

OUTLINE

[Write your reasons for requesting the Sacrament. Who is Jesus Christ to you? Are you consciously meeting the guidelines for receiving Confirmation?]

[Indicate why you believe that prayer, attending Mass each Sunday and Christian service is a necessary and vital part of being a confirmed Catholic.]

[Indicate why you believe that you are prepared and ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.]

[Candidate's Signature]

[Parent's Signature]

Have your parents witness the letter with their signatures.

Guidelines for Readiness for Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament that completes our baptism and makes us full members of the Catholic Church. As a sacrament of growing into mature Christian faith, it is not required by a specific age. The sacrament should be celebrated by those who show a readiness to make a personal commitment to live out their baptism because it is their own choice to respond to God's call.

Some signs of readiness include:

- A cooperative, responsible, Christian attitude toward all life, evidenced in class, at home and in the community.
- Prayer and regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church (attends Mass regularly.)
- Willingness to take responsibility for oneself, with regular class attendance, completion of assignments, and a growing knowledge of our Catholic faith.
- A willingness to recognize Christ in others; to serve and freely share one's gifts and talents with those in need, and respond with appreciation to those who do.
- The personal desire to receive Confirmation, to be in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and a determination to live out your faith in everyday life.
- Do you show all the signs of readiness? How well are you meeting these guidelines?

Candidate's Name _____

Grade 8

PROJECT #4 – LETTER TO THE PASTOR

Date: _____

Rev. Adrian McHugh
Church of Saint Aidan
505 Willis Avenue
Williston Park, NY 11596

Dear Father Adrian,

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Candidate's Signature

Parent's Signature

PROJECT 5 – SERVICE MINISTRY

Jesus has invited us to come and follow Him. To walk in his footsteps and follow his way of life means that we must reach out and serve others as he did – with care, concern, compassion and love. In order for us to do this, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit.

The grace of the Holy Spirit manifested to us in the Sacrament of Confirmation, unleashes for us our God given talents and gifts, our own special and unique ways of serving others. They are given for the building up of the Church, the Body of Christ.

As 8th Grade / Stage 2 students, you are asked to perform **15 unpaid service hours**. These Service hours must be provided in a minimum of two different activities such as, Catechist Aide 10 hrs, Boy Scout community service 3 hrs and park cleanup 2 hrs.

(Note: A minimum of 3 hours of service must be accomplished in service to the Church. Activities that are included in “Church Service” are designated on the list on the next page with the “✝” symbol.

Remember that sharing your Talents and Gifts is not just a “thing to get done” for Confirmation preparation – rather it is a way of life, forever! So, what are your God given talents and gifts? Sit down with your parents and/or sponsor and make a list of your talents, gifts and skills. We are sure you have many, for example, but not limited to:

Love
Cooperation
Honesty
Compassion
Knowledge
Teaching
Justice
Sports
Leadership
Encouragement
Caring
Dancing
Generosity
Music
Organization
Creative Writing
Patience
Kindness
Reading

Faith
And others...

Candidate's Name _____

Please be sure to get documentation of your service hours from the people who supervise you during the activities.

Attach the documentation to your Service Reflection.

PROJECT 5 – COMMUNITY SERVICE**Continued**

The following are just some suggestions for planning your service hours. (This list is not all inclusive; there are numerous activities which could meet the requirements of community service.)

Thinking ahead, Confirmation calls us to serve others throughout our lives. You should consider some of these suggestions even after Confirmation. The Church and the Community need YOU.

REMEMBER – Community Service must be provided in a minimum of two different activities, **AND at least 3 hours** must be accomplished in a Church related service. Examples listed below marked with the cross symbol ✝ will count towards the Church Setting service requirements.

• LITURGICAL MINISTRY ✝

- Altar Servers ✝
- Youth Choirs ✝
- Lector (read) at Mass ✝
- Assist at the Sunday 10:30am Family Mass (When it resumes.) ✝

• RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ✝

- Be a catechist's aide in the grade 1 - 6 program (particularly needed on Mondays & Tuesdays) ✝
(Note: To provide continuity of service to the catechist, Catechist Aide volunteers must provide a minimum of 5 hours in this service activity)
- Provide service for any Class Masses & Receptions that may be held ✝
- Assist the Faith Formation Office as needed to provide service such as attendance runners, hall monitors, etc. ✝.

• OTHER PARISH ACTIVITIES ✝

You may come up with your own ideas or join in those planned by various ministries of the parish, for example:

- Parish Social Ministry ✝
- Peanut Butter & Jelly Gang (advance reservations required) ✝
- Parish Food Drives / Parish Food Pantry ✝
- Clothing and other Special Drives ✝
- Church Events ✝

• SPECIAL OLYMPICS

- Volunteer to-help at meets, participate in an Olympian's support team etc.

• OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Park clean-up, community day events, etc.
- Boy/Girl Scouts community service projects
- Neighborhood Projects - providing assistance for elderly neighbors who need assistance. e.g. doing shopping, yard work, or simply spending time with them, etc.
- Assisting with sports activities for younger children in the community
- School Service Club Projects

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: June 28, 2023

PROJECT #5

COMMUNITY SERVICE/MINISTRY PROJECT REFLECTION

List your Church Related Services and number of hours for each service provided

Service Hours	Description of CHURCH Related Service(s)

List your Community Related Services and number of hours for each service provided

Service Hours	Description of COMMUNITY Related Service(s)

What gifts / talents and/or skills did you share with others? (A minimum of 4 sentences is expected.)

Remember to attach your documentation

Candidate's Name _____

Mass Reflections

The Sunday Mass is the gathering of the faithful to pray and give praise to God. During the liturgy we hear the Word of God proclaimed; the Celebrant (priest) or deacon shares his thoughts on the Word of God so that we may take the Word with us as we leave the Church. One way for us to truly live out the Word of God is to spend time reflecting on what these words mean to us.

Each candidate, with the help of his/her parent(s), must write a reflection on the Gospel and homily for 6 Sunday/Holy Day of Obligation Masses at St. Aidan's during the school year.

There are designated pages provided for your reflection. It would be a good practice for you to discuss the readings with your parents.

DO NOT fill in the reflection page during the Mass. Focus on listening to the Homily

Suggestions on how to complete these Mass Reflections: *(A sample has been provided)*

- Bring a pad of paper with you to church to write down some thoughts or words you hear in the Gospel and homily.
- Write down the Scripture reference (e.g. Luke 5:1-5) of the Gospel so you can refer back to it when you are writing your paper.
- Discuss what you heard and wrote down on the way home in the car, asking everyone to participate.
- Ask yourself and your family what the Scripture and homily has to do with your life today.
- When you get home, write your reflection while it is fresh in your mind.

Remember, what you write should be about what you feel the Scripture is saying to YOU at this moment in your life's journey. At different times in your life, you may respond differently because God works with us where we are at every moment of our lives. The only time we have is the present, so let God speak to your heart right here, right now in your life. Listen carefully! Pay attention! You may be surprised at what you experience!

**Mass Reflections are to be submitted in two groups:
#1 to #3 (January 15, 2023) and #4 to #6 (April 20, 2023).
Please submit each group of 3 Mass Reflections,
stapled together, *on or before* the date due.**

(See Sample on Next Page)

Candidate's Name _____

Sunday / Holyday of Obligation Mass Reflection - SAMPLE

Mass Date and Time: October 6 10:30 Family Mass

Liturgical Season: Ordinary Time Liturgical Color Green

Celebrant's (Priest's) Name: Fr. Solomon

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according to Saint Luke 17:5-10

What was the Gospel about? (at least 1 sentence)

The gospel was about the story of a Mustard Seed.

What was the Priest's Homily (talk) about? (at least 2 sentences)

Fr. Solomon spoke about the importance of faith. Faith also helps
us trust in God. The children demonstrated Faith in their parents,
by closing their eyes while being lead back to their seat by their
parent.

What does this Gospel and Homily (talk) mean to you? What have you learned? How does it challenge you? (at least 3 sentences)

Based on the Gospel, I learned that the tiniest bit of faith can grow.
It inspires me to go to Mass and pray more often. Then I will be
better able to share my faith with others.

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: Jan. 19, 2023

Sunday / Holyday of Obligation Mass Reflection #1

Mass Date and Time: _____

Liturgical Season: _____ Liturgical Color _____

Celebrant's (Priest's) Name: _____

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according to Saint _____

What was the Gospel about? (at least 1 sentence)

What was the Priest's Homily (talk) about? (at least 2 sentences)

What does this Gospel and Homily (talk) mean to you? What have you learned? How does it challenge you? (at least 3 sentences)

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: Jan. 19, 2023

Sunday / Holyday of Obligation Mass Reflection #2

Mass Date and Time: _____

Liturgical Season: _____ Liturgical Color _____

Celebrant's (Priest's) Name: _____

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according to Saint _____

What was the Gospel about? (at least 1 sentence)

What was the Priest's Homily (talk) about? (at least 2 sentences)

What does this Gospel and Homily (talk) mean to you? What have you learned? How does it challenge you? (at least 3 sentences)

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: Jan. 19, 2023

Sunday / Holyday of Obligation Mass Reflection #3

Mass Date and Time: _____

Liturgical Season: _____ Liturgical Color _____

Celebrant's (Priest's) Name: _____

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according to Saint _____

What was the Gospel about? (at least 1 sentence)

What was the Priest's Homily (talk) about? (at least 2 sentences)

What does this Gospel and Homily (talk) mean to you? What have you learned? How does it challenge you? (at least 3 sentences)

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: Apr. 20, 2023

Sunday / Holyday of Obligation Mass Reflection #4

Mass Date and Time: _____

Liturgical Season: _____ Liturgical Color _____

Celebrant's (Priest's) Name: _____

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according to Saint _____

What was the Gospel about? (at least 1 sentence)

What was the Priest's Homily (talk) about? (at least 2 sentences)

What does this Gospel and Homily (talk) mean to you? What have you learned? How does it challenge you? (at least 3 sentences)

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: Apr. 20, 2023

Sunday / Holyday of Obligation Mass Reflection #5

Mass Date and Time: _____

Liturgical Season: _____ Liturgical Color _____

Celebrant's (Priest's) Name: _____

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according to Saint _____

What was the Gospel about? (at least 1 sentence)

What was the Priest's Homily (talk) about? (at least 2 sentences)

What does this Gospel and Homily (talk) mean to you? What have you learned? How does it challenge you? (at least 3 sentences)

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: Apr. 20, 2023

Sunday / Holyday of Obligation Mass Reflection #6

Mass Date and Time: _____

Liturgical Season: _____ Liturgical Color _____

Celebrant's (Priest's) Name: _____

The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according to Saint _____

What was the Gospel about? (at least 1 sentence)

What was the Priest's Homily (talk) about? (at least 2 sentences)

What does this Gospel and Homily (talk) mean to you? What have you learned? How does it challenge you? (at least 3 sentences)

Candidate's Name _____

Due Date: Feb. 16, 2023



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

TESTIMONY OF DESIGNATED SPONSOR

The role of sponsor is an important one for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Today some may see the role as honorary, but the Church sees the sponsor, popularly called a godparent, as a fully initiated Catholic who actively supports the newly Baptized or Confirmed by good example and instruction in the Christian life.

In order to be admitted to the role of sponsor, the law of the Church directs that a person must be designated specifically by the parents of the infant or the individual who is to be baptized or confirmed. To be a sponsor, a person must be a Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, and have already received the Sacraments of the Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and not be bound by a canonical penalty.

I, _____, declare that I have been chosen to act
as a sponsor for _____, who is to receive the
Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation on _____ at the Church of
_____ in _____

In assuming this responsibility, I testify that:

- **I am at least sixteen years of age.**
- **I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.**
- **I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals.**

Understanding the role of sponsor as prescribed by the Church and aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this role, I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear that I fulfill all of the requirements to be a sponsor as described above. I attest to the truth of this statement, so help me God.

Date

Designated Sponsor

Parish

Pastor/Delegate

Parish Seal

Candidate's Name _____

CONFIRMATION 2023 REGISTRATION FORM

Due Date: Feb. 16, 2023

(Please Print Neatly)

Confirmation Candidate's First & Last Name: _____

- **Candidate's Personal Information:**

- Date of Birth: _____
- Place of Birth (city, state etc.) _____
- Current Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

- **Candidate's Baptism Information:**

- Date of Baptism: _____
- Name of Church (where baptized): _____
- Address of Church: _____
- City/State/Zip of Church: _____

- **Parent's Information**

- **Father's** First & Last Name: _____
- **Mother's** First & Last (**Maiden**) Name: _____

- **Confirmation Sponsor's** First & Last Name: _____

- **Confirmation Name** Chosen: _____

Please submit the completed form to the Religious Education Office by **16 February 2023**