

Confirmation Handbook 2022-2023



This Book Belongs to:

**The Very Reverend Kirby F. Hlavaty – Rector/Pastor
The Reverend Dalton R. Ervin – Parochial Vicar
Deacon Matthew Schaefer – Permanent Deacon**

**Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
Victory Annex
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This handbook is designed to answer questions and serve as a guide for students and parents in the confirmation program who are currently attending Our Lady of Victory Religious Education Program. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 361-575-8132

The requirements listed in this book, unless otherwise noted, pertain to all confirmation candidates. The goal of this program is to help students learn and appreciate their faith in their words, deeds, and actions so they too can “go forth in the community and spread the word of God”

Our confirmation program requires a 2-year preparation. The choice of when to be confirmed is that of the candidate as shown through their willingness to attend class, take part in service work, attend retreats and most of all their willingness to learn and express their Catholic faith both in and out of the classroom. Parents are asked and encouraged to assist the candidate in meeting these requirements but the choice of when and how to complete the program rests with the candidate. It must be their choice!

We hope this is a meaningful experience not only for the one being confirmed but their family and community!

GET INVOLVED

2022-2023

Religious Education Schedule

Class time- 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Students are not allowed to be dropped off before 6 p.m.

Office Phone: 361-575-8132

August

Aug 31 – First Class

September

7- Class

14 – Class

18 – Catechetical Sunday

21 – Class

28 – Class

October

5 – Class

12 – Class

19 – Class

26 – Class

November

2 – All Souls Day Mass

9 – Class

16 – Class – Family Advent Event

23 – No Class Thanksgiving Break

30 – Class

December

7 – Class

14 – Class

January

4 – No Class

11 – Class

18 – Class

25 – Class

February

1 – Class

8 – Class

12- Confirmation (SJ Students)

15 – Class

22 – Ash Wednesday / Family Mass

March

1 – Class-

8 – Class

15 – Spring Break / No class

22 – Class

29 – Last Class

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the final of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Its focus is on the Holy Spirit, already given in Baptism, now sent again for the special purpose - to enable the person to go forth and share their faith.

Confirmation is NOT a sign of Catholic Adulthood; its celebration does NOT make a final commitment to Christ. Reaching such a goal is a lifelong process; it “cannot be finished or gotten through”. It is the beginning of living your life as an adult Catholic – with all the responsibilities and rewards – NOT GRADUATION from religious classes or learning about your faith.

To help you grow in your faith the program focuses on four major areas of Christianity. Knowledge of the Faith (7 major topics), Faith Community (2 Retreats), Sharing Your Faith (20 hours of service to order), Faith Life (Weekly Mass and daily prayer. Each section will be covered in more detail in this handbook.

The foundation of meaningful and productive preparation for Confirmation is your Faith Life. The attendance of weekly Mass is priority for everyone who considers themselves a practicing Catholic – missing Sunday Mass was and still is a sin.

Weekly Mass attendance will be monitored in the R. E. Classroom. Parents are asked to make attending Mass as a family each week and praying together daily an important practice. Family prayer books and seasonal activities are sent home to each R.E. family. Please make use to these to help share your faith with your children – it is the greatest gift that you can give your family.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the
oppressed go free and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
(Luke 4:18-19)*

The Requirements

All requirements listed here reflect the policy of the diocese and the Code of Canon Law. Every effort should be made to meet or exceed all these requirements. In each area the Pastor will have the final say.

Knowledge of the Faith

Instruction is done in the Religious Education classroom with each program using whatever text book that best meets the needs of their students.

Students will be confirmed in the sophomore year or later when all class work, retreats, service work and requirements are met.

Retreats

Retreats give the candidates the opportunity to join with others to learn more about their faith. These are special times to join as a community and are as equally important as any other part of the program. There will be both in-parish and diocesan retreats offered each year. Each candidate is required to attend two such retreats during their period of preparation.

Sponsors and parents are invited and encouraged to attend the retreats. We need a ratio of one adult for every eight students attending these retreats – so your help is needed. Adults interested in helping must complete the Safe Environment Requirements (background check and training). All this is provided at no cost to you and is good for three years. Please volunteer to help – call 361-575-8132 and find out when the next sessions for training are and how you can be involved.

Retreat Record

You must attend 2 retreats during your years of confirmation preparation. For R.E. students they must be OLV or diocesan retreats.

Date_____

Place _____

Name of Retreat_____

Date_____

Place _____

Name of Retreat _____

Service Projects

A major focus is on the need of the candidate to express their Catholic faith with service to others. TWENTY HOURS are needed during the 2 years of the Confirmation Preparation program. This can be divided in any manner as long as a total of twenty hours are completed, and each hour of service has at least one project or more in it. Service hours should involve works of mercy, works of spiritual or physical assistance motivated by love of God and neighbor.

1. **Service to your church:** At least one project in direct service to Our Lady of Victory. Service for another parish or church will not fulfill this requirement.
2. **Service to the community:** Use the spiritual and corporal works of mercy as your guide. Areas such as the Food Bank or Christ's Kitchen are all good choices. Service projects sponsored by your school or club are acceptable. If you have a question, please check with the office or teacher.
3. **Service to the family:** A project in direct service to your family, such as grandparents, a young cousin, an ill aunt or uncle that needs your help in the area of housework, yard work, errands, or personal need. Work MAY NOT be done in the area of babysitting unless an illness or emergency is involved. Work MUST NOT be done in your own household. (Cleaning your own room or mowing your own yard will not count.) These projects should bring you closer to your family. If you have no extended family available, you may perform a like service to a neighbor or nursing home resident. In all areas of service, no money or other goods should be accepted.

One project of any length of time MUST be done with your sponsor. This can be any type of work if you do it together. There is a minimum of one hour of service required. If your sponsor is unable to help you with this, one of your parents may take their place. If you have any questions that a project will "count" please call the R.E. Office.

Some Service Ideas

Summer Play Days – Gulf Bend Friendship Fest – Food or Clothing Drive – Hope Chest – VCAM – Life Chain - HEB Feast of Sharing – Habitat for Humanity – Nursing Home Work – Youth Group Service Projects – Riding Therapy Center – Tender Loving Care – Pink Ladies or Candy Strippers at the Hospital – Youth Mass Participation – Altar Server (weekdays hours only will count) – Martha's Kids – Camp David – Parish Festival

All work done for a church that you would like to count MUST be done for Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Parish.

Spiritual Works

Counsel the Doubtful
Instruction the Ignorant
Admonish the Sinner
Comfort the Sorrowful
Forgive Injuries
Bear Wrongs Patiently
Pray for the Living and the Dead

Corporal Works

Feed the Hungry
Drink to the Thirsty
Clothe the Naked
Visit the Imprisoned
Shelter the Homeless
Bury the Dead

When you turn in your completed service log, please attach the form for your Most Meaningful Service Project. This should be a paper of at least two paragraphs talking about a project that had special meaning for you. This is also referred to as the Reflection paper. You only need ONE project paper. Pick something that you have done that had special meaning for you, tell us what it was, what you did and what significance it had for you.

You may use service projects that you did for Honor Society, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts etc. However, if your school says they may only be counted once then you may not use them for both School and Confirmation.

All projects should be signed off on by an adult. If you cannot get the adult in charge to sign your form then a parent or adult guardian may do it for you.

Service Log for Our Lady of Victory
2022/2023

Service Form Log For: _____

Date	Place of Service	Project	#Hours	Signature of Adult

Name _____

Service Reflection Paper

(Complete 1 per year of preparation)

My most meaningful service project and what I learned from it.

Describe what you did as service and if you feel like you learned from this project. Would you recommend it to others? How long did the project take you?

Sponsor Information

The role of sponsor is a very important one and should be given much thought and prayer. You may pick the sponsor at any point during the Confirmation process but must have done so by the final year. A sponsor is requested to participate in at least one service project. If they are unable to, then the parent is asked to take the sponsor's place.

Sponsors act as witness and role model to the young person of a Catholic adult whose faith is important to them.

Sponsors should fill out and return the Sponsor letter prior to the deadline of the final year.

Sponsor Requirements

(Canon Law 893, 874)

To be admitted to the role of sponsor a person must:

1. Be designated by the one to be confirmed
2. At least 16 years of age
3. Be a Catholic who has received their sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation
4. If married, married according to Church law.
5. If single, living a chaste single lifestyle.
6. Attends Mass and receives the sacrament on a regular basis.
7. Not the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

Canon Law 892 states it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament. Sponsors should have a long-term relationship with the candidate and should remain an active part in their life

Discipline

Since by its very nature Confirmation is an adult witness to the faith, we expect no discipline problems from any of our candidates. Students in the Catholic school are expected to follow normal classroom rules. All students will follow the same guidelines at retreats and service projects.

Students in the R.E. program will follow the program's discipline policy passed out at the beginning of class. Class time is only 75 minutes long, a very short time to cover all the materials being presented in class. To meet the needs of all students, misbehavior will not be tolerated. Our volunteer teachers give much of themselves to their students and deserve the respect and cooperation of all students. If a problem does arise at any event or in the classroom, parents will be called for help in correcting the problem. If the problem continues the student will be asked to leave the program for the current semester. **THIS IS A ZERO TOLERANCE ISSUE!**

At retreats all students will be expected to conduct themselves properly. Any student misbehaving or disrespectful to adults or other students will be asked to leave the event and it will not be counted. A severe disruption will cause the candidates to be dropped from the program at once. All candidates represent the Cathedral at these events and good conduct and a respectful manner is required. A positive and willing attitude is necessary for any candidates – after all it is their choice alone to be confirmed. They display this willingness by their conduct.

Delaying the Sacrament

Sometimes it is in the best interest of the student to delay the sacrament to a time in which they better understand and show their desire to receive Confirmation. At any time, if the student states that it is their desire NOT to be confirmed, their request will be respected. Once they have completed the class work, they will not have to repeat any class or requirement. Students graduating from High School will be asked to continue their Confirmation prep with an adult group.

Baptismal Records

Each student must turn in a copy of their Baptismal record before Confirmation. We are required to notify the church of Baptism when you are confirmed. You may either call or write your church of Baptism for a copy if you do not have one. Students from the Catholic schools will need to submit a copy to the Religious Education office. Please note we cannot change or alter names on the Baptismal certificates when completing the Confirmation records or certificate. If there are concerns in this area, please call the office so we can help!

Dress Code for Class and Events

In the classroom and at all events students may dress casually as you would for a normal day at school. Any clothing or grooming that, in the office's judgment, has pictures, emblems or writing that are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene or that portray tobacco products, cults, alcoholic beverages, drugs or any other prohibited substance may not be worn. Please note the following requirements:

Ladies – Revealing and overly tight clothes, low cut shirts, extremely short skirts or shorts are **not** acceptable. (If you are coming from dance class or drill team please bring a cover up – your practice uniform is not acceptable.) If the teachers feel what you are wearing is too revealing you will be asked to call home for a change of clothes.

Gentlemen - Caps should be removed when entering the classroom. No low-cut pants that reveal your underwear should be worn. No tank tops or muscle shirts.

If it is determined that a student's grooming violated this dress code the student will be given the opportunity to correct the problem. If this is not possible a parent will be called to bring the necessary clothing to the student.

Dress for Confirmation Service

Ladies – White- or pastel-colored dresses or skirts/tops. (The color represents the purity of your soul, so please keep this symbolism in mind when choosing your dress.) No short skirts – fingertip or longer. No slits, off the shoulder or revealing necklines. Dress shoes. This is a church service and a sacred sacrament, not a formal or the prom. If you have a question that it might be too much, it most likely is, chose something else.

Gentlemen – Dress slacks (any color), white or light-colored shirt. Ties and dress shoes. Jackets are optional.

Sponsors – Church attire, dresses for ladies, dress slacks and ties for gentlemen.

Cell Phones

We ask that cell phones not be brought to retreats or class. If you must, please turn them off. If there is an emergency, parents may contact you through the office. If you must have your cell phone, please make sure it is turned off during class or the event. Phones that ring during this time will be taken to the office and held for you until the end of the event.

Forms and Deadlines

Forms are passed out at the beginning of each year. Additional copies will be available in the R.E. office. Deadlines are announced each year. Please watch for newsletters and notes being sent home, sometimes dates and times of events can change. We will keep you informed, when in doubt please call.

If you move or change a phone number, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Role of the Parent

As a parent you play a major role in the sacramental preparation program. You help your son and daughter grow in their faith as they prepare for their final step of initiation in the Church. Your attendance at events, retreats, service projects, and most of all, WEEKLY MASS is vital. There is no substitute for your concern and presence. You are the first and best teachers of faith for your child. The Catholic school and the Religious Education Program are only here to assist you in that effort. Your interest, involvement and care make a difference in your young person's perception of what this sacrament and Christian life as an adult Catholic is all about. Confirmation is not something to be "gotten through" or "finished with". It is something that begins their life-long journey of a practicing Catholic. Please volunteer to help with retreats, in the classrooms or at service projects. Adults are always needed and appreciated. Please contact our office if you would like to volunteer.

Role of the Candidate

As candidates you undertake the effort to grow in faith. Through your actions, your deeds and your desires, you work toward the final step of initiation as an adult Catholic. Make every effort to attend all classes and learn more fully about this faith that you are embracing. Attend retreats and experience the growth of your faith in the community of other young Catholics. Do your service projects with a willing and open heart as you model the love of Jesus in the world today. Approach the sacrament in serious thought and prayer, and it will be a meaningful experience in your life. Attitude is everything, if you are not interested and willing, then now is NOT the time to be confirmed. We urge you to think and pray about your choice to be confirmed at this time. When you finish your years of preparation you should find yourself willing to live the faith you have learned so much about.

The single most important factor is the desire of the candidate, it should be YOUR choice, not that of your parents, teachers, or peers.

If you ever have a concern about any part of the preparation process, please stop in the office or call. We are here to assist you and want this to be a meaningful and moving experience. If it doesn't mean anything to you then wait until it does.

Absences

More than two absences per semester may result in loss of credit for that semester's class. Two tardies equal one absence. Class begins promptly at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m. Please be on time and stay the entire time.

When the bell rings please enter your class and prepare for class to begin – do not wait for the second bell that marks the beginning of class. Parents are urged to get their students to class prior to 6:15 p.m. Students arriving after the second bell are considered tardy.

Mandatory Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, the kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Doxology

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Act of Contrition (A)

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins because of your just punishment but most of all because they offend you, my God, who is all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen

Act of Contrition (B)

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints and the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Amen

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom Knowledge Understanding Piety Fear of the Lord Counsel Fortitude

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Love Joy Peace Kindness Patience Goodness Faithfulness
Modesty Generosity Gentleness Self Control Chastity