



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH

CHURCHES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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2021 Confirmation Program Handbook

COME
Holy Spirit
FILL THE HEARTS
OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN THEM
THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT
AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED
AND YOU SHALL RENEW
THE FACE OF THE
EARTH

Welcome to our 2021 Confirmation Program!

This handbook was designed to provide Confirmation candidates and their families with valuable information regarding our Confirmation program for the 2021 year. We request that candidates and their parents read this handbook to gain a fuller understanding of our program, its guidelines and expectations. We appreciate your commitment to and involvement in this program and we look forward to an exciting year of learning and service!

A mandatory Zoom session will be held on January 3, 2021 for candidates and parents at 4:45 pm which will outline the goals of our program and its requirements. Zoom invites will be sent to the emails entered in the online registration form.

If you have any questions or concerns, call Lisa Lee, our Confirmation Coordinator, at 973-744-5650 ext. 122 or send an email to LisaLee@montclaircatholics.org.

Who can register for the STCP Confirmation Preparation Program?

The Confirmation Program is offered to individuals in grade 9 or higher, whose families are active and registered parishioners at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Active parishioners are those who participate in the sacramental life of the church, most especially the Sunday Eucharist. Active participation in parish life includes sharing our gifts of time (volunteering) and/or treasure (online *E-Giving* or the use of Envelopes). Confirmation candidates in grades 9 or above must have also been baptized and participated in a faith formation or religious education program in Grades 1 – 8.

If you are not a registered parishioner of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, you may call the Parish Office at 973-744-5650, for more information. The parishioner registration form may also be found at: <https://www.montclaircatholics.org/registration/>

Our Mission

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish endeavors to provide a parish environment where families can experience God's Word (WORD), receive His grace in the celebration of the sacraments, especially the weekly celebration of the Eucharist as a parish family (WORSHIP), serve others



(MISSION) and build God's kingdom (COMMUNITY) in our families and communities by following Jesus' example.

These four components – WORD, WORSHIP, MISSION, COMMUNITY – make up the basic structure of our Family Faith Formation program. They are inspired by the famous story from Luke's Gospel, "The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus" (Lk 24:13-35). Two broken-hearted and disillusioned followers of Jesus depart from Jerusalem after Jesus' death and burial only to encounter the *risen* Jesus on the road home to Emmaus. The risen Jesus suddenly appears that first Easter Sunday, and accompanies them on their journey. They do not recognize him. As they walk along, Jesus interprets for them all that referred to him in the Old Testament and which now has been fulfilled in him (WORD).

When it is almost evening, the travelers invite Jesus to stay with them. And while he was with them at table, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them (WORSHIP). Only at that moment did they recognize Jesus; and with their recognition Jesus vanishes from their sight! The followers realize that their hearts were burning within them when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. Instead of continuing their journey, they immediately return to Jerusalem to spread the good news (MISSION) of Jesus' resurrection to the eleven and those that were with them (COMMUNITY).

Mass Attendance (WORSHIP)

Attending Mass is essential to the formation of faith. We request that each candidate for Confirmation attends weekly Sunday Mass, either with his/her fellow candidates, peers or family members to honor, praise and thank God within the community of His Church, to listen to His Word, to witness and participate in the miracle of the Eucharist and to show Jesus that we love him and need him. Mass may be attended in Immaculate Conception Church or virtually, via live-stream. Please see the parish website for the current Mass schedule at:

<https://www.montclaircatholics.org/>



2021 Confirmation Program Overview

For our Confirmation Program to be successful, we do need full and active participation from both parents/guardians and their children. Parents and Confirmation Candidates will work together to ensure:

- Regular Mass attendance
- Regular attendance at learning sessions/classes
- Showing up for classes on time, whether on-line or in-person
- Open and read emails sent by the Family Faith Office and the Confirmation Coordinator
- Complete and hand-in assignments and forms by their assigned due dates
- Completion of community service
- Attendance at the Confirmation Day Retreat
- Attendance at the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Attendance at the Rehearsal
- Open and read emails sent by the Confirmation Coordinator and the Family Faith Office

Class Meeting Time & Location (WORD)

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish is committed to the safety and well-being of children and their families. To best serve the people of our parish, we have decided to begin classes using an online/virtual program. *Once meeting restrictions due to Covid-19 are lifted, classes will be held in person.*

Attendance

Attendance will be taken whether sessions are held virtually or in-person. Attendance is expected and needed to fulfill program requirements. If you are absent, you will be required to make up any missed assignments. Make-up opportunities will be limited.



Students that have excessive absences and/or have not handed in missed assignments may be asked to repeat the program in order to receive the sacrament.

Google Classroom

We will use Google Classroom as the platform for all lessons, assignments, forms and other materials. Please note that each candidate will need a single Gmail address (in the format username@gmail.com), in order to access Google Classroom. This email will need to be set up prior to registering online.

Zoom

Our goal is to hold classes in person, however, that can only happen when it is safe for us to gather. Initially, classes will be held via Zoom twice a month on ***Sundays from 4:45 – 6 pm***. Zoom invites and passwords will be sent to the email addresses listed on the confirmation registration form. All children will be required to keep their cameras on during Zoom sessions.

Community Service (MISSION)

Our Confirmation Program will provide our candidates with opportunities for community service and outreach throughout the year. Candidates will also be asked to do individual service. We look forward to working with our candidates and their parents/guardians to strengthen our parish, community and live the Gospel message of love and service to one another. During the registration process, parents will also be given opportunities to sign up for roles to share their time and talents within our Confirmation Program. We ask that each parent or guardian participate in helping in some way throughout the 2021 program year.

Day Retreat (COMMUNITY)

A day retreat for all Confirmation candidates is tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2021. The retreat is a day where Confirmation candidates set aside time to rest, pray and deepen their relationship with God and with one another. Again, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish is concerned with the safety and well-being of all our parishioners, especially during this time of the COVID-19



pandemic. The format of the retreat will be developed in accordance with current social distancing guidelines.

2021 Class Schedule

Jan. 10, 24

Feb. 7, 21

March 7, 21

April 18

May 2, 15 – day retreat

June 6, 20

Selection of Confirmation Sponsor

The selection of a sponsor is an ancient tradition in the Catholic faith. The role of the sponsor was to attest to the integrity of the person seeking admission into the Church and to assist him/her in the preparation of the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The Code of Canon Law specifies that a sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age, be fully initiated in the Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Eucharist), live a life of faith, not be the parent, and not be bound by any other canonical restrictions.

Candidates will be asked to select a sponsor as part of their preparation for Confirmation. In addition to the above requirements, the sponsor should be available and open to sharing their faith, and encourage them on their journey as a Catholic Christian. Sponsors will be asked to complete a form attesting that they meet all canonical requirements. If the sponsor is not a registered parishioner of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, he/she must obtain a signed statement from their current parish stating that they are in good standing with the Church.

Selection of a Confirmation Name

As part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, candidates have the privilege and responsibility to choose a name. The name they choose will be the name by which the Bishop will call them at Confirmation saying, “[Name], *be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” Candidates may choose the name they received at Baptism, which strengthens the unity



between Baptism and Confirmation, or they may choose a new name to affirm their awareness of being called as a disciple of Christ. Typically, candidates choose the name of a Saint whose life has a special meaning to them. Candidates will be expected to provide a brief summary of their Confirmation name, why they selected that name, and how that particular name aids them on their faith journey.

Date for Sacrament of Confirmation

We currently expect the sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Fall of 2021. Candidates will be required to receive Reconciliation prior to the celebration of Confirmation and attend a Confirmation rehearsal.

Confirmation Fees

Confirmation registration fees will remain the same as last year. The cost is \$300 if registration is completed by December 15, 2020. After December 15, 2020 the registration fee will increase to \$350. Online registration will run from November 19, 2020 through January 2, 2021. Full payment is expected at the time of registration and may be made with a credit/debit card. If you prefer to register in person, please call the Family Faith Office at 973-744-5650 ext. 122 or send an email to LisaLee@montclaircatholics.org.

Online Confirmation Registration

All candidates for Confirmation must be registered in the program. The online registration form can be found at:

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Form/55f524b2-6a90-411b-8e91-909f79199fc9>

Parents/guardians must provide a copy of their child's Baptismal certificate and any records of First Communion. ***If your child was baptized and received First Communion at Our Lady of Mount Carmel or Immaculate Conception Church, there is no need to supply records.*** Families transferring from another parish should also provide documentation stating their child's participation and attendance in their former parish's faith formation/religious education program.

