



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH

CHURCHES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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2021-2022 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 2021-2022 Confirmation Program!

This handbook was designed to provide Confirmation candidates and their families with valuable information regarding our Confirmation program for the 2021-2022 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 Zoom information session will be held on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021 at 8:00 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 our Confirmation Coordinator, at 973-744-5650 or send an email to familyfaithadmin@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, received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, 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).

Importance of Mass Attendance (WORSHIP)

The mass is the central, communal and most beautiful act of worship of Almighty God. It is a precious treasure of our Church that has been part of its living tradition for almost 2000 years. Our 2021-2022 program is designed to be centered around the mass.

Attending Mass is essential to the formation of faith. It is our loving response to the God who has loved us first. We request that you attend weekly Sunday Mass with your children 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. Please see the parish website for the current Mass schedule at:

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

2021-2022 Program Overview

For our 2021-2022 program, candidates will be required to attend a Family Faith Formation Mass, followed by a breakout session, *twice per month*. These teaching masses and breakout sessions will be held from 9:15 – 11:15 am on Sunday mornings, and scheduled roughly twice per month from September to April. The masses and sessions are structured with a specific theme and designed to correlate with the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. The presider, or a guest-speaker, will focus on family-friendly communications supporting that theme. At the conclusion of mass (**WORSHIP**), candidates will gather in a breakout group at a pre-determined location on the church campus. Here, they will participate in an activity that supports the message (**WORD**) taught that week. The focus is to develop **COMMUNITY**, while learning and participating in faith-based activities and service (**MISSION**).

Family Commitment

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

- Regular Mass attendance
- Regular attendance at breakout sessions
- Showing up for mass and breakout sessions on time
- Open and read emails sent by the Family Faith Office
- Parents must volunteer to help for one meeting date of our program. Dates are selected during the online registration process.
- Complete and hand-in any assignments and/or forms by their due dates



Attendance

Attendance will be taken and is expected to fulfill program requirements. Candidates that have excessive absences and/or have not handed in any missed assignments may be asked to repeat the program in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Meeting Times & Location

The program meets from 9:15 – 11:15 am two Sundays per month. During this time, candidates will attend the Family Faith Mass in addition to a breakout session after mass. Meeting dates are below:

Sept – 19, 26

Jan – 9, 23

Oct – 3, 31

Feb – 6, 27

Nov – 14, 21

Mar – 6, 13

Dec - 5, 12

April – 3

March 19 – Confirmation Day Retreat (10 am – 5:30 pm)

May 18 & 19 – Candidates will be assigned one of these dates for Confirmation rehearsal

May 22 – Sacrament of Confirmation

Community Service (MISSION)

Candidates will be required to complete ten (10) service hours as part of their Confirmation preparation. Service hours should be completed, documented and submitted by April 3, 2022. Forms to document service hours can be found at

[Confirmation – St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish \(montclaircatholics.org\)](https://montclaircatholics.org). Our Confirmation

Program will provide our candidates with some opportunities for community service and outreach throughout the year, however it is preferable that candidates choose service projects in-line with their God-given gifts and talents. 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 2021-2022 program year.

Day Retreat (COMMUNITY)

A mandatory day retreat is required for all Confirmation candidates. A day retreat is scheduled for March 19, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church. The retreat is a day where Confirmation candidates set aside time to rest, pray and deepen their relationship with God and with one another.

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.

Confirmation Registration

Registration Fees - \$300

There is a \$25 discount for families that register by August 1, 2021.

There is a \$50 late fee for families that register after August 23, 2021.

No registrations will be accepted after September 3, 2021.

Documents

Parents/guardians must provide a copy of their child’s sacramental records. *If your child was baptized and/or 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.

Online Registration

Online registration will run from July 9, 2021 through September 3, 2021.

All candidates must be registered in the program in order to participate. The online registration form can be found at:

[2021-2022 Confirmation Preparation Registration \(ncsservices.org\)](https://ncsservices.org)

Full payment is expected at the time of registration and may be made with a credit/debit card. If you require an alternate payment method, special arrangements must be made.

Please call the Family Faith Office at 973-744-5650.

