

Name: _____

\$30.00 Sacramental & Robe Fee _____

Confirmation Packet



"All powerful God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your
sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.
Send your **Holy Spirit** upon them to be their
helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of **wisdom,**
understanding,
the spirit of **right judgment** and **courage,**
the spirit of **knowledge** and **reverence.**

Fill them with the spirit of
wonder and awe

in your presence." Isaiah 11:1-3

Confirmation Packet

Attached is the Confirmation packet that all students making their confirmation must complete.

Please keep all papers together, including the sponsor sheet and put your name on every sheet of paper. Incomplete packets will not be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the student to complete and return the packet to the Religious Education office on or before the 1st Saturday in February.

Please return the items below to the Religious Education office by:

on or before the 1st Saturday in February

1. Please answer all questions on pages 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16.(parent signature required)
2. Confirmation Candidate Information – (page 20) please print & make sure spelling is correct. (This will be used for the official Confirmation certificates).
3. Saint Report (page 19)
4. Letter to the Bishop (page 18)
5. Knowledge Checklist – signed by parent (page 16)
6. Service Project Form – signed (page 26)
7. Scripture reflection (page 25)
8. Sponsor Information Sheet– signed by his/her parish priest and official seal. (page 27)
9. \$30.00 sacramental & robe fee
10. Must attend one of the retreats being offered

If you are interested in doing a reading or bring up the gifts at the Confirmation Ceremony, please check the box:

Yes, I am interested in doing a reading

Yes, I would like to bring up the gifts.

If you have a sibling who would like to serve at the Confirmation Ceremony please contact The Religious Ed. Office 227-3949 x73

Name: _____
(we will try to honor all requests).



Dear Parents and Students of St. Denis,

One special moment for you in the upcoming year is the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Since the confirmation program involves an approach requiring prayer and involvement on your part, it is important that you know about it ahead of time. It is our hope that you will read this letter carefully, discuss its contents as a family, and begin preparation for the sacrament of Christian initiation.

What Is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are called the sacraments of initiation. Through these sacraments we become members of the Catholic Church, a community of Spirit-filled people who have been saved by Christ and who witness Christ's love in the world.

As one of the sacraments of initiation, Confirmation impresses the candidates with a special character. Through the sacrament, the candidates are enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are bound more perfectly to the Church, and are strengthened in faith. They are enabled to witness more courageously to Christ and to spread and defend the faith.

The Role of Those to Be Confirmed

Those to be confirmed must be suitably instructed and properly disposed. They must be willing to be involved in the preparation program with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ and his Church.

The Role of Parents

As parents, you play a primary role in the sacramental preparation program. You help your son/daughter grow in faith as you prepare him/her for fruitful reception of the sacrament. Your attendance at required meeting and the Sunday parish celebrations of the Eucharist is vital. There is, and can be, no substitute for your actual presence at such moments. Your interest, involvement and concern make a difference in your son's/daughter's perception of what this sacrament and the Christian life are all about.

The Role of Sponsor

Each candidate, with the help of his/her parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the baptismal sponsor also be the confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that men are sponsors for boys and women are sponsors for girls.

Church law states that the sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age. He or she must be a confirmed Catholic who has received Holy Eucharist and is living according to the Catholic faith. The sponsor may not be the mother or father of the one to be confirmed. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to give assurance of his or her qualifications.

Sponsors take on a lifelong commitment to help their candidates fulfill the obligations of this sacrament. During the time of preparation, the sponsors are expected to take an active role in the Confirmation program and meet with their candidates on a regular basis.

Sponsors **do not** have to be present at the Confirmation practice. Sponsors **must be** present at the ceremony. Their immediate role demands time, commitment, and willingness to engage in faith-sharing activities with their candidate. It is suggested that people who are too young, live too far away or are too busy to devote the proper time and care to the candidate would not be able to properly fulfill this role.

It is important that parents, candidates and prospective sponsors consider carefully the qualifications and requirements given this letter before a commitment to the confirmation program is made.

I hope that this information on the Confirmation Program will enable you to devote some time to preparing, discussing and praying about it. The Catechist will provide additional information as the program progresses. If you have any questions regarding the information here or any other aspect of the program, please contact me. I am always willing to assist you in any way possible.

Know that you will be in my prayers and also of the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Laura Esposito
Director of Religious Education

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a difficult sacrament to explain. It's not about getting confirmed, but about a relationship with the ***Third Person of the Trinity***. It's not about receiving the Holy Spirit, because you already received Him in Baptism. Confirmation, however, ***completes*** the Baptismal graces. It is a Sacrament of Christian maturity. This is the heart of your "Christian adulthood". You will grow in maturity during your entire life, but this Sacrament recognizes you as ***responsible for your faith***.

Confirmation more perfectly unites you to Christ, and prepares you for a familiarity with the Holy Spirit, His actions, gifts and bidding. The Sacrament of Confirmation more perfectly binds you with Christ's Church as well and all Her members throughout the ages. By your Confirmation, you will become a Christian witness, a Soldier of Christ responsible for preaching and defending the true faith. You will also accept for yourself the responsible of continuing your education in the faith and practicing your religion.

In Confirmation, you will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and His gifts, preparing you for your ministry and renewed commitment to Christ and His Church. This Holy Spirit is the Counselor promised to us by Christ Himself when He said, If you love me, you will keep my Commandment. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another ***Counselor***, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for He dwells with you, and will be in you".

Jesus gave the Apostles His Holy Spirit after His Resurrection when he breathe on them and said, ***"Receive the Holy Spirit"***. We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism when we are Baptized "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".

Confirmation is the outpouring of this same Spirit, and all His gifts in their fullness, as when the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus after His Baptism in the Jordan, leading Him into His public ministry. At ***Pentecost*** the Apostles received the fullness of the Holy Spirit enabling them to ***evangelize*** and ***serve*** God in their public ministry. Through Confirmation, you too will be prepared for your public ministry as a ***soldier of Christ***, teaching and defending the faith. You will receive all the gifts and graces necessary to bear the mark of Christ's witness. ***You will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

After reading this information, please think about this and answer the following questions.

1. What is the sacrament of Confirmation about?
2. When did the Apostles receive the Holy Spirit?
3. When did you receive the Holy Spirit? What is the date?
4. Once you are confirmed, what responsibilities will you accept for yourself?

Effects of Confirmation

1. We receive a full out pouring of the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost.
2. We share in a Divine relationship with our Heavenly Father
 - we are united more firmly to Christ
 - we receive an increase of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - we are bound with the Church more perfectly
 - we are strengthened to spread and defend the faith
 - we are given the grace to confess the name of Christ boldly and never be ashamed of the Cross.
3. We are given an indelible (permanent) mark as a witness of Christ on our Soul.
4. We share more perfectly in the common priesthood, which helps us to profess our faith publicly and officially for ourselves.

Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

In Confirmation, you will be anointed with Chrism, as a sign of a seal placed on your soul. This mark or seal is permanent. It marks you as a witness of Christ. This mark gives your soul more nobility before the eyes of God.

Seals were often used to close letters. Wax was dripped on a page, then a stamp would mark the was showing the identity of the author. A seal on your soul would mark Christ's identity onto your soul, so you will share more fully in God's image.

Sometimes seals were used to bind agreements or covenants. They would be broken in two, and one half would belong to each party. It was a symbol of unity. In Confirmation, you recommit yourself to your baptismal promises and your covenant with God. You publicly declare yourself God's servant and family.

Seals were also used to mark identity. It marks ownership. Your seal marks you as Christ's witness, you belong to Him and are His soldier. You will speak and defend the faith based on the Authority of Christ.

What are the four effects of Confirmation?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What does the seal of Confirmation mark on your soul?



Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is **God**, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. We know this from the Bible, where Jesus commands His Apostles to baptize people “in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. But who is this Spirit of God?

Jesus also tells us about the Holy Spirit. He said that another Counselor will be sent after He is gone. This Counselor is the Spirit of Truth promised. The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete. A paraclete is like a lawyer (defense attorney) or a judge. He will be with us at our final judgment before God. The Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier. **He will make us holy.**

The Holy Spirit is the **love** between God the Father and God the Son. This love is so real that it is another Person. The Father and the Son together sent us the Holy Spirit. We first read of the Holy Spirit descending at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit brings life to the Church. The Holy Spirit brings **grace** to the Church through the Sacraments. Once we are baptized, we are temples of the Holy Spirit who comes to live in us. We receive the fullness of the Spirit and His gifts at

Confirmation.

1. Who is the Third Person of the Trinity?
2. Is the Holy Spirit God?
3. What are three names for the Holy Spirit? What do they mean?
4. When do we first read about the Holy Spirit descending?
5. When do we receive the Holy Spirit?
6. When do we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit?
7. What does the Holy Spirit do in the Church?

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Biblical origin of the 7 gifts (seven is the biblical number meaning “completion, totality, all-that-we-need”) is found in a passage where Isaiah is foretelling the qualities of the Messiah. The word Messiah-Christos in Greek means “anointed”. When we are anointed in the Sacraments of Initiation, we “*put on Christ*” and the qualities of the Messiah take root in us and become our qualities. God is pleased when we use the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit-and disappointed if these divine gifts are left unused. Please take the time to reflect on different ways to use these gifts and then put them into action. Consider using God’s 7 gifts as a preparation for opening God’s final gift-*everlasting life in the risen lord*. In Confirmation, you will receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts help us to be **holy**. He brings us **seven** gifts:



1. **Wisdom**-Wisdom is the ability to see things as they really are. The Holy Spirit enables us to see things with **God’s eyes**. Wisdom moves our vision far out into the future; it gives us perspective. Wisdom enables us to see our sufferings in the light of God’s loving plan for us.



2. **Understanding**-Understanding means that your heart cares, listens and forgives. Understanding is to “stand under”, to “get to the bottom of things”. Sometimes in order to understand how to use a gift, we have to read the directions. God’s gift of how we should live our lives comes with directions also-the sacred **Scriptures**. Prayerful reading of the Bible enables us to understand God’s plan and to get to the bottom of things.

3. **Right Judgement**- Right Judgment is the ability to make good decisions. To make God’s choices and seek His advice.



4. **Courage**-The word courage is derived from the latin word cor, “heart”. Courage is the gift that enables us to face danger and overcome fear with confidence. In the Gospels, before performing a cure, Jesus often says, “Take courage... Take heart...be confident...” The gift of courage enables us to see where our real strength lies: **God is our strength**.



5. **Knowledge**- Knowledge is the ability to learn the faith and know the truth. This gift helps us to know the right things. Knowledge helps us know which things are important & which things are not. This gift helps us to know Jesus. A good way to tell if we are really using the gift of knowledge is to examine whether or not the things we know lead us to charity in our actions.



6. **Reverence**- Reverence places us at the foot of the cross, looking up to the face of Jesus. This perspective lets us see our relationship to God: the saved & the Savior. The gift of Reverence enables us to act in the light of this reality & to show our gratitude by our piety & devotion.



7. **Wonder & Awe**- This means that we understand the greatness of God and that He is very near us. Take time to see God’s beauty around you and to see God’s beauty in each person we meet.



Using the information from the previous page, choose one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to complete the sentence.



Name the Gift of the Holy Spirit

1. I pray my Rosary every day. _____
2. I see that my parents love me, even when they discipline me. _____
3. I forgive my friend for hurting my feelings. _____
4. I choose to practice piano before going out to play. _____
5. I won't tell a lie because I know that God hears everything. _____
6. I tell my friends to not make fun of someone. _____
7. I pay attention at Mass. _____
8. I studied hard for religion class and did well on a test. _____
9. I would not steal because I know it is a sin. _____
10. I choose to not stay over at a friend's house because I know I won't be able to go to Sunday Mass. _____
11. I learned about God's laws and the Sacraments. _____
12. I understand that my sister bothers me because she wants to spend time with me or needs my help. _____
13. I feel bad about homeless people. _____
14. I see the greatness of God in everything around me. _____

Virtues

At Baptism, we receive the **THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES**. They come from God and help us to live in a way that is pleasing to God. This gives God great glory and by living these virtues, we begin Heaven here on earth!

The three **Theological Virtues** are:

Faith-to believe in God and all that He has told us.

Hope-to trust in all God has told us, and to want to go to heaven.

Charity-to love God and others, and to serve them in love.

There are also four **CARDINAL VIRTUES**. They are called "**Cardinal**" because they are the chief or head virtues. All other virtues come from these. For example, if we live the virtue of prudence, we will also live the virtue of modesty. The Holy Spirit will help us to live the Cardinal Virtues as well.

These virtues are "**habits of doing good**".

We need lots of practice and prayer to live these virtues. To live a virtue well, we need to also desire the virtue. So, if we make a good decision, but don't really want to do this decision, it is not really virtuous. So, for example, if I decide to say my Rosary everyday, but I don't really want to, there is little virtue in this act. But, it is important to continue the practice, because once it becomes a habit, it will become easier, and soon I will desire to practice this virtue!

The four **Cardinal Virtues** are:

Prudence-to make good decisions.

Temperance-to use the things around us well.

Justice- to give to others what they deserve.

Fortitude-to always do the right thing, even if it's hard.

Ask the **Holy Spirit** to help you to grow in virtue, and to help you with each virtue, especially those you find hard to do.

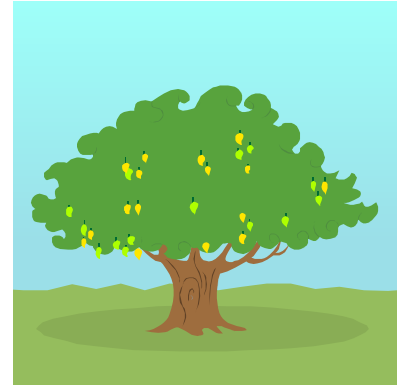
Using the information from the previous page,
please complete these statements with a true or false.

Virtues: True or False

1. Faith is trust in God and all He has told us._____
2. Charity is to love and serve God and others._____
3. Hope is to believe in God._____
4. There are three cardinal virtues._____
5. The Holy Spirit will help you to live the virtues._____
6. It is better to want to do the virtues than to do the virtue because you should._____
7. We receive the cardinal virtues at Baptism._____
8. The Theological virtues come from God._____
9. Prudence is to make good decisions._____
10. Justice is to judge people._____
11. Fortitude is a gift of the Holy Spirit._____
12. Fortitude means to do the right things._____
13. Temperance is to control your temper._____
14. Virtues are habits of doing good._____
15. You should pray to grow in virtue._____
16. Theological and cardinal virtues are the same thing._____
17. Virtues are always easy to do._____
18. Virtues can become easier._____

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

There are **twelve** fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is said that you can tell a tree by its fruits. In the same way, you will be judged by your virtues, actions and words. If you bear these fruits, people will know that you are a temple of the Holy Spirit.



Charity-love of God and neighbor, acts of love.

Patience-to accept God's timing.

Kindness-to be gentle and good to all you meet seeing Christ in them.

Joy-to be filled and express peace and happiness that comes from God.

Peace-an acceptance of God's will in your life.

Goodness-to always do the good and upright thing to be pleasing in God's eyes.

Generosity-to give of yourself as though you were giving to Christ Himself.

Gentleness-to be obedient and submissive to God's will in all things.

Faithfulness-to believe, love and serve God always.

Modesty-to act as God would want you to, in humility.

Self-control-to speak, think and act always in the presence of God.

Chastity-gift of self in a loving and holy way.



THINGS EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW!

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace!
the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed in 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 to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning
is now,
and will be forever. Amen

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
who 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 **into hell**;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of **God** the Father **almighty**;
from there 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, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and
enkindle them the fire of your love. Send forth your
spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the
face of the earth. O God, who does instruct the heart of
the faithful by the light of the Holy spirit, grant us by the
same Holy Spirit, a love and relish of what is right and
just, and a constant enjoyment of his comforts. Through
Christ our Lord. Amen

Come Holy Spirit

V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
R. And you will renew the face of the earth.

LET US PRAY

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy 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

Act of Contrition

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 lead me to sin
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God have mercy.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all **things visible and invisible**.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only **Begotten** Son of God,
born of the Father **before all ages**.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, **consubstantial** with the Father;
through him all things were made. For us men and for
our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit **was incarnate** of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in **accordance with** the Scriptures.
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
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
And I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen

THINGS EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW!

The Ten Commandment

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

DUTIES OF A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN

1. To keep holy the day of the Lord's resurrection (Sunday). To worship God by participating in Mass for every Sunday and holy day of obligation. To avoid those activities (like needless work) that would hinder worship, joy, or relaxation.
2. To lead a sacramental life. To receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
3. To study Catholic teachings in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed and then to continue to study and advance the cause of Christ.
4. To observe the marriage laws of the Church. To give religious training by word and example to one's children. To use parish schools and Catechetical programs.
5. To strengthen and support the Church – one's own parish community and parish priests, the worldwide Church, and the pope.
6. To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.

Days of Fast (for adults)

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

Days of Abstinence (for those over age 14)

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent

Holy Days of Obligation in the U.S.

Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary: Mother of God
We honor Mary, Mother of God

Ascension: 40th day after Easter
Jesus ascends into heaven

Aug. 15 Assumption
Mary was taken to heaven, body and soul.

Nov. 1 All Saints' Day
We honor all the saints in heaven

Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception
Mary was sin free from the first moment of her life/

Dec. 25 Christmas
We celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Seven Sacraments

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
Reconciliation (Penance), Anointing of the Sick,
Matrimony, Holy Orders

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Visit the sick
Shelter the homeless
Visit the imprisoned
Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Warn the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowing
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living and the dead

The Theological Virtues

Faith, Hope, Love (charity)

The Cardinal Virtues

Prudence, Temperance, Justice, Fortitude

THINGS EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW!

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for there is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Way of the Cross

- I. Jesus is condemned to death on the cross.
- II. Jesus accepts his cross.
- III. Jesus falls the first time.
- IV. Jesus meets his sorrowful mother.
- V. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross.
- VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
- VII. Jesus falls the second time.
- VIII. Jesus meets and speaks to the women of Jerusalem.
- IX. Jesus falls the third time.
- X. Jesus is stripped of his garments.
- XI. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
- XII. Jesus dies on the cross.
- XIII. Jesus is taken down from the cross and laid in his mother's arms.
- XIV. Jesus is placed in the tomb.
- XV. Jesus rises from the dead.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment (counsel),
Courage (fortitude), Knowledge, Reverence (piety),
Wonder and Awe (fear of the Lord).

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Charity	Benignity	Faith
Joy	Goodness	Modesty
Peace	Longanimity	Continency
Patience	Mildness	Chastity

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Nativity
The Presentation of the Temple
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging at the Pillar
The Crowning of the Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection
The Ascension
The Descent of the Holy Spirit
The Assumption of Mary
The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
The Wedding Feast at Cana
The Annunciation of the Kingdom
The Transfiguration
The Institution of the Eucharist

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his holy name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true god and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in the angels and in his saints.

Knowledge Checklist for Candidates

Name: _____ has prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation by viewing the basic elements of faith and Christian living and by studying the sacrament self. Please review each prayer with the student and sign the bottom.

Basic Prayers

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Apostles Creed
- Act of Contrition



Principles of Christian Living

- The Ten Commandments
- The Beatitudes
- Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Corporal Works of Mercy

The Holy Spirit and Confirmation

- Pentecost
- Effects of Confirmation
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Rite of Confirmation

Other

- Holy Day of Obligation
- Seven Sacraments

Signature of Parent _____

Requesting the Sacrament



Letter to the Bishop

The art of communication and letter writing seems to be going the way of the dinosaur with the innovation and widespread use of computers, e-mail and voice mail. Is there anyone who doesn't like receiving letters or cards in the mail? In days gone by, putting one's request in writing and signing one's name "**confirmed**" one's agreement and made it legal and binding.

And so, as part of your Confirmation formation, you are requested to write a letter to the Bishop asking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This action signifies your active participation, maturity, knowledge, and desire to receive the sacrament.

In writing, you should include the following:

1. Greet Bishop, Dear Excellency.
2. Introduce yourself and give a brief description of yourself.
3. State your reason for the letter, your desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Explain and include all the preparation and study you have completed in making yourself ready for the reception of this sacrament.
4. Close the letter, informing the Bishop how you plan to remain connected to your faith and the Church in the future.
5. Conclude your letter with your complete signature.

St. Denis

Religious Education

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION

(Please print clearly)

Candidate:

(First) (Last)

Has chosen the name _____ for
Confirmation and requests that this be entered in the permanent records of
this sacrament.

Signature of Parent

Date_____

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: CONFIRMATION



*"...Confirmed by the gift of the Spirit, that they give witness to Christ
by lives built on faith and love..."* from the Rite of Confirmation

Community Service-Ten (10) hours to be completed by February 2.

"Make Me An Instrument Of Your Love, It Is In Giving, That We Receive".

This line calls to mind the first lessons Christ modeled for us. **He** came to earth to serve. We serve God by serving our fellow humans. In preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation, you are requested to give **ten (10) hours** of Christian service.

We, Catholics are called to live our lives as followers of Jesus and members of the Church. This way of life includes what we call the **"Works of Mercy"**. Mercy means showing love and compassion to those who are suffering. Whenever we carry out a work of mercy, we are actually doing Christ's work in the world. Mercy is having a heart for another's misery. "Mercy is love. stooping down to lift up". We **must** lend a helping hand.

The mercy God gives us, will be in proportion to the mercy we give to others.

As Catholics, we have a **special** obligation to be attentive to the needs of the poor. The most powerful act is the gift of kindness that a person gives another. With every such act, grace gets **"passed around"**, and God's life breaks a little more fully into our world.

If life has been good to you, perhaps you have never experienced real injustice. Maybe you have never gone to bed hungry, have always been able to get warm when you were cold and have always had a nice home to return to each day. If so, you are one of the lucky ones. Many of our sisters and brothers have not been so lucky. They go to bed hungry; they wonder the streets; they feel overlooked and forgotten.

Justice is emphasized throughout the bible.

Working for justice and being people of justice are not simply choices of the Catholic moral life, they are **absolute requirements**. Justice is the virtue that makes sure we respect the dignity of all human beings and honor their rights. The virtue of justice demands that we seek the common good for all people. This means we are called to share with others. Justice is people watching out and caring for one another.

God created human beings to live together in justice and love. We are to share the goods of the earth, not hoard them. We are to care for our brothers and sisters.

Using Our Gifts

A **charism** is a spiritual gift given by the Holy Spirit for the **good** of the Body of Christ. Charisms are given to **all** members of the church. At Confirmation you are given 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Knowledge, Courage, Reverence, Wonder & Awe). Every gift that is given is accompanied by an expectation that it will be **used**. God expects us to honor the gifts He gives us by using them for the good of the community.

The best way to develop our unique gifts or charisms is to seek opportunities to serve within the Body of Christ. By participating in a variety of different activities, we can get a better idea of where our talents can be used.

We will discover those gifts by developing in our hearts, a **willingness to serve**.

As part of your preparation for **Confirmation**, you are required to participate in a Christian service project. This is not a **"payment"** you make in order to be Confirmed; participation in Christian service is a way to practice using your skills and talents to help others. Because an adult Catholic means loving and serving others **throughout** your life, it is a good idea to begin now.

It is important that your choice of Christian service project be specific and practical that you can do for others; that it involves using your skills and talents to meet a **real need** in your parish or neighborhood; and that it is something you give time and effort to **outside your everyday responsibilities**. You can work alone or in a group.

Here are some points to think about:

- Think about people's needs, problem and fears and concerns. Ask yourself what you can do to help. Who needs time, effort, service, and love from you? What do you have to share?
- Make specific plans ahead of time. If you will be working within an established program (like a soup kitchen or a convalescent home), get the necessary permissions and make arrangements with a supervisor.
- Carry out your project on a regular basis, within an agreed-upon time frame.
- Throughout your project, take time to **think** and **pray** about your actions. You may want to keep a journal of your experiences. Each day put the success of your project in God's hands and ask the Holy Spirit in overcoming your fears and concerns and to give you courage to carry out this "work of mercy".
- You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the **mind** and **heart** of **Christ**, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community.
- When your project is completed, look back over your experience. Investigate other ways you can **continue** to be of service, to your parish and your community.
- **Community service hours should differ from your family responsibilities.**
- All hours should be directed toward parish, community, neighbors and school, missions etc.
- You cannot receive monetary (money) compensation for your service.
- Think about visiting a sick person or nursing home. Volunteer in a hospital.
- Organize a food drive, clothing drive etc.
- Gather a group of friends and raise money for world mission or any other charitable organization.
- Offer to do yard work, raking leaves, snow shoveling, etc. for an elderly neighbor.
- Join in on "Town Clean-up day". Check with your local Town Hall.
- Serve meals at a local homeless shelter.
- Volunteer as a junior Firefighter at your local Firehouse.
- **The opportunities are endless.** Remember to have the heart and mind of Christ and be willing to serve.

Perhaps you have realized by now that **you are quite a remarkable person**. You have the potential for **great** power within you, just by the way you live your everyday life. Everyday behavior has power to change lives. We can change lives through our kindness and our thoughtfulness, our compassion and friendliness, our joy, and our love. Anyone who can help others this way is pretty powerful. AND YOU CAN DO THIS!

**Your mission as a Catholic Christian does not end with Confirmation.
Your life as a Saint is just beginning!**



Here is a list of opportunities or ideas for community service @ St. Denis:

St. Denis Hearts & Hands Outreach Ministry

Participate in various outreach programs here at St. Denis. Outreach may include yard work, grocery delivery to elderly, snow shoveling, etc. An adult must accompany.

Contact: Diane O'Connor 223-2931

Add: R.E. helpers in August

Operation Christmas Child

Help pack shoeboxes that will be sent overseas to needy children for Christmas.

Contact: Rectory 227-8382 (contact in early October)

Mardi Gras

Help decorate, set-up, clean-up the St. Denis Parish Hall for this fundraiser in Feb/March.

Contact: Rectory 227-8382

Vacation Bible School

Assist younger students at the St. Denis vacation Bible School for 1 week in July.

Contact: Jeannie Goebelbecker 223-5898 (Contact by June)

The Comfort Corner

Help hand sew chair cushion for the elderly in the hospital. No sewing experience necessary. Easy to make. Meets every Thursday at the St. Denis Rectory Meeting Room from 10am-12noon.

The St. Denis Silver Tea Craft Fair

Help decorate, serve food, sell raffle tickets for this Religious Education fundraiser in December.

Student must be able to volunteer for the full day. Students are needed Friday 5-8pm and/or

Saturday from 8:00am-6pm. Limited to 10 students only. Adults welcomed to volunteer as well.

Contact: Religious Education Office to sign up 227-3949 x 73

St. Denis Religious Education

Help assist teachers in the classroom or in the office doing various jobs, such as stuffing envelopes, filing, help with set-ups. Student must be able to commit for the whole year. Choose any day

Monday-Thursday (4:30-6:00 pm) & Saturday (9am-10:30).

Contact: Religious Education Office 227-3949 x 73.

St. Denis Second Grade Penance Breakfast

Help set-up and clean up for the Penance breakfast on Saturday in February (dates will be provided) from 8 am-12 noon. . Must be able to volunteer the full 4 hours. Limited to 8 students.

Also, help is needed to set-up Thursday evening before the event. Adults are welcomed as well.

Contact: Religious Education Office 227-3949 x 73.

St. Denis Second Grade Retreat

Help the second grade students during their retreat in March 8am-12 noon. Students must be able to volunteer the full 4 hours. Limited to 8 students. Adults are welcomed to volunteer also.

Contact: Religious Education Office 227-3949 x 73.

St. Denis Blood Drive

Four Blood Drives are planned throughout the year. Sept (Tuesday evening), Dec(Sunday),

Feb(Tuesday evening), June(Sunday). Help with sign-up Sundays after Mass and also the day of the blood drive with serving food, escorting, baby-sitting, etc. for 4 hours or the full 8 hours.

Limited to 6 students.

Contact: Rectory 227-8382 x 10.

Ugly Quilts

Make quilts for the homeless. Sponsored by My Brother's Keeper. Check it out on Youtube!
Contact: Josephine Sardo for more details. 592-0299

Right To Life Walk

Make a stand and be a voice against abortion. Every year in January, St. Denis gathers together, along with other churches on Rt. 9 in Poughkeepsie protest abortion. Adult must accompany student.

Contact: Check bulletin for details

St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank

Help to organize a food drive or personal items drive at your school or neighborhood for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. Denis.

Contact: Religious Education Office 227-3949 x 73

St. Denis Ark & Dove Pre-School

Help set-up classrooms in August or do other odd jobs.

Contact: Mrs. Sarah Smith (Director) 227-5232 (Leave message)

The Cooking Club-help cook for the homeless shelter at the St Denis Parish Hall kitchen. Held on the fourth Monday of the month from 6-9pm. Call Mark Horan 226-5053

St. Denis Religious Education-Help set-up classrooms in August. M-Th. 227-3949 x73

Here is a list of few suggestions for community service.

You are not limited to this list. Be creative and look for areas in your community where you can serve.

Supplies for Military

The Telefax store in Hopewell Jct., has been sending much needed personal supplies to our Armed Forces in Iraq. Gather some friends and collect items from school or neighborhood. A list can be provided.

Contact: Telefax Store 221-0308

Senior Center

The senior center at various locations (Beekman, Hopewell etc) are in need of assistance, especially during the summer months. Help seniors with craft project, or set up for activity of the day.

Contact: Mrs. Deppen 724-3551.

Make A Wish Foundation

Help fundraise for this organization that helps children who face life-threatening illness to have a dream come true. Fund-raising ideas include, "Kiss a Pig" contest; "Hat Day"; and many more.

Contact: Make A Wish Foundation 914 478-9474 or call Religious Ed. Office for more information.



Confirmation Candidate Service Project Form



Name: _____

You need to complete 10 hours of
community service.

It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain all signatures for community
service worked.

PROJECTS	DATES	HOURS	SIGNATURES

We will not accept this form without **all** signatures.

Scripture Reflection



Name: _____

Answer the following questions on loose-leaf paper and submit with this form.

1. Give a description of your service project(s).
2. Why did you choose to do this type of service?
3. Did you enjoy this service? Do you think you shared your own talents and gifts?
4. How did the recipients of your service react to you?
5. Choose **TWO** of the following scripture passages. First, briefly explain what the passage means to you, and then show how your experience reflects the message from the passage.
Luke 21:1-4 **Acts 2:43-47** **Romans 12:9-13**
6. How do you plan to continue to serve as a witness to your family, your parish and your community?

