



Saint Jude Church
Religious Education Office
707 Monroe Turnpike
Monroe, CT 06468
203-261-6788
religious.education@stjuderc.com

Dear Parents of Confirmation Candidates,

What an exciting year this will be for you and your family! In a few short months, your child/children will receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Please carefully review these instructions before completing the forms and cover of the Confirmation packet:

- ◆ Read and review this information and the entire Confirmation packet before proceeding.
- ◆ **It is most important to request the sponsor's Letter or Certificate of Eligibility right away.** The chosen sponsor should request this of his or her own pastor. Without this letter or certificate, the chosen sponsor can not serve as the candidate's sponsor. By beginning this process now, if, for any reason a chosen sponsor is not permitted to serve as a sponsor, there is sufficient time to choose a new sponsor and obtain the required letter/certificate. Please see page 5 for more information.
- ◆ Please provide a copy of the original Baptismal certificate. If you cannot locate the original or a copy of the Baptismal certificate, a new copy must be obtained by calling the office of of the Parish where the sacrament of Baptism was administered. ****Candidates baptized at Saint Jude:** These candidates do not need to include the Baptismal certificate in the packet. The Religious Education Office staff will verify this information.
- ◆ Please write on the packet cover your child's Baptismal name (no nicknames) and the complete name of the Saint that your child has selected. For example: If your child has selected St. Francis, please indicate St. Francis of Assisi or St. Francis de Sales.
- ◆ **Do not submit the Confirmation packet to the Religious Education Office unless all the forms/letters/documents requested are completed and enclosed in the packet.** Incomplete packets will be returned to the candidate and eligibility to receive the sacrament in May could become jeopardized. Completed Confirmation packets will gladly be accepted prior to January 31st.

Thank you for assisting and supporting your child. Thank you also for your careful attention to these directives.

Sincerely,

Deacon John Tuccio
Director of Religious Education



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***ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE INCLUDED WHEN
SUBMITTING THIS PACKET:**

Check off when completed

- Confirmation Information Form
- Baptismal certificate if baptized outside of St. Jude Parish
- Candidate's Height: ___ ft ___ in. Weight: _____ lbs
- Choice of Mass - AM or PM (circle one)
- Saint Report
- Scripture Reflection
- Service Hours Form
- Sponsor Form



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Confirmation Information Form
Confirmation Date To Be Determined
(This Packet is due in its entirety on **January 31, 2020)**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Candidate's Name: _____
As you would like it to appear on Sacrament Certificate

I am choosing _____ as my Confirmation Saint.

Date of Baptism: ____/____/____
Month/ Day / Year

Church of Baptism: _____
Name of Church Address City State/Zip Code

Mother's Full Name (*include maiden name*): _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State/Zip Code

Parent or Guardian Cell Phone Number (for Emergencies): _____

Sponsor's Name: _____ Is Sponsor 16 yrs. of age or older? _____



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CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Important Dates*

Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm

First Confirmation Class

Friday, January 31, 2020 - Confirmation Packet Due

Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 4:00pm to 9:30pm

Confirmation Retreat in St. Jude Parish Social Hall

Mass at 4, pizza at 5, retreat from 6:30 – 9:30

Saturday, TBD, 2020 at 10:30am OR 1:30pm

Confirmation Day

**A full schedule is provided in this packet*

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament of our initiation which began in Baptism and continues in the Eucharist. As the candidates come forward to be confirmed, they profess their faith in the Catholic Church. The candidate personally takes on the responsibility for continuing their own religious journey by regularly participating in Sunday Mass, by continuing their spiritual formation within the Church community, by serving others' needs, and by spreading and defending the faith in word and deed.

The period of Confirmation preparation builds on the candidate's faith foundation, encourages community building, and helps the candidate to make good life decisions.

Expectations of Confirmation Candidates

- ◆ Must have been **baptized** in Roman Catholic faith
- ◆ **Attend Mass** on Sundays and Holy Days in accordance with our Catholic tradition
- ◆ Regularly participate in the **Sacrament of Eucharist and Reconciliation**
- ◆ Achieve a deeper **knowledge of what Catholics believe** by studying the information provided and participating in group discussions and activities
- ◆ Complete all areas of the preparation process as outlined in the Confirmation packet
- ◆ **Make a mature decision** to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

We recommend all candidates read *8 Ways to Make Your Confirmation Life-Changing* which is provided in this packet.



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Sponsors

The sponsor's role is to help the candidate fulfill the baptismal promises made at the time of Baptism. He or she has the responsibility to set a good, Catholic example. The sponsor is expected to be present in the candidate's life. One of the primary roles of the sponsor is to answer questions that the candidate might have and to help the candidate explore our Catholic faith through the sponsor's own faith experiences.

Criteria for Sponsors

1. A person who is an active, practicing Roman Catholic adult who is at least 16 years old
2. Sponsors must be fully initiated Catholics, that is they must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.
3. Parents cannot be a sponsor to their child
4. A person who already has a trusting relationship with the candidate, i.e. an older friend or relative in whom the candidate can confide
5. A person who is willing to attend a candidate/sponsor retreat, and if possible, the Rite of Enrollment Mass
6. A person who is willing to meet with the candidate on a regular basis prior to the celebration of Confirmation and to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration of Confirmation
7. A sponsor is an assistant to the parents, the prime transmitters of the faith, and may not be the father or mother of the candidate (Code of Canon Law 874,1)
8. **The sponsor must complete a sponsor form or submit a Letter or Certificate of Eligibility stamped and signed by the pastor of the parish where the sponsor is registered. Sponsors who are members of Saint Jude Parish must also submit a form. The form is provided in this packet on page 12.**



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Choosing a Confirmation Saint Name

As a candidate for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, you have two options concerning the choice of a Confirmation name.

If the celebration of Confirmation symbolizes a new beginning in your faith life, you may select a name that honors Jesus or Mary or one of the recognized saints of the Church as a way of expressing the “new” journey you’re on. Begin the process of choosing a name by researching the lives of saints; when you find a saint whose way of life you would like to emulate, select that saint’s name as your Confirmation name. The particular saint’s name chosen should represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking, or should represent strength or attribute you feel you need.

This option of taking a new name is not to be used because you like the sound of the name, how it fits with your other names, or because it is the name of a relative or friend.

If your baptismal name (your first name) is that of a recognized saint of the Church, you may choose to stay with that name. Using the same name highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and suggests that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith.

Either option is perfectly acceptable and both options require a Saint Report to be written. If you take a new name, report on that particular saint, if you keep your Baptismal name, report on the saint you were named after.

Saint Report

Candidates are required to complete a one page paper on the saint whose name they have chosen.

Requirements for Saint Report:

Cover of Report: Includes name of Saint researched and candidate’s name

Due: January 31, 2020 (to be returned with the Confirmation packet materials)

Information about Saint should include:

- ◆ Life and/or death of Saint
- ◆ Virtues practiced by Saint
- ◆ Candidate’s reason for choosing this Saint
- ◆ What inspires you about this Saint’s life?
- ◆ What connections do you have with this Saint?



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Scripture Reflection

Select a scripture verse and explain how it is meaningful to you. Include the verse and location in the Bible (ex. Luke 10:27) with your explanation. This should be written or typed on its own sheet of paper.

Service Project

Jesus said, "Here I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27)

Each candidate must complete a minimum of 10 service hours. The intent of service hours as a requirement for Confirmation is to help the students realize not only the great need of so many that are less fortunate than we are, but also to realize the tremendous sense of purpose and accomplishment we feel by being the "hands of Christ." Therefore it is really important to seek out real need - not just what is simply easy or accessible; to other words, go beyond your family needs. Service hours in which the student receives monetary compensation or school extra credit do not count as "community service".

Service Project Suggestions

Before making a commitment to a service project, think about the variety of ways in which you can use your talents and abilities to help others. These suggestions are only some of the ways other candidates have chosen to serve. Perhaps something on this list will help you decide the service you would like to perform. The list may give you some other ideas of what you would like to do. Perhaps you, alone, or with a group of friends, have your own special service in mind.



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Service Hour Ideas include but are not limited to:

Help prepare for a children's liturgy	Write cards or letters to hospitalized children, teens, or veterans	Write letters to government officials about justice issues
Help in the Religious Education program	Collect food for the poor	Work in a special education program
Visit the elderly at home or in a nursing home	Prepare a meal or dessert for a family whose parent or child died	Help with a fundraising project for a charitable organization
Assist senior citizens (non-relatives) with their chores	Collect toys for poor children	Collect, clean, and repair clothing for the poor
Organize or help with a recycling project	Read to the blind	Earn money for the missions by washing cars, babysitting, etc.
Initiate a "clean-up" campaign in the parish, school, or local park	Make audiotapes for the blind or elderly	Bake for a cake sale
Help a needy family	Make gifts or favors for hospitals or nursing homes	Join a service group
Volunteer to work in a hospital	Prepare entertainment or holiday parties for nursing homes or child care centers	
Tutor after school	Collect and deliver magazines to emergency waiting rooms, hospital waiting rooms, clinics, and dialysis centers	
Shop for an elderly neighbor		
Do approved yard work at the school or parish		

Please Note: If you have any questions regarding the acceptability of an activity as "community service," please contact the Religious Education Office. **One Service Hours Form is provided in this packet. If additional forms are required, they are available on the Religious Education website. We also accept completed forms from the organization that you provided the service for.**

Please try to complete 5 service hours before January 31st and submit that form or forms with your packet. We will accept additional Service Hours Forms after the January 31st packet deadline.



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St Jude Religious Education Service Hours Form

Confirmation Candidate Name: _____

Organization: _____

Description of service:

Most rewarding part of service:

Dates and Times of Service: _____

Total Hours: _____

Supervisor Name & Title: _____

Supervisor Phone Number: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____



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Confirmation Retreat Day - For candidates and parent
(Mandatory - Saturday, February 8, 2020)

The Confirmation Retreat will be held in the parish Social Hall from 4:00pm to 9:30pm.

The schedule is as follows:

Mass – 4:00 to 5:00

Pizza – 5 – 6:30

Retreat 6:30 – 9:30

Additional Required Activities

Each candidate must receive Reconciliation during Lent. We will schedule a time for Reconciliation for the Confirmation candidates. They will need to return a slip to the Religious Education Office signed by the Priest once they fulfill this requirement. The slips will be provided to each candidate in one of their classes.

Candidates decorate an Easter Bag and fill with candy for the children of Merton House. This activity will be held during Lent as a form of almsgiving.



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Confirmation Schedule 2019-2020

July		Begin work on Service Projects and Saint and Scripture Report	
Oct	6	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Oct	20	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Nov	10	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Dec	8	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Jan	12	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Jan	26	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Lent	Feb 29 – Apr 9		Reconciliation on your own
Feb	8	Saturday	Confirmation Retreat 4 PM Mass – 5 PM Pizza – 6:30 – 9:30 Retreat
Feb	23	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Mar.	8	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
Mar	22	Sunday	4:00– 5:00
TBD		Sunday	4:00– 5:00 Confirmation practice for 10 AM Confirmation Mass student + sponsor/parent must attend
TBD		Sunday	5:00– 6:00 Confirmation practice for 1:30 PM Confirmation Mass student + sponsor/parent must attend
April	9	Thursday	7:00 – 9:00 Holy Thursday Mass - Please attend as a family
TBD		Saturday	10am and 1:30 pm CONFIRMATION

******This schedule is subject to change******



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Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

I, _____, am a registered member of

Name of Sponsor

_____ and have been asked to act as

Sponsor Parish

A sponsor for _____ as he/she

Name of person receiving Sacrament of Confirmation

**Celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation at
 Saint Jude Parish, Monroe, CT**

In accepting this responsibility, I solemnly swear that the statements are true, so help me God!

- I am at least 16 years of age (unless dispensed by the pastor).
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- If married, I was married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- I attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and receive the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance regularly.
- I am not a parent of the Confirmation candidate.

I understand and accept the responsibility that I undertake as a Sponsor and I promise to be a support and example that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and I am prepared to assist the Candidate by my support, encouragement, and prayer.

 Sponsor's Signature

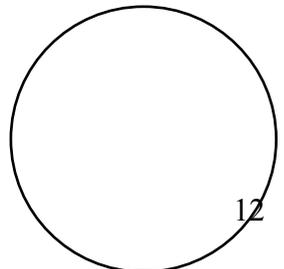
SECTION BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSOR'S CURRENT PARISH

Sponsor's Parish _____

City _____ State _____

Sponsor's Parish Priest Signature _____

Date _____





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8 Ways to Make Your Confirmation Life-Changing

Parish Seal Required

1. Pray Daily to the Holy Spirit

Most likely, you address most of your prayers to God or Jesus. During this time of preparing for you Confirmation begin incorporating the Holy Spirit into your day. It can be as simple as waking up in the morning and saying, “Come, Holy Spirit.” Or, you can find a prayer like this one to recite daily:

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 will renew the face of the earth. 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 rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Choose Your Sponsor Wisely

It can be tempting to choose someone “cool” to be your sponsor, but in this situation look for someone who is more than just fun to hang out with. Choose a person that you see living out his or her faith and going to Mass regularly. Make sure it is someone you would be comfortable asking questions about the faith to or getting advice from about life situations.

3. Find a Saint You Connect With

Again, don’t just go with the popular Saints that everyone else is choosing or a Saint with a really cool sounding name. Take time to pary about this (“Lord, lead me to a Saint.”) and study some of the lives of the Saints. Find one who has a story you can relate to.

4. Make Your Service Hours Meaningful

Most of the time, service is part of the requirement to make your Confirmation, but even if it is not required by your Parish, find time to do something on your own. Don’t just hurry through this commitment or find easy ways to earn hours. Invest time in a service project that will help you grow in the Lord.

5. Read the Bible

Scripture is a great source of motivation. There are many passages that will inspire you on your journey. Find a passage or two that will help you. A good place to start is with the Sunday readings.

6. Go to Confession During Advent and Lent

You should go to Confession during Advent and Lent. Confession puts you into a state of grace and allows you to receive the fullness of the gifts of Confirmation.



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7. Be Aware of All that is Going to Happen

You'll probably go over the logistics a few times in your classes, but take a few minutes on your own to really envision what is going to be taking place.

The Bishop will pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over you. This happens when the Bishop extends his hands over you. He's asking the Holy Spirit to give you the very same gifts that were given to Mary, the Apostles, and all the Saints that have gone before you. Try to imagine what it looks like to have the Holy Spirit come down upon you.

You will be anointed with oil. Read what the Catechism has to say about this. "...oil is a sign of abundance and joy; it cleanses (anointing before and after a bath) and limbers (the anointing of athletes and wrestlers); oil is a sign of healing, since it is soothing to bruises and wounds; and it makes radiant with beauty, health, and strength." Think about all that this oil signifies: You are given joy, cleansed of your sin, strengthened, healed from past wounds and hurts, and you are made beautiful in Christ. Let the power of that sink in.

You are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. This should bring you great comfort and a sense of protection. To be sealed means to be "secured, locked, bolted." You are locked into the Holy Spirit. That means that once you are confirmed, you are forever secure in the Holy Spirit.

You will give and receive the Sign of Peace. This aspect of the Sacrament helps us remember the importance of our community. Together the Church is the Body of Christ. You are part of that. We encourage, support, and uplift one another in our journey to Heaven.

8. Let this be the Beginning of *Your* Faith Journey

Confirmation is the beginning of *your* faith journey. It is time for you to step-up and take ownership of your spiritual life. Your parents, sponsor, and other spiritual leaders will be able to guide you, but you should be the one that takes the initiative to grow in faith. Pray daily, attend Mass, read spiritual books, and make choices that reflect your Christian values. Finding a youth group to attend can really help you learn how to live out your faith. It may sound difficult, but remember when you are confirmed, you are given all the tools and gifts necessary to live the Christian life.

If you are willing to open your heart to receive all that God wants for you in this Sacrament, your life will be filled with the joy of the Lord. The Catechism is very clear on the effects that Confirmation will have on you,

"It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross: Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts." (CCC 1303)