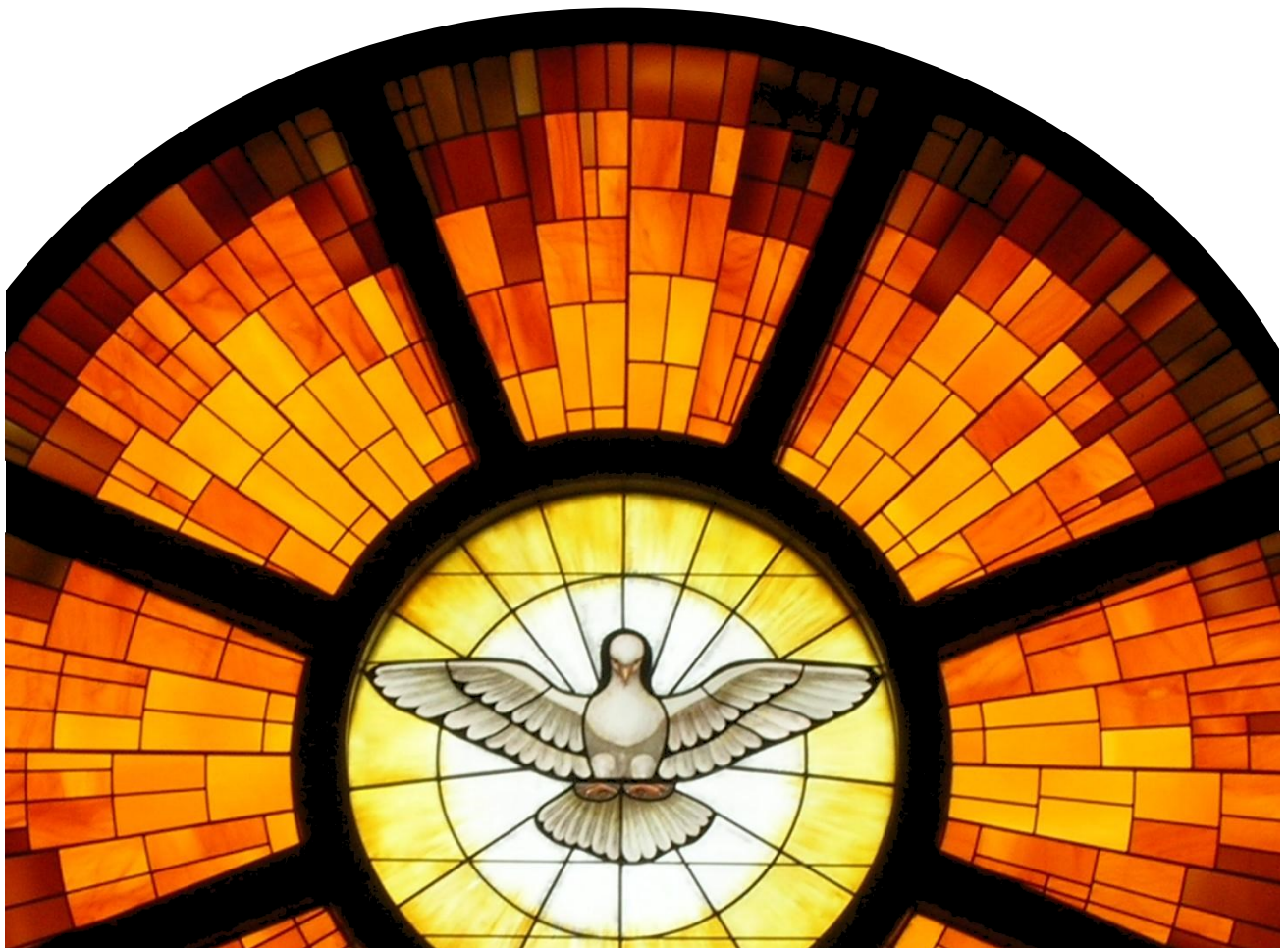


All Saints Confirmation Program

2017 - 2018

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8



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Overview Of Confirmation

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament instituted by Christ in promising to send the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-21) and attested to in the early Church (Acts 8:19), in which the Bishop or priest appointed by him invokes the gift of the Holy Spirit upon a baptized person and anoints them with holy chrism; the effect of which is the increase and strengthening of the grace the person received at their baptism.

What are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- It roots us more deeply in our identity as true sons and daughters of God our Father.
- It unites us more firmly to Christ
- It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, courage, right judgment, piety, & wonder and awe of the Lord) in our hearts.
- It binds us more perfectly to the Church which is Christ's Body.
- It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith in word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303

Why do we prepare for Confirmation like this?

“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit—his actions, his gifts, and his biddings—in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1309

All the elements of our confirmation program are intended to be means through which our students are led “toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit” so that they may be “more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.”

Service projects, retreats, prayer & devotional practices, attending Mass every week; all of these things are asked of our students with the above goal in mind, because it is through these channels that we grow closer to God who transforms us into saints!

Overview of Program Requirements ⁵

What must be turned in right away?

- Confirmation Information Form - *Due Nov. 16*
- Copy of Student's Baptismal Certificate - *Due Nov. 16*
- Confirmation Sponsor Oath of Qualification - *Due Nov. 16*
- Confirmation Program & Materials Fee (RE-paid at registration/ School-\$50) - *Due Nov. 16*

What events and programs must I attend?

- Class Participation & Attendance - *ongoing*
- Confirmation Kick Off - September 30, 9am to 6pm at Group Dynamix
- Saint Project Presentation - *November 5, 9:30am to 11:30am, Church Gymnasium*
- Confirmation Re-Orientation - *Jan. 16, 6:30pm Fell. Hall OR Jan. 17, 6:30pm School Café*
- Retreat (\$175) - *Fri. Feb. 9 through Sun. Feb. 11, or a retreat through another parish*
- Discernment Interview - *Schedule for February 13 or 15 through Matt*
- Confirmation Practice - *Thursday, March 1 at 6:30pm Church (youth and sponsors)*
- Confirmation Mass - *Saturday, March 3 at 1:00pm (arrive by 12:00pm)*

What projects and activities must I work on throughout the year?

- Saint Project (Due Sunday, November 5)
- Spiritual Practices & Devotions (ongoing with a reflection due at your discernment interview)
- Service - Ministry & Mission (ongoing with reflections due at your discernment interview)
- Weekly Mass Attendance (ongoing with record due at your discernment interview)
- Reconciliation (ongoing, necessary prior to receiving Confirmation)

What must be turned in at my discernment interview?

- Letter To The Bishop requesting to receive Confirmation
- Completed *Confirmation Record Booklet*

Expectations of Youth

Part of the purpose of Confirmation preparation is to prepare youth to “be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1309) Therefore, the youth participating in this program should strive to fulfill certain expectations asked of them to better enable them to assume the responsibilities associated with living out their faith.

Youth are expected to...

- **SEEK TO BE CONFIRMED BY YOUR OWN DECISION AND FOR THE RIGHT REASONS**
- **PRAY DAILY.** Without seeking to be close to God in prayer, much of the other things expected of our youth will make little difference in the end. Pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, and fear of the Lord) to help you as you prepare for Confirmation and live out your life as a Catholic Christian.
- **ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAY.** The Eucharist is the center of our lives as Catholic Christians because that is where we encounter Jesus in a way that is unlike any other. It is critical that we attend Mass on Sundays to worship God and honor his commandment to “keep holy the Sabbath.”
- **ATTEND CLASS ON A REGULAR BASIS,** either through the Religious Education program on Sunday afternoons, religion classes at All Saints School, or through a home study program. You are expected to attend at least 75% of your classes.
- **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETING ALL EXPECTATIONS OUTLINED IN THIS BOOKLET.** It is your responsibility to find a sponsor, complete and present your saint project, keep track of your attendance at Mass, seek out and participate in the Works of Mercy (service), write your letter to the bishop, regularly participate in Catholic spiritual practices and devotions, complete your *Confirmation Record Booklet*, and schedule your discernment interview.
- **ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MEETINGS.** These are the meetings where necessary information will be discussed and questions answered regarding the Confirmation program and key theological concepts associated with the sacrament. It is imperative that you attend these meetings.
- **ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT.** A retreat can be a life changing experience and all youth are expected to attend a Confirmation-specific retreat prior to being Confirmed. If you will not be able to attend the All Saints retreat, it is your responsibility to inquire at other local Catholic churches to find another retreat that you can attend.
- **GO TO CONFESSION BEFORE CONFIRMATION.**
- **ATTEND CONFIRMATION PRACTICE** with your sponsor in order to properly prepare for the Confirmation ceremony the following day.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE OR UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS MAY RESULT IN CONFIRMATION BEING DELAYED UNTIL A LATER TIME.

Expectations of Parents

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As parents, it is a great honor, privilege and responsibility to be entrusted by God with the souls of your children. Our Church teaches that the education of children in the faith by parents “happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel” and that “family catechism precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith” (Catechism #2226).

To this end therefore, we encourage all parents to view this time of Confirmation preparation as an opportunity to develop and strengthen their role as the primary educators and spiritual leaders of their children. Thus, we ask and encourage you as parents to commit yourselves to the following expectations for the benefit and support of your own spiritual life as well as that of your child(ren).

Parents are expected to...

- **PRAY DAILY.** Without seeking to be close to God in prayer, much of the things we may do as parents will make little difference in the end. Pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, and fear of the Lord) to help you aid your child in their faith journey as they seek to grow closer to the Lord.
- **ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAY.** Worshiping the Lord together is so important to the life of a family. The family is the “domestic church” and a “center of living and vibrant faith” (Catechism #1656). Please attend Mass on Sundays to pray for your family, yourselves as parents, and your children.
- **ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MEETINGS** In order to help your child(ren) through this preparation process, it is important that you are well informed about the program and the theology of Confirmation. It is imperative that you attend these meetings with your child(ren). Please let Matt know if there are unavoidable conflicts.
- **TRY TO ATTEND AN ADULT FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITY OR EVENT** at some point during the year. Our parish will offer various events for adults throughout the year but there are also many other sessions hosted by other parishes in our community that would be excellent as well! Please strive to attend at least one, either together as a family or just for yourself.
- **HELP YOUR CHILD(REN) ON THIS JOURNEY.** Most of the requirements of this Confirmation program can be fulfilled by the youth if they take the responsibility and initiative. But sometimes they may need a reminder, some help, or guidance. Help them to remember to pray by praying with them. Help them to serve by serving with them. Help them to get to Mass by going with them.

Initial Registration Materials

These items are due no later than November 16, 2016

Confirmation Information Form (online only)

This form contains all necessary initial information we need to ensure that your sacrament is recorded properly. It should be completed online at:

<http://www.asymdallas.org/information-form>

Copy of Candidate's Baptismal Certificate

This will be necessary for us to properly record your sacrament information here at the church and ensure that your church of baptism is notified of your reception of Confirmation here at All Saints.

Confirmation Sponsor Oath of Qualification

To be a sponsor for Confirmation, one must meet certain requirements outlined in the Code of Canon Law. To ensure that all people selected to be sponsors fulfill these requirements, we ask that they affirm that they fulfill these qualifications by signing this document. More information about these qualifications and requirements can be found on page 10.

Download a copy at <http://www.asymdallas.org/sponsoroath>

Confirmation Program Fee

\$90 for school students

(already paid as part of Faith Formation registration for church students)

This fee covers the cost of all materials associated with the Confirmation program events & activities throughout the year (Confirmation Kick-Off at Group Dynamix, folders, paper, printing, orientation meetings, guest speakers, Confirmation reception etc.)

This fee should not be viewed as an obstacle to receiving confirmation. If payment all at once or by November 16th will be a hardship, please speak with Matt Woyak about paying by installments.

Confirmation Events

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Confirmation Kick-Off Event

Saturday, September 30, from 9:00am to 6:00pm

We are working with Group Dynamix to create a full-day program, off-site for our confirmation students. This will be like a mini day-retreat complete with prayer, special presentations, games, and ropes course! Stay tuned for more details.

Confirmation Re-Orientation

Tuesday, January 16, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the School Cafeteria

- or -

Wednesday, January 17, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall

This meeting will serve as an opportunity to re-group and re-focus. We will also address specific questions related to the Confirmation Retreat (and additional forms will be available), Discernment Interviews, as well as the Confirmation practice and ceremony. Sponsors are also invited and encouraged to attend. Both meetings will cover the same information.

Youth & Family Confession & Adoration Night

Wednesday, January 24, 6:45pm to 9:00pm, in the Church Sanctuary

As preparation for confirmation inherently involves a commitment to prayer, we will gather as a group for a night of praise & worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We will have several priests available to hear confessions as well (it is necessary for all students to go to confession before receiving confirmation).

Sponsor

Why must I choose a sponsor for Confirmation?

The Confirmation sponsor is someone who will serve as a positive Catholic role model to help you grow in your faith and who will present you to the bishop during the Confirmation ceremony. You should choose someone who is strong in their Catholic faith who can help you grow closer to God. Ask them to turn in the necessary documentation. They should attend at least the Confirmation practice and Confirmation itself, but are welcome to attend any other events or meetings as well.

What is the role and responsibility of a Confirmation sponsor?

“...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” (Code of Canon Law 892). A sponsor is someone who can help the confirmation candidate grow in their faith and serve as a guide and example of Christian life.

What qualifications must one meet in order to be a sponsor?

The Code of Canon Law states that one must meet the following requirements to be a sponsor:

- Be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Be at least 16 years old
- Not be a parent of the candidate
- Be a Catholic in good standing who is not bound by any canonical penalty
- Be one who leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken

In order to illustrate the unity of confirmation & baptism, it is desirable that, if possible, one of the candidate’s godparents also be the sponsor for confirmation, while this is not strictly necessary.

How are these qualifications verified?

To verify that the above qualifications are met we ask that the person you choose to be your sponsor sign an “Oath of Qualification.” It is imperative that sponsors fulfill the above mentioned criteria and so are asked to affirm that by signing this document. If they can not, in good conscience, sign this document, please take steps to find someone to be your sponsor who can.

A copy of this document is provided in your folder or can be downloaded at:

<http://www.asymdallas.org/sponsoroath>

Once completed, your sponsor should mail it to the address indicated by November 16

How does my sponsor help me prepare for Confirmation?

Your sponsor will serve as a spiritual role-model for you. As such their primary responsibility is to pray for you and with you, and to help you live a Christian life.

To help facilitate this, we suggest meeting a few times with your sponsor during the course of the year leading up to your confirmation.

Here are some ideas for what you can do together:

1. Attend mass together
2. Go to Eucharistic Adoration together
3. Go out to dinner together and discuss the question, "Why are you Catholic?"
4. Pray a rosary together
5. Interview your sponsor about their faith journey.
6. Ask each other to pray with and for each other.

Please Note: Due to the fact that many of the people who will be sponsors live out of state, we do not require that they attend specific events at All Saints.

However, they are always encouraged and welcome to attend the Confirmation Re-Orientation in January. But the only "required" activities for sponsors are the Confirmation Rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass itself.

It is the responsibility of each Confirmation Candidate to communicate with his or her sponsor and to involve them in their preparation process through activities like those mentioned above.

Saint Project & Presentation

What is the requirement for the Saint Project?

You should research and choose a saint to be your patron who you can connect with and whose name will be used for you at Confirmation. You should then create a project in order to learn about and teach others about your chosen saint. This project can be a written report, Power Point presentation, short film, poster or display board, costume w/ monologue, or some other creative project. You will then present your saint project to the elementary RE classes and other parishioners. Lastly, you should fill out the Saint Profile in your Confirmation Record Booklet.

Why must I choose a Saint for Confirmation?

One of the traditional practices at the time of Confirmation within the Church in the United States is to choose a saint to be one's patron and spiritual role model. All candidates should research and choose a saint with whom they have a connection. This saint should become someone you can learn about, ask for their prayers and intercession, and strive to emulate as a fellow member of the Body of Christ. You will put together a project of your choosing where you will be able to learn about and teach others about your saint which you will present to the parish community in November. Finally, you will complete the Saint Profile in your Confirmation Preparation Record Booklet which will be turned in at your discernment interview.

What information should be covered in my project?

Each project should incorporate and answer the following questions in some way:

1. What is your saint's name?
2. When is their feast day?
3. Give a brief summary of their life.
4. What are some things they are well known for?
5. How/why did they become a saint?
6. What things are they the patron saint of?
7. What traditions or practices are associated with this saint?
8. Why is this saint important to Catholics?
9. Why did you choose this saint?
10. How do you hope to be more like your saint?

Saint Profile

Once you have completed and presented your saint project. Please fill out the Saint Profile page in your Confirmation Record Booklet which you will turn in at your Discernment Interview.

When will I present my project?

Sunday, Nov. 5, 9:30-11:30am, Gym at All Saints Catholic Church.

Candidates will first present their finished project to their peers in their faith formation or religion classes to prepare for the parish presentations. Candidates are then asked to present their projects to the elementary school faith formation classes as well as the parish at large at the church from 9:30am to 11:30am on Sunday, November 6th as a means for our entire Confirmation class to participate in and commemorate our parish feast day (All Saints Day).

Internet Resources for Choosing a Saint

Use these websites to help you with choosing your saint and completing your project. We suggest thinking about something you're interested in or care about deeply and looking for a saint associated with that thing or activity.

- <http://catholicsaints.info/>
- http://www.sborromeo.org/patron_s.htm
- <http://catholic.org/saints>
- <http://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/>
- <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/patrons.aspx>
- <http://www.theworkofgod.org/Saints/>
- <http://www.jesus-passion.com/Saints.htm>
- <http://www.ourcatholicfaith.org/patronsaints.html>
- <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicSaintsPage>

DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA! Use only specifically Catholic websites.

What else do I need to know?

- The name of the saint you choose will be the name used for you at Confirmation.
- Any form of the name of Jesus or a title associated with him (such as *El Niño de Atchoa*) is considered inappropriate.

Spiritual Practices & Devotions

What is the requirement for spiritual practices & devotions?

Using the chart provided in your Confirmation Record Booklet, *strive* to do at least 1 spiritual practice or devotion per day either individually or as a family and try to keep track of how many and which ones you do by utilizing that chart.

Why am I asked to participate in spiritual practices and devotions?

“The objectives for Confirmation preparation begin with a commitment to prayer, community involvement, and a search for deeper faith through continuing study and reflection.”

Diocese of Dallas, Catechetical Policies

This is accomplished through regular religious education classes and retreat experiences, but also through individual, family, and community experiences of prayer and living our Catholic Faith.

Therefore, during this time of preparation, you are encouraged to seek out and participate in both new and familiar spiritual devotions and practices to help you develop your spiritual life and relationship with God.

How do I keep track of this?

In your Confirmation Preparation Record Booklet you will find a chart listing many common spiritual practices and devotions. Use this chart as a means of keeping track of your participation and spiritual growth throughout the year. Every time you participate in one of the listed activities, mark off a box in that row. By the end of the preparation process, you will have a visual representation of your spiritual growth and, hopefully will have discovered some new forms of prayer that you enjoy and will continue to practice regularly.

How many do I have to do?

The simple answer: Enough to grow closer to God. And since we can *always* be closer to God than we currently are, this should be something you do on an ongoing basis, both now and for the rest of your life. Maybe set a goal to try everything on the list at least once. Find out which ones really help you feel closer to God and do those as often as you can.

How will I be held accountable for doing these?

During your classes at the church or school, you will be given time to share with your friends how these experiences have had an affect on your life, which ones you have particularly enjoyed, and how you have grown closer to God as a result. So be prepared to share! We also encourage you to do these together as a family and hold one another accountable for growing in holiness at home.

Spiritual Practices & Devotion Reflection

Before your Discernment Interview in February, fill out the Spiritual Practices & Devotion Reflection in your Confirmation Record Booklet.

Great Resources for growing in your faith!

On the following pages, you will find some instructions for some of the more common Catholic spiritual practices and devotions to help you if you have never done those before.

Also, below we have provided you with a list of online resources focusing on prayer, spiritual practices, and growing in your faith. Use them on your computer at home or your smart phone while on the go! We've even included links to several useful Catholic apps.

- *Daily Scripture*: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/readings/>
- *Daily Catechism*: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/catechism/>
- *Saint of the Day*: <http://www.ucatholic.com/category/saints/>
- *Daily Inspiration*: <http://goo.gl/INo3d> (Holy Spirit Interactive)
- *Tweets from the Pope*: <https://twitter.com/Pontifex>
- *Catholic Teen Resources*: <http://www.lifeteen.com>
- *Stations of the Cross Online*: <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/stations/face.htm>
- *Divine Mercy App for Apple Devices*: <http://goo.gl/aSvM5> (I-Tunes)
- *Mary App for Apple Devices*: <http://goo.gl/wblx0> (I-Tunes)
- *Catholic Prayers*: <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/>
- *Catholic Devotions*: http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayer_saint.htm
- *The Bible Online*: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM
- *Modern Catholic Music*: <http://www.spiritandsong.com/>
- *Confession Preparation App for Apple Devices*: <http://goo.gl/uMkds> (I-Tunes)
- *Creative Acts of Penance*: <http://lifeteen.com/weird-lent-ideas-that-will-make-you-holier/>

Ministry & Mission

Why must I do service during Confirmation prep?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that preparation for Confirmation should help enable a Christian to assume the apostolic responsibilities of the Christian life (CCC #1309). Further, it is the Church's responsibility to discern whether or not a person is responsive to God's grace and suitably prepared to receive Confirmation by looking for signs in that person's life; one of which is manifested by our acts of charity and serving those in need.

What are the service requirements?

Participate in a minimum of the following:

- 2 instances of parish ministry , AND...
- 2 instances of mission service in the larger community

Completed a reflection in your Confirmation Record Booklet for each of these projects

What is considered participation in "Ministry"?

"Ministry" involves participating in and serving your church community through any of the active ministries in our parish. This could be helping the Knights serve pancake breakfast or helping with the Fall Festival or Senior Prom.

The word "parishioner" is related to the word "pilgrim." As parishioners of All Saints, we are all pilgrims on a journey to heaven who need to help each other to get where we are going.

What is considered participation in "Mission"?

"Mission" involves going out and serving those in need through the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. These would be considered what we traditionally think of as "service projects." However, whatever activities you choose to fulfill your Mission requirements, remember that they must be geared towards serving people who are in need.

As Christians, serving the poor and needy are at the heart of what Jesus calls us to do and in the next life, we will be judged partly by how well we served those in need in this life.

What are the Works of Mercy?

The Corporal works of Mercy are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus tells of how the righteous are ushered in to eternal life because of the merciful deeds they performed in Faith for those in need, and the Book of Tobit where he performs many charitable acts for his people including burying their dead with respect.

“Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' “

Matthew 25:34-36

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are taken from an assortment of verses throughout all of scripture and have been a part of the Tradition of the Catholic Church since the beginning.

Corporal Works of Mercy

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

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Admonish the sinner
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive offenses willingly
Comfort the sorrowful
Pray for the living & dead

How do I go about doing these acts of Ministry & Mission?

The following pages list several ideas and organizations in our area where you may be able to fulfill your service obligations. This is by no means an exhaustive list. It is meant to give you some ideas. Do your own research as well to find other ways that you can help someone in need and get involved in your parish community.

Ministry Ideas

Here are a few ideas for fulfilling your Ministry of serving our parish community.

Ministry	Contact Person	Email	Phone
Altar Serving (year-round)	Mary Davis	mdavis@allsaintsdallas.org	972-778-0310
ASWO Bazaar (end of October)	Linda Gorman	lsgorm812@gmail.com	
Austin Street Shelter (2 nd Tues/month)	Mike & Karyl Frick	karylfrick@mail.com	972-248-0877
Fall Festival (end of September)	Mackenzie Triana	fallfestival@allsaintsdallas.org	214-566-7862
Funeral Reception Help	Jackie Calabrese	jwcalabrese@gmail.com	972-233-0208
Help Your Neighbor Sunday	Laura Cayce	lacays1@verizon.net	
Hike for Life/40 Days for Life	Jack Falloure	prolifeisright@gmail.com	214-674-1309
Pancake Breakfasts w/ the Knights	Harry Storey	hss@storeycorp.net	214-557-2923
Rosary outside abortion clinics (Sat.)	Jack Falloure	prolifeisright@gmail.com	214-674-1309
St. Nicholas Party Food & Set-up	Laurice Johnson	ljijt@sbcglobal.net	
St. Nicolas Party Puppet Show	Paul Head	headturfmaster@aol.com	214-542-8873
Sunday Morning Nursery Help	Stacey Wright	info@stacysss.com	
Teen Ushers (Sun. 5:00pm Mass)	Katie Christy	katylchristy@gmail.com	
Vision Food Share (one Sat. per month)	Marie Abel	marsahm@aol.com	972-233-1856
Vacation Bible School Volunteering	Matt Woyak	mwoyak@allsaintsdallas.org	972-778-0330
5:00pm Mass Band (Sundays)	Ken Alamo	kenalamo@gmail.com	469-835-0711

This is just a sampling of possible ways to get involved in your parish.

Check the bulletin for other parish events to help out with!

Mission Ideas

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Here are a few ideas for fulfilling your Mission to serve those in need.

- Mission Possible Service Week in June: Paul Bianchi - pbianchi@allsaintsdallas.org
- Volunteer at North Texas Food Bank: <http://www.ntfb.org> 214-330-1396
- Volunteer at Minnie's Food Pantry: <http://www.minniesfoodpantry.org> 972-596-0253
- Volunteer at God's Food Pantry: <http://www.godsfoodpantry.com> 972-633-9777
- Serve a meal at Austin Street Shelter: <http://www.austinstreet.org> 214-428-4242
- Prepare or serve food for The Soup Mobile: <http://www.soupmobile.org> 1-800-375-5022
- Volunteer growing food at We Over Me Farm at Paul Quinn College: pqcfarm@pqc.edu
- Help the Missionaries of Charity organize food on a Wednesday morning: 214-374-3351
- Serve a meal at The Stewpot: <http://www.thestewpot.org> Jean Jones: 214-746-2785, ext. 320
- Go grocery shopping for someone who finds it hard to get out.
- Visit or make a meal for someone who has recently lost a loved one.
- Make some sack lunches and drive around as a family to hand them out to the homeless.
- Organize a toy, book, or blanket drive for Children's Medical Center.
- Visit a local nursing home and spend time with the residents there.
- Visit an elderly neighbor who may be lonely, spend time with them and help them with chores.
- Work together with some friends and their families to "Adopt-A-Family" for Christmas through Catholic Charities: Eileen O'Malley - eomalley@ccdallas.org - 214-520-6590 ext 1016
- Volunteer at a local thrift store like St. Vincent De Paul: 214-373-7837 - info@svdpthrift.org
- Sort clothes & donations at a crisis pregnancy center such as Birth Choice or White Rose: <http://www.whiterosewomenscenter.org> or <http://www.birthchoicedallas.org/>
- Plan a fundraiser for Charity:Water or some other water relief organization
- Help with a Youth Project at Habitat for Humanity: <http://www.dallasareahabitat.org>
- Help Texas Refugee Services: <http://refugeeservicesoftexas.org/Dallas.html> 214-821-4422
- Volunteer with Buckner to help orphans and families in need: volunteers@buckner.org
- Volunteer at Genesis Women's Shelter <http://www.genesisshelter.org> 214-389-7701

Be creative and come up with your own ways to serve those in need!

Mass Attendance

Why is the Eucharist the source and summit of our Christian life?

It is the source of the Christian life, “because whoever shares in it receives the motivation and strength to live as a true Christian” and it is the summit “because the faithful bring to it all their prayers and good works, their joys and sufferings. These modest offerings are united to the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Thus they are completely sanctified and lifted up to God in an act of perfect worship which brings the faithful into the divine intimacy.”

- St. Pope John Paul II

Why must I attend Mass every Sunday?

Since Confirmation unites us more firmly to Christ and renders our bond with the Church more perfect (Catechism #1303) it is critical that we maintain that bond and unity and fulfill God’s commandment to “keep holy the Sabbath” by attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

At the Last Supper, Christ commanded that we “do this in remembrance” of him and St. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians that “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes” (1 Cor. 11:26).

It is expected then that all Confirmation candidates attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Gathering together as the Body of Christ and participating in communal worship of our Lord while uniting ourselves to Jesus through receiving his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian.

How do I document my attendance at Mass?

At the request of our pastor and to help facilitate the habit of attending Mass each week, youth are asked to keep a record of their attendance at Mass and may do this in one of the following ways:

1. Have a priest, deacon, youth minister, or usher sign the Mass Attendance Log provided in your Confirmation Record Booklet or sign a bulletin from that day.
2. Use youth stewardship envelopes that can be filled with a prayer intention or donation and placed in the collection basket at Mass
3. Keep a Mass Journal and write a weekly reflection on the homily, scripture reading, or prayers you hear at Mass and present it at your discernment interview (you will NOT turn this in).

Reconciliation

Why Must I Go To Confession Before Being Confirmed?

“To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- Catechism of the Catholic Church #1310

Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation Important?

No matter how alienated we feel because of our sins, in the Sacrament of Penance, we are concretely and surely reconciled with Christ and His Church. Through the priest, we get to experience God’s mercy, love, and peace. Getting into the habit of going to Confession once a month whether we have committed a serious sin or not helps us stay on track in our relationship with Him. But at the minimum, we should confess whenever we commit a mortal sin, or once a year and before receiving a Sacrament such as Confirmation.

When & Where Can I Receive The Sacrament of Reconciliation?

All Saints

5231 Meadowcreek Dr.
Dallas, TX 75248

Thursdays, 6:30—7:30pm
Saturdays, 3:30—4:30pm

St. Joseph’s

600 S. Jupiter Rd.
Richardson, TX 75081

Saturdays, 9:30—10:30 am

St. Paul the Apostle

709 James Drive
Richardson, TX 75080

Saturdays, 4:00—5:00 pm

St. Mark’s

1201 Alma Dr.
Plano, TX 75075

Wednesdays, 6:30—8:00 pm
Fridays, 4:30—5:15 pm
Saturdays, 3:30—5:00 pm

St. Rita’s

12521 Inwood Rd.
Dallas, TX 75244

Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Saturdays, 9:00 am

Letter to the Bishop

What is the purpose of writing a letter to the Bishop?

Because it is the Bishop who will impart on the candidates the Sacrament of Confirmation, he asks that each candidate freely request the Sacrament from him. This is done through writing him a letter.

This is very important because you are of the age to make this decision for yourself. Therefore, if you want to be Confirmed, you must ask for it of your own accord, no one else can make this decision for you.

What should be included in this letter?

The letter to Bishop Kevin Farrell should include:

- Candidate's name, age/grade, parish, and catechetical program (parish RE, Family RE, Catholic School)
- Statement of personal experience with regard to (1) retreats, (2) how serving through performing the works of mercy has affected his or her view of living as a Catholic Christian, and (3) any other experiences of their faith that they would wish to share.
- Why the candidate feels he or she is ready to request the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Specifically state that he or she would like to be Confirmed.

What else should I remember when writing my letter?

- Please write legibly in ink or type your letter
- Remember to sign and date your letter
- Use a nice piece of paper (not crinkled or ripped out of a notebook)
- Use a full-size 8.5x11 piece of paper (not a note card)
- Please write on only one side of the paper
- Do not put the letter in an envelope

When and how will I turn in this letter?

Please do not mail your letter to the Bishop. He will be receiving hundreds of letters from all over the diocese. Instead, you will turn in your letter at your discernment interview. We will collect all the letters and deliver them to the Bishop all together.

Retreat

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Why must I attend a retreat?

Retreats can be turning points in one's life and are great chances to encounter our Lord in a sincere and profound way. All youth preparing for Confirmation should attend a Confirmation retreat prior to their discernment interview.

During our Confirmation retreat you will spend time in prayer, listening to engaging presentations, discussing issues important to your life, experiencing God in nature, receiving his grace through the sacraments, singing, playing, eating, and resting.

When and where will our Confirmation Retreat take place?

Friday, February 9th at 5:00pm through Sunday, Feb. 11th at 3:30pm

The Confirmation retreat will take place at the Pines Catholic Camp in Big Sandy, Texas. Transportation to and from All Saints will be provided. Parent volunteers are always needed!

How much does it cost to attend this retreat?

\$175.00 (covers transportation, lodging, meals, supplies & materials)

What if I can't make it that weekend?

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are not able to attend this retreat, it will be your responsibility to attend a Confirmation retreat through another local parish. Contact several parishes and speak to either their youth minister or director of religious education. Ask for details about their Confirmation retreat and ask if you could participate. Please notify us if you plan to attend another retreat so we can make note of it in our records.

Use this parish directory to help you: <http://cathdal.org/pages/parishfinder>

How do I sign up to attend our retreat?

Complete the *Confirmation Retreat Registration* form and return it with a check for \$175 to Matt Woyak at All Saints by **January 30, 2018**.

Retreat Reflection (in your Confirmation Record Booklet)

After your retreat, fill out the retreat reflection in your Confirmation Record Booklet which you will turn in at your Discernment Interview.

Discernment Interview

What is a discernment interview and why do I need to do it?

A discernment interview is a chance to sit down with one of our priests or one of our dedicated volunteers to share your thoughts about your faith and the experiences you've had during your time of preparation for Confirmation. It is an opportunity for you to express and explain why you would like to be Confirmed. It is also a chance for the staff and volunteers to answer any other questions or misunderstandings you may have about Confirmation and determine how we can best support you if we mutually discern that more time or preparation is needed before you are Confirmed. All youth are expected to complete a discernment interview.

When will I have my interview?

You can schedule your interview to take place on February 13th & 15th between 6:30 and 8:30pm. We will have several adult leaders present to interview Confirmation candidates one-on-one. Scheduling of interviews will begin in December.

What sorts of questions will be asked during the interview?

Examples of the types of questions that may be asked during your interview might be:

- What does being Catholic mean to you?
- Who is Jesus and how does he affect your life?
- What do you think about Confirmation?
- Do you want to be Confirmed? Why or why not?

What do I need to turn in at my discernment interview?

Please turn in your entire *Confirmation Record Booklet* containing the following:

- Saint Profile
- Retreat Reflection
- Spiritual Practices & Devotion Chart & Reflection
- Ministry & Mission Reflections
- Mass Attendance Record

Also, you will turn in your Letter to the Bishop at this time. These letters will all be presented to the bishop together. Please do not mail your letter directly to the bishop.

Confirmation Mass & Rehearsals ²⁵

When is the actual day of Confirmation?

Saturday, March 3rd (Tentative—waiting on Diocese to confirm)

What time will the Confirmation ceremony be?

Depending on our final class size, there may be only one or possibly two Confirmation Masses.

1:00pm here at All Saints Church.

Youth and sponsors should arrive and gather in the gym an hour before Mass is scheduled to begin (i.e. 12:00 noon)

How will we prepare for the Confirmation ceremony?

*We will hold a rehearsal for the Confirmation Ceremony at
6:30pm on Thursday, **March 1**
at All Saints Church*

All youth and sponsors must attend the Confirmation rehearsal.

If a sponsor is not able to make it that night, a parent or other adult may stand in their place during the rehearsal only, and fill them in afterwards.

Please note: In the unlikely event that our confirmation class is very large, the diocese requires that we have two confirmation ceremonies.

I do not foresee this happening, but if it does we must have two Confirmation Masses on February 25th and youth will be divided alphabetically between these two ceremonies.

Notes

Notes

Preparation Check List

Events:

- Attend Mass weekly (on Sundays!)
- Pray Daily
- Attend class weekly
- Confirmation Kick-Off Event
- Confirmation Re-Orientation (Jan. 16or 17)
- Adoration & Confession Night (Jan. 24)
- Retreat at The Pines (Feb. 9-11)
- Discernment Interview (Feb. 13 or 15)
- Confirmation Rehearsal (March 1)
- Confirmation Mass (March 3)

Paperwork (Due Nov. 16):

- Confirmation Information Form: www.asymdallas.org/information-form-2017
- Sponsor Oath of Qualification: www.asymdallas.org/sponsoroath
- Baptism Certificate (photocopy)
- Program Fee (school students \$90; parish students cost included in class fee)

Projects:

- Choose a Confirmation Sponsor
- Choose and research a Saint to be your patron saint for Confirmation
- Saint Project & Presentation (Due Nov. 5)
- Ministry Service 1
- Ministry Service 2
- Mission Service 1
- Mission Service 2
- Reconciliation (before Confirmation)
- Letter to the Bishop (due at discernment interview)
- Complete your Confirmation Record Booklet (due at discernment interview)