

The Church of Saint Isaac Jogues
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Level 8 - Cycle II
Confirmation Preparation
October 29, 2017

Dear Level 8 Student,

“If you want to have real meaning and fulfillment, as you want and as you deserve, I say to each one of you, PUT ON FAITH..your life will have a compass to show you the way; PUT ON HOPE and every one of your days will be enlightened and your horizon will no longer be dark, but luminous; PUT ON LOVE and your life will be like a house built on rock, your journey will be joyful, you will find many friends to journey with you.” (Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2016)

Confirmation is more than a day, more than a celebration, it is choosing a lifestyle. On the day of Confirmation as you stand before your families, friends, members of your parish community and the Bishop or the Episcopal Vicar, Father Pflieger you are claiming this faith as your own. The promises made for you at your Baptism have been kept and in the celebration of Confirmation you will respond “I do” to those promises. The definition of Confirmation is “Confirmation is the Sacrament where the Holy Spirit comes to us in a new and special way to empower us to witness in word and deed to the presence of Jesus in our world today.” And so the lifestyle of a Confirmed Catholic Christian is that of a disciple.

Yes, in your young age God wants you to be an example of Jesus to someone else. Being an example of Jesus won’t magically begin happening when you reach a significant milestone like Confirmation, it’s already happening. The way you live your Christian life right now speaks loudly to your friends, family and all you meet. You are not too young to be a world-changer for the cause of Jesus and never too young to be a Godly example to anyone you know. Your time starts now.

As you continue your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, savor every moment. Open the doors of your heart and mind to the SPIRIT already at work in you since Baptism. As Pope Francis tells us everyday we should Put on Faith, Put on Hope, Put on Love; Faith will give direction, Hope will allow us to see the possibilities even in the midst of struggle, and Love will give us the courage to continue to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The prayers of this parish community are with you, your families and your Catechists.

God Bless You!

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION OVERVIEW

St. Isaac Jogues Confirmation Preparation includes three cycles. The following is a summary of the cycle you are beginning.

Cycle II - Level 8:

- Attend all Religious Formation classes and complete all assignments required by the Catechists.
- Complete and document 15 hours of Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
- Prepare a saint report on the Confirmation name chosen. More information is found in the pages that follow.
- Carefully choose a Sponsor in accordance with the requirements given herein.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CONFIRMATION NAME

Each one of us is special to God and our name is special too. Throughout Scripture, in the Old and New Testament, we read how God, in calling a person to a special task, would change the name of the person. Abram became Abraham; Jacob became Israel; Simon became Peter; Saul became Paul. Scripture addresses us the same way:

“But now, says the Lord, fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by Name, you are mine. (Isaiah 43:1)

“The sheep hear my voice, I call them by name, and they follow me.” (John 10:3)

The Christian name, given at Baptism, reflects the Christian connection with the Biblical dimension and the tradition of our Faith. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches:

#2156 - “At Baptism, the Christian receives his or her name in the Church. This can be the name of a saint, or a disciple who has lived a life of exemplary fidelity to the Lord. The patron saint provides a model of charity; we are assured of their intercessions. The “Baptismal Name” can also express a Christian mystery or Christian virtue. Parents, sponsors and pastors are to see that a name is not given which is foreign to Christian sentiment.”

#2158 - “God calls each one of us by name. Everyone’s name is sacred. The name is the icon of the person. It demands respect as a sign of the dignity of the one who bears it.”

#2159 - “The name one receives is a name for eternity. In the Kingdom, the mysterious and unique character of each person marked with God’s name will shine forth in splendor.” “...Who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads.” (Revelation 14:1)

Therefore, it is recommended that the Christian name given at Baptism remain the same at Confirmation. For personal reasons, another name may be chosen such as the name of a particularly admired saint.

Choosing a name is not the most important thing at Confirmation time since God already called YOU by name at Baptism, and has been calling that name for all eternity. However, the time of preparation for Confirmation is an opportunity to get to know your patron saint, to reflect on your own name, its literal meaning, its roots and how it reflects one’s own character. At Confirmation, the Bishop will call each person by his/her name and say: “(Your Name), be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

The Confirmation Name project is assigned with the intent of helping you to get to know the patron saints you have chosen and at the same time establish a personal and deeper relationship with God who calls you by name continuously. With some help from your parents and sponsor, you will be gain a better knowledge of your patron saints and understanding of your own personal path to God. You may even experience the need or want to take some time to reflect and pray as you go through the questions.

Student Name _____

Class 8 _____

Catechist's Name _____

Called by Name

A report on the saint chosen as your patron,
And whose name you will be called at Confirmation.

Due date TBA

PRINT the name of the patron saint you have chosen (spelled as you want the name printed on your Confirmation Certificate): _____

Date on which our Church celebrates his or her feast day: _____

Instructions: You will choose a saint to research and create a report using the questions below as a guide. Your report can be a traditional written report (preferably typed) or you can create a PowerPoint or presentation using pictures and text. These reports will be presented on a date to be determined.

1. Where and when was he/she born?
2. What do you know about his/her childhood?
3. What was his/her family name?
4. What was he/she like in adult life?
5. What made him/her so seemingly special?
6. How is he/she an example and model for you?
7. What virtues did he/she practice in life?
8. What is the one thing you admire most about his/her life?
9. What is the one thing about him/her that you would want to imitate?
10. What is the literal meaning of your Confirmation name?
11. From what country did your name originate?
12. What virtue does your name represent and how can you live it in your life?
13. Stop and listen for a while to God calling you by this name.
What does this name say to you about yourself?

Information in the Canon Law (Church Law) Concerning the Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation

A sponsor should be a practicing Catholic, a mentor, a role model, an example of lived faith, someone who attends Mass weekly, and can be a guide to the young person being confirmed. As much as possible, the sponsor should be accessible to the candidate to offer guidance and support, not only at Confirmation, but throughout his/her lifetime.

In choosing a sponsor for Confirmation, the Church of St. Isaac Jogues applies the requirements of Church Law, which is also called Canon Law.

Canon (Paragraph) no. 892 - As far as possible, a sponsor for the one to be confirmed should be present; it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with the sacrament.

Canon (paragraph) no. 874 - To perform the role of sponsor, it is necessary that the sponsor,

- Be chosen by the person being confirmed, or by the parents, or by the pastor;
- Be 16 years of age or older at the date of Confirmation; if the sponsor is between the ages of 16-18 and was Confirmed here at St. Isaac's no letter is needed. If not Confirmed here a letter is needed.
- Have received the Sacraments of Initiation, including Confirmation;
- Have no canonical impediments, meaning that the individual is living in harmony with the Teachings of the Church and, if married, has a valid Catholic (Church) Marriage.
- Not be the father or the mother of the candidate. Parents or step parents cannot be the sponsor of their own child, not even as a proxy.
- Provide a **Certificate of Eligibility** from the parish where the sponsor is a registered parishioner or, for a college student, the campus ministry at the college he/she attends.

*It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at Baptism
also be the sponsor for Confirmation.*

What is the "Certificate of Eligibility"?

It is a certificate that the sponsor obtains from the home parish, whether it is St. Isaac Jogues Parish or another Catholic Church, or campus ministry for college students. IT certifies the sponsor's eligibility according to what specified above.

THE WORKS OF MERCY

The seven corporal works of mercy and seven spiritual works of mercy, also known as acts of mercy, are actions and practices we find in the BIBLE, practiced by the faithful JEWS and by JESUS himself. As Catholics we take the invitation of JESUS to be for others: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depends all the laws and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

Also from the Gospel of Matthew, a Parable of JESUS (*Matthew 25; 35-45*)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

It is required that each year, Level 8 students complete 15 hours of Works of Mercy. It is **recommended** to Complete 5 hours of Works of Mercy in helping your family or neighbors, 5 hours in service for the parish, and 5 hours in your spiritual development. Examples for spiritual development:

- Participate in the Holy Week Services, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil
- Attend a penitential service and go to Confession
- Attend a Healing Mass, or Eucharistic Adoration
- Participate in the RF Christmas Program
- Read the Parish Bulletin and be informed on other opportunities throughout the year.
- The RF Office will also send up to date emails with other possible Works of Mercy activities.

Spiritual Works of Mercy ideas

- Participate in spiritual events at our parish: Monthly Adoration/Benediction, Weekly Rosary Novena,
- Stations of the Cross during Lent, Holy Week Liturgies (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil).
 - In this way, you attend to your own personal spiritual needs.
- Be an altar server, join the youth choir, or be a greeter at Mass. In this way, your parish will also be the recipient of your gift of self and your mercy.
- If you become involved in a “Worship” ministry, you may be able to add up to five hours to your log. Ask your Catechist or call the RF Office.
- Help someone with their doubts about God and encourage them to read about Jesus in the Bible.

- Offer to help someone who struggles in school.
- Seek advice when you need help with your own decision making or attitudes.
- When others tempt you to get involved in something that you know is not right and in accord with God's plan, have the courage to say no.
- Avoid being a bully; rather, show compassion to those students that others pick on.
- When others hurt or bully you, pray for them and forgive them. Trust that God will make up for you as only God can.

Corporal Works of Mercy some ideas:

- Organize a food drive in your neighborhood or among your relatives and donate these items to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to be distributed to families in need.
- Take food to local food pantries
- Bake and donate to any shelter.
- The Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul Society of our parish have charitable activities you may become involved with. Check the parish bulletin for timely information.
- Work at the Soup Kitchen in Trenton. The Soup Kitchen operates on the last two Saturdays of each month.
- Sort donations at the St. Vincent de Paul Medford Thrift Shop located on Jones Road.
- Organize a neighborhood or family clothing drive and take donations to any donation center.
- Create / donate care packages for homeless shelters. Include soap, shampoo, razors, toothpaste, etc.
- Organize a book drive and donate the books to any public or school library.
- Do minor landscaping or clean up outside the Rectory building. (Contact RF Office for details)
- Hand out grocery bags for the St. Vincent de Paul Society at all Masses
- Help collect and transport food during our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society 5th Sunday food drive.
- On Fellowship Sunday, help set up, serve (coffee/donuts), and clean up.
- Assist the Religious Formation staff as a teacher aide.
- Assist the Religious Formation staff with 2nd Level Sacrament retreats.
- Visit local nursing homes with adult accompanying you
- Spend time with sick people or senior citizens and do chores for them
- Help younger children with sports or homework
- Send notes/cards/care packages to troops overseas go to Adopt a Troop or www.operationshoebox.com
- Care for a neighbor's pet while they are away (without compensation).
- Pick up trash in neighborhood common areas, parking lots, school grounds or parks.

