

The Church of Saint Isaac Jogues
Office of Religious Formation
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Level 7– Cycle I
Confirmation Preparation
November 2017

Dear Level 7 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.

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 begin 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 every day 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

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St. Isaac Jogues Confirmation Preparation includes three cycles. The following is a list of what is expected during 7th grade in preparation for Confirmation.

Cycle I - Level 7:

- 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. Tracking sheet in this packet. They are to be turned in at the first class of 8th grade in the fall.
- Attend at least two of the BOLD Youth Group Meetings or Events. Contact Melanie Blaszcak for more information: SISJ@boldym.com

The below item is highly recommended:

- Participate in the “Teen Forum” session for students.

TEEN FORUM

RELATIONSHIPS FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

As part of our preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are presenting this diocesan approved program for Level 7 students.

This interactive forum addresses the Catholic Church's perspective on relationships, sexuality, abstinence, and good decision-making.

Using material from Theology of the Body on what it means to be fully human — male and female, we converse with the teens on what God desires us to know about Him through our humanity: our sexuality, our relationships, our joys, and our struggles. The seminar focuses on God's love that leads to a deeper awareness of human dignity, identity, and purpose. This vision produces wonder, peace, joy, and a sense of reverence for oneself and others.

The goal of the seminar is to open up a discussion between you the parent and your teen about the impacts of good decision making, avoiding risky choices, understanding the parent's perspective, and setting age appropriate boundaries. It can help to open your teen's eyes to safer behaviors and making better, more mature choices.

Details

- WHERE?** Room 2A / 2B
- WHEN?** Saturday Feb 24, 2018
- WHAT TIME?** 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- WHO?** All Level 7 students
- HOW MUCH?** It is already included in your RF fees
- PRESENTERS:** Paul Prentiss, Cynthia Jetter
- REGISTRATION:** Parents please complete and return the form to the RF Office ASAP. Please note there is a Parents meeting held in **Room 2B** from 7:30 to 8:30 pm on Wednesday Feb. 21st. The meeting is to give you an overview of what will be discussed with your children. ***If you previously attended a TF Parent meeting, your attendance is optional.***
- ENDORSED:** The Office of Family Life/Respect Life, Office of Youth Ministry and Religious Education of the Diocese of Trenton and St. Isaac Jogues Office of Religious Formation.

Level 7 Teen Forum

REGISTRATION FORM

In registering my child for the Level 7 Teen Forum I understand that he/she will be learning and discussing the following topics: Life Goals, Family, Virtue, Sexuality as created and intended by God, Emotions, Setting Personal Standards and Boundaries, Pro-Life Issues and good decision making. I understand that the sessions will be held at St. Isaac Jogues Church from **9:00 am to 12:00 pm** and a parent or guardian must attend the Parents meeting held on Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30pm in Room 2A/2B prior to my child attending the forum..

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____

Zip: _____ **Phone:** (_____) _____

School attending: _____

NOTE: Participants are welcome to bring a snack for during break time.

My child will attend the TF session on February 24th and a parent or guardian will attend the parent meeting on Feb 21st. Please let us know if a parent is unable to attend.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

THE WORKS OF MERCY

Life is full of opportunities to practice the Works of Mercy. You just need to become more aware of the needs around you and learn how you may best meet them. Look around to see where and how you can serve. As you practice them throughout your life, you will experience them as a source of abundant graces, strength and spiritual satisfaction. **GOD WILL BLESS YOUR EFFORT.**

Each child is asked to complete 15 Works of Mercy hours during their 7th grade year and again during 8th grade. Those 15 hours are divided into 5 hours for three different categories. Those five hours can be several activities or one activity that took 5 hours.

Below is a description and examples of each of the categories. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the RF Office.

Family/ Community: Chores that are *above and beyond* those already expected of you and that are something you wouldn't normally choose to do are the best example. Most events that benefit others and are held in your local community are also ways to fulfill your service hours in this area. These might include volunteering at an animal shelter, a hospital, a nursing home, a soup kitchen or with the Sports Unity program.

Parish: These hours should be obtained through assisting at events at the parish. We often send out these opportunities in emails and are happy to help you determine which would be the most fitting for you. In addition to those, Altar servers and RF Aides are able to use these activities to fulfill their Parish hours.

Spiritual: Though this category may seem too vague, it is by far one of the most beneficial. Participation at any special Mass or service would qualify such as the Holy Week Services, attending the Stations of the Cross, a Living Nativity or even watching a religious movie. You could say a Rosary with a family member, spend time reading Scripture and discuss it with a parent or attend an additional retreat.

**Works of Mercy Hours Due Back the first class in 8th Grade
15 Hours in 7th grade and another 15 hours in 8th grade**

Student Name: _____ *2017/18 Grade:* _____

Serving your family/community 5 required hours	Signature Verifying Performance	Time Spent on Activity
Serving your parish 5 required hours		
Spiritual Development 5 required hours		