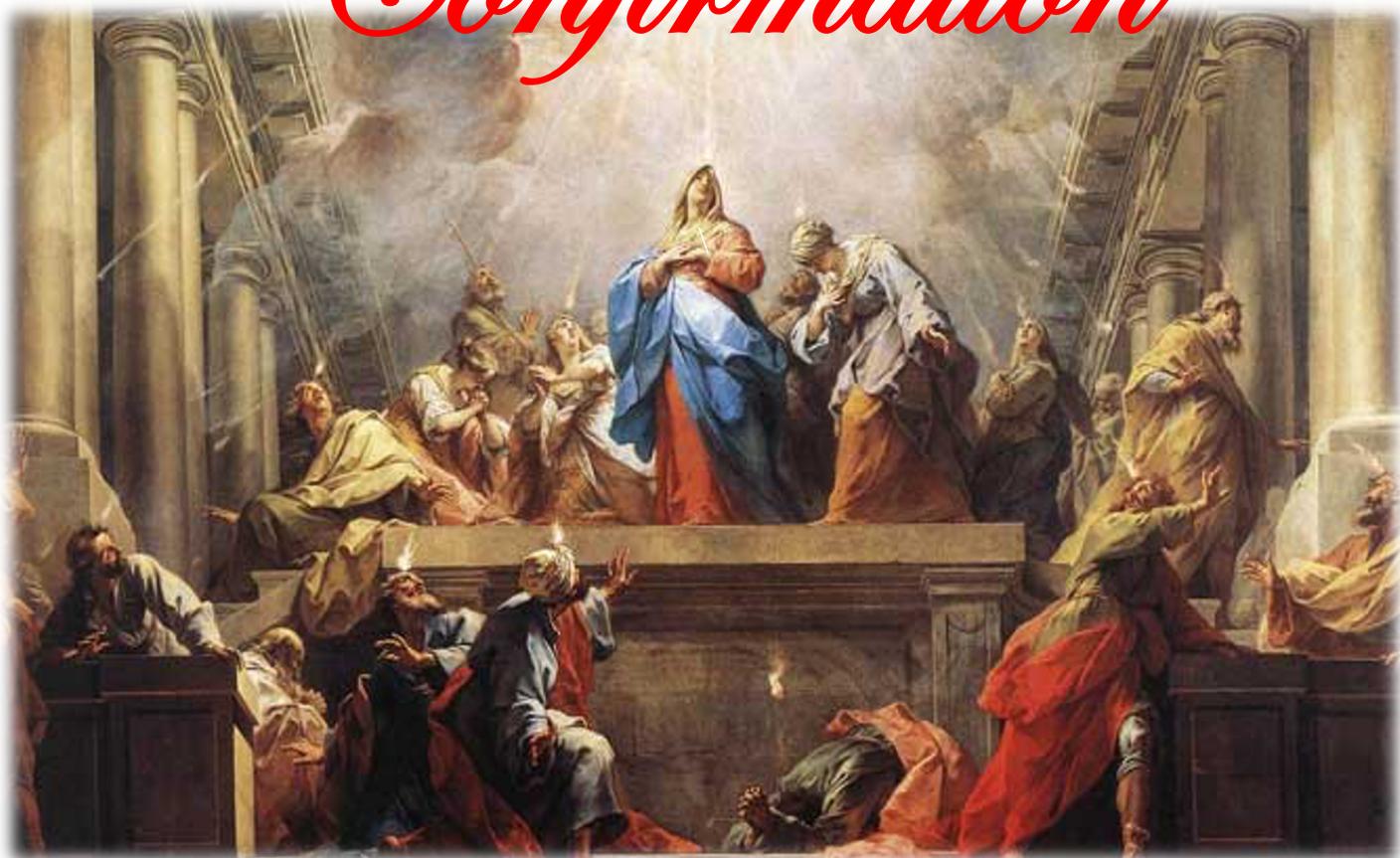


# SAINT PHILIP CHURCH

## *Confirmation*



**2020 – 2021**

## **Program of Preparation Handbook**

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# INTRODUCTION

This is an exciting time for you, the candidate, and your family. As your first “church” – the domestic church, your parents at your Baptism promised to raise you in the Roman Catholic faith. The Christian home is the first school of a Christ-like life. Although Confirmation may mark the end of your formal religious education, it is the beginning for you to live your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the community of the Catholic Church. Your education in that faith is and will be a lifelong experience.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains the purpose of the Sacrament of Confirmation: “Baptism, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the “sacraments of Christian initiation,” whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed” (CCC. 1285).

The program outlined in this handbook is designed to give the candidate a historical and realistic approach to what it means to truly be a committed Roman Catholic Christian in today’s world. For it is the same Holy Spirit who bestows the same gifts today as He did the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Our Tradition calls us to serious prayer and study to prepare for this outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is never to be taken lightly, nor is it to be received without proper preparation and careful consideration on the part of both candidate and those who both prepare and support him/her. It is for this reason that we make every effort to ensure that each person confirmed is properly formed in the faith of Jesus Christ, and has the knowledge and experience of the Church, which is His body, living and present in our world.



# CATECHETICAL COMPONENTS

“Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” Acts 8: 14 – 17

## IN BRIEF

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which enhances the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason, one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life. The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with the sacred chrism together with the laying on of the minister’s hand and the words: “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

## PENTECOST AND THE *GIFTS* OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The seven sanctifying gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David, Son of God. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.



# REQUIREMENTS

Saint Philip's Confirmation program requires the completion of several steps of preparation before a candidate is considered "ready" to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. All eligible students, including those currently enrolled in a Catholic High School, must participate in the complete program. If you are transferring from another parish, documentation is required from your previous religious education office acknowledging your participation in their program. This is required prior to being admitted into the program here at Saint Philip's.

## Confirmation I (Year 1)

**Classes for Confirmation I will be held as part of our Sunday Night Life Teen Program – students must attend all scheduled LifeNites.** In addition to Life Teen, **Confirmation I** candidates will participate in two parish ministries throughout the year.

## Confirmation II (Year 2)

**Classes for Confirmation II will be held during a weeklong summer retreat, the entire week must be attended to be able to be Confirmed that Fall.**

**Confirmation II will take place the week of:**

June 28 – July 2, 2021 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm

⇒ **NOTE** - The Confirmation ceremony will take place the October following Confirmation II summer classes.

## **Confirmation Requirements and their explanation:**

- ✘ Attend Prayer Services – our first one will be on: **Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm in the Church – Prayer Service in Celebration of Commitment**
- ✘ Attend weekly Mass
- ✘ Select a Confirmation Sponsor
- ✘ Attend a Confirmation Retreat
- ✘ Choose a Confirmation Name and write a brief reflection
- ✘ Participate in 2 parish ministries and write a brief reflection
- ✘ Attend a Candidate/Sponsor Retreat
- ✘ Attend a Candidate/Sponsor Ceremony Rehearsal

## PRAYER SERVICES

There will be several Prayer Services throughout the Confirmation Program. These Prayer Services are specifically designed to provide a unique opportunity of “Encounter” between our Lord and all present who are seeking Him with a sincere heart. These services are one of the most important aspects of our Confirmation Program, as we get to adore our God face-to-face in the Blessed Sacrament. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has said, “The Eucharist is the great school in which we learn to see God’s face, we enter into a close relationship with him; and at the same time we learn to turn our gaze to the final moment of history when he will satisfy us with the light of his face. On earth when we are walking towards this fullness, in the joyful expectation that the Kingdom of God will really be brought about.” (General Audience; Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013)

- ✠ Our first Prayer Service is on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Saint Philip Church – it is called *Prayer Service in Celebration of Commitment*

## LIFETEEN

Our Life Teen evenings will provide for the learning of our Catholic Faith in a unique and engaging way for our confirmandi. Not only will our confirmation young people have the opportunity to grow deeper in their knowledge of the faith, they will also have the opportunity to grow in their love for God with opportunities for personal encounter with Him, surrounded by an amazing community of young people from 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These evenings will take place after the Sunday 6pm Teen Mass. While it is not mandatory to go to the 6pm Mass, it is highly encouraged, as this Mass will be served by the youth of our parish.

Following the Mass all the high school kids will move over to the Parish Center for the remainder of the evening (7pm – 8:30pm).

### Life Teen 2020 – 2021 Dates

2020: 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/25, 11/1, 11/15, 11/22, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20  
2021: 1/10, 1/31, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 4/25, 5/2, 5/16, 6/6, 6/13

## PARTICIPATION AT SUNDAY MASS

Participating at Sunday Mass (or Saturday evening Mass) each and every week throughout the year is an awesome privilege and a grave responsibility for every Catholic-Christian.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: *Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to His Church. The faithful give witness to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit* (#2182, Catechism of the Catholic Church).

To be in our program of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation means to commit to the weekly celebration of Holy Mass at Saint Philip's.

***Please read carefully and prayerfully the following protocol we will follow:***

### **† You attend Mass at Saint Philip's ...**

- † Please drop your offering envelope (you will receive it at the first Prayer Service) into any one of the collection bins located at each entrance of the church:
  - † with a money-offering enclosed for the support of our Parish
  - † **OR** you write down a sacrifice you have made the past week
  - † **OR** write down a good deed you have done the past week
  - † **OR** a prayer you are requesting from God
  - † **OR** a note of thanksgiving to God for a gift or blessing you have received from God the past week

### **† You attend Mass at Saint Philip's but do not have your offering envelope with you...**

- † THEN ... after Mass, take a parish bulletin to one of the parish priests and ask him to sign it for you ...
- † THEN ... place the signed bulletin (with your name on it) in the mailbox outside the front door of the McNamara building (on the side of the Church that faces the Parish Center)

‡ **You attend Mass at another Catholic Church ...**

- ‡ Take a parish bulletin from the Church you have attended and then please place it in the Religious Education mailbox out front of the McNamara building.

## **SELECTING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

Each candidate at the completion of the Confirmation I (end of June 2021) must have chosen a sponsor. The sponsor will be required to fill out a “Sponsor Form” and **have it signed by the Pastor of the Parish that they belong to** (this includes sponsors that attend Saint Philip Parish as well).

### **GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING A SPONSOR**

First, sponsors should have already received the three sacraments of Christian initiation; namely, Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. If some persons have not yet received one of these sacraments, they should decline an invitation to be a sponsor until they do so.

Sponsors also should be practicing Catholics. They should participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and they should receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly. The whole purpose of the sacramental life of the Church is to nourish us on our journey of faith. If those who lead the way are not nourished properly, they will falter and eventually be unable to keep up with the pace of Christian living. When that happens, how can they lead others?

We often talk about the Christian vocation. Sponsors should be living the Christian vocation faithfully and conscientiously either as single persons or as persons validly married in the church. Yes, religious and clergy can serve in these roles. But some married persons, unfortunately, may not be eligible. Those married by a justice of the peace, those living together without the benefit of marriage and those who have been divorced and remarried without a declaration of annulment from the diocesan tribunal concerning the previous marriage(s) are not eligible to fulfill the role of sponsor for Confirmation. It is possible to rectify that situation, but, unfortunately, one cannot do so hurriedly. This is why pastors always encourage folks not to procrastinate when they find themselves in such a painful dilemma. They are not excluded from the

church community but they have incurred some impediments, which limit their participation in the full sacramental life of the church.

Sponsors also should be striving to live out in a very active way their own baptismal commitment to Christ and his Church by the way they treat others. Furthermore, they should believe all that the Roman Catholic Church teaches and believes and should be making a serious effort to lead a life of virtue, avoiding temptations that inevitably lead to sin.

Parents of those to be baptized or confirmed are not eligible to serve as sponsors, but grandparents and siblings are eligible. Parents have a more important role as first teachers of the faith.

Sponsors should be at least 16 years of age and thereby be able to assume the responsibility which God and the church place before them in serving as guides and companions for those being welcomed into the life and full share of the mission of the church.

Last but not least, sponsors should promise to give their support to these sacramental candidates by their prayers and the example of their Christian lives each and every day. The roles of sponsors are serious and effective evangelizing resources for our church's mission. In many ways, together with parents, godparents, and sponsors are the principal formators in the way of Christian living for those whom they accompany to the saving waters of Baptism and the holy anointing of Confirmation.

## **RETREAT REQUIREMENT**

The purpose of the Confirmation retreat is to be removed from everyday activities, to quiet the mind and the soul to be better disposed and more sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. This retreat also allows the candidate to fully focus on the greatness of the Sacrament that he/she has been preparing to receive. Although the practice is older than Christianity, the example of Christ's forty days in the desert makes such retreats part of divine revelation, to be imitated, as far as possible, by his followers.

Diocesan requirements stipulate that Confirmation students must attend a retreat. Your Confirmation retreat requirement will be met by attending the Confirmation week scheduled for June 28 – July 2, 2021 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm.

- ❖ The Steubenville East Youth Summer Conference is an amazing conference retreat weekend that is HIGHLY recommend for all of our young people. It builds upon all they hear and learn through our parish program in a faith-charged environment surrounded by thousands of their peers throughout the New England area! We hope that all of our Confirmation Students will attend this conference.!

## CONFIRMATION NAME & SAINT REFLECTION

As a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will take the name of a saint as your “Confirmation Name.” This will be recorded in the Catholic Church’s official records, and the saint you choose will a take special interest in you – yes, YOU! You can ask in prayer for your saint’s assistance and intercession, and trust that they will then pray for you to God.

In Christian theology, the Christian Church, or **Church Universal**, is traditionally divided into:

- the **Church Militant**: comprises Christians on earth who are living; who struggle against sin, the devil and "The rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).
- the **Church Triumphant**: comprises those who are in Heaven.
- the **Church Suffering** or *Church Penitent*: Christians presently in Purgatory.

These terms are often used in the context of the doctrine of the **Communion of Saints**; although the barrier of death may physically separate Christians from each other, they nonetheless remain united to each other in one Church, and support each other in prayer.

\* \*\* Your Confirmation and Saint reflection is due by the end of August 2021.

You have two options when choosing a Confirmation name:

1. You may choose your present baptismal name if it is a saint’s name. This shows the sacramental connection between Baptism and Confirmation, which, along with the Eucharist, constitute the Sacraments of Initiation.

2. You may also choose the name of a saint who inspires you. Taking a new name at Confirmation is an expression of a desire to accept a new role in the Church. There are several Scripture stories of peoples whose names changed after they experienced a call from God. Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul are a few examples.

It is important and necessary to know something about the saint before you decide on the name. Conduct research, and then write a one page minimum, double-spaced typed report on your saint.

The report should include the following:

1. Birth, death date of the saint.
2. Where they were born and lived.
3. A little bit about their early years.
4. What called them to a life of holiness?
5. What did the saint do during their lifetime or death that was Christ-like?  
What are they known for?
6. What is their feast day?
7. Why did you select this name/saint?

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE: PARISH MINISTRIES

Stewardship is the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure out of gratitude to Almighty God for all of the blessings that He has bestowed upon us. In preparation for Confirmation, it is important that we reflect on and identify those areas in our lives where we excel and find a way to share them with others, especially the marginalized. Our gifts may be academic, athletic, musical, artistic, or a combination of many areas. Stewardship is always for **non-profit** and need not be measured by hours. As Confirmation candidates, think of ways that you can thank God for all that you have now and will have in the future.

With the help of your family, you are asked to:

1. Serve in **Two** Parish Ministries:

Through Parish Ministry, you will have the opportunity to build up our Church community. Pray about which two ministries listed below that you would be able to serve with the gifts and talents God has given you.

2. Write **one** “reflection” paper on your experiences

✝ This reflection should be at least one to two pages in length (typed, double spaced paper) and address:

1. What you did for your ministries
2. How you encountered Christ through the people you served
3. How you modeled Christ to the people you served
4. Summarize your experience, your thoughts, and what you learned from your project

✝ Attach your 2 Ministry forms to your “reflection” – these can be printed off of our Parish website ([www.saintphilipreled.com](http://www.saintphilipreled.com)) under the Rel. Ed. tab under registration forms

When submitting your paperwork, remember....

1. Attach the 2 “Ministry Forms” to your 1 reflection paper
2. All projects must be completed with forms and reflection handed in by the end of the summer of your Confirmation II year.

Parish Ministries: (Choose Any Two)

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC MINISTRY**



Have you been given the gift of music through voice or instrument? Join the Life Teen Choir. The choir is responsible for serving as worship leaders for Youth Masses at 6pm each week as well as special liturgies and Holiday Masses. *There will be a rotating 2-week schedule for those serving in this ministry to allow for only 2 vocalists per week to join Melissa. On your scheduled week, you will need to arrive at church at 5PM.*



## **FAMILY ENCOUNTER MINISTRY**

Youth volunteers for Family Ministry will offer their assistance for our Family Encounter events throughout the course of the year

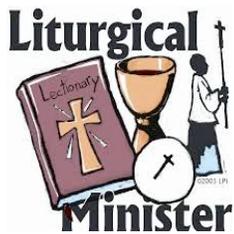
9/20/20 – Raising Saints Kick-Off

11/28-29/20 – Advent Family Wreath Making

2/7/21 – Preparing Your Family for Lent

4/11/21 – Divine Mercy Sunday Event

5/23/21 – Raising Saints Kick-Off Summer Celebration



## **READERS AT MASS**

Youth who volunteer to be readers at Holy Mass will lector twice a month at the weekly Youth Masses on Sunday evenings. Youth who sign up for this ministry will attend a training session with Fr. Frank to prepare to serve in this ministry.



## **LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Youth volunteers for the Living Stations of the Cross commit to being a part of the team who prepares and presents the Living Stations of the Cross in the church the Friday before Holy Week. Youth commit to rehearsals on 3/8, 3/15 and 3/22 from 8-9PM, Friday, 3/26 from 3-9PM and Sunday, 3/28 from 1-4 PM.



## **GOD'S LITTLE ACRE**

Youth volunteers for God's Little Acre will offer two Saturdays per month during the summer and during the harvesting season in our garden on Church Property. Youth will report directly to Mr. Paul Santucci while serving in this ministry.



### **ALTAR SERVING**

Youth who participate in the ministry of Serving at the Altar during Mass will serve at least two times per month. Servers will be under the direction of Fr. Frank and will be expected to exhibit the upmost reverence during the Holy Mass.



### **RAISING SAINTS KIDS CAMP**

Youth volunteers for Raising Saints Kids' Camp will assist one Saturday morning per month from 8:30AM - 11:20AM, serving the elementary children of our Parish community as they grow in faith. The dates for this ministry are: 10/31/20, 11/21/20, 12/12/20, 1/23/21, 2/27/21, 3/13/21, 4/10/21

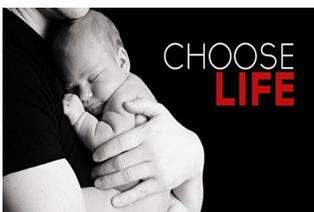
### **HOSPITALITY MINISTRY**

Youth who volunteer for Hospitality Ministry will be on a rotating schedule in which they will serve as hospitality members for our 6PM Mass. They will arrive at Saint Philip Church at 5:30PM on their scheduled Sundays, assist parishioners in being seated in the Church, assisting with Communion lines and sanitation of the Church following Mass. This Ministry will run under the guidance of Mr. Keith Kline & Mr. Dennis Sousa.



### **PRO-LIFE MINISTRY**

Youth volunteers will participate in various activities throughout the year in defense of human life as a member of the Saint Philip Right to Life Committee. Activities will include monthly meetings with the committee, spiritual adoption of babies, participating in a prayer-chains, Holy Hours, and fund-raising activities.

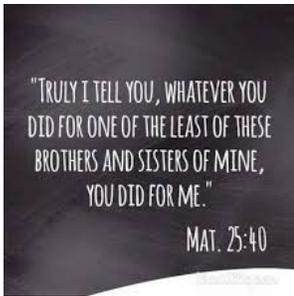


## PRAYER MINISTRY



Youth volunteers will be prayer warriors for Christ. This group of volunteers will participate in a Holy Hour of Adoration in the Chapel each month (two per month will be offered) with an adult who will lead them in prayers, and devotions. They will also assist with the Send (prayer) portion of our Life Nights.

## MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY



Youth volunteers in this ministry will participate in activities which will serve in the corporeal acts of mercy. They will participate in our Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out (Nov. 6-7), Baby Shower to benefit the Mother of Life Center (Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>), and will collectively hold a food/clothing drive for those in need.

## BACK FROM THE DEAD CEMETERY WALK MINISTRY



Youth volunteers will participate as actors and guides in our annual Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Pascoag. They will need to attend a few meetings in preparation for the event (Dates TBD), and attend the event on Sunday, November 1, 2020, 3PM-9PM.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” Matthew 25: 35-36*

# **GENERAL CONDUCT**

## **PRIOR CATECHESIS AND ASSESSMENT**

Candidates for Confirmation must have attended three consecutive years of religious education (grades 6, 7, 8) prior to admission. Those who do not meet this requirement must demonstrate a basic knowledge of the doctrines of our Catholic faith. This will determine if they will be allowed into the program **or** at what grade level they will be participating in our religious education program. Our Confirmation program builds on what was passed on during the elementary and middle school years, and therefore requires a foundational knowledge of Catholic doctrine.

## **RESPECT AND COURTESY**

All candidates are to be respectful toward the coordinator, their classmates, and especially their classroom catechists. Disrespect, discourtesy, and class disruption will not be tolerated. The program coordinator, the parish priests, or a catechist may issue two “warnings” to a student who exhibits discourtesy, disrespect, or is a disruption. On the third offense, the student will be removed for the remainder of the class and sent to the coordinator. The parents will be notified by phone and the student will be placed on probation. Disrespect and discourtesy are clear indications that a student is not ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## **CELL PHONES, TEXTING, AND INTERNET**

The use of cell phones for texting and web-browsing is strictly forbidden. Students may need cell phones to contact parents after class, but cell phones must be turned off and may never be used during class time. Emergencies should be reported to the coordinator of the program, who will contact parents if necessary. Catechists and the Saint Philip staff reserve the right to confiscate cell phones. Cell phones confiscated will be given to the program director until the conclusion of the class session or event.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all classes and events is mandatory. Diocesan requirements stipulate that at least thirty hours of catechesis be completed during the Confirmation program. Missing class may result in a delay of your Confirmation ceremony and require you to repeat that year.

## **CLASS TARDINESS**

Unexcused tardiness will not be tolerated. Students are required to arrive a minimum of 5 minutes before the scheduled class time or meeting/s. Classes will promptly begin at the specified time given.

## **ENROLLMENT**

Each candidate with their family, must be properly registered and be an active budget contributing member in the Parish of Saint Philip's, as well as, registered in the Religious Education Program from the onset. All other children in the family should also be registered in the Religious Education Program, not just Sacramental students.

## **PROBATIONARY CONDITIONS**

Candidates will be placed on probationary status for the following:

- Missing Mass
- An unexcused class absence
- Consistent tardiness
- More than two warnings for cell phone use during class
- More than two warnings to a candidate who exhibits discourtesy, disrespect, and/or class disruption

If placed on a probationary status, the candidate and his/her parents must meet with the pastor and/or coordinator to seek readmission to the program. It will be the candidate's responsibility to call or see the pastor or his delegate to schedule a meeting prior to his/her next class.

## **DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to dress appropriately so as not to distract those around them. Hats are not to be worn inside the parish buildings. No tank tops for boys or girls. Skirts and shorts should be appropriate length.

## **BAPTISMAL RECORDS**

A copy of the candidate's baptismal record is needed for all candidates **NOT** baptized at Saint Philip Parish. If we do not have your baptismal certificate on file, it must be obtained from the parish where the candidate was baptized.

# Confirmation Covenant Agreement

*“Called by Christ as Disciples; Sent to Serve in His Name”*

“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...”(CCC 1309)

## Candidate Pledge:

- I have read the program handbook and I understand all that is expected of me.
- I will complete the requirements of the program with the help of my parents and sponsor.
- I will participate actively in the sacramental life of the Church by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- I will make a sincere effort to develop a consistent prayer life.
- I will attend all required classes and events, and will notify the coordinator in the case of sickness or emergency. I will also complete all required assignments, forms, and activities.
- I will complete the required service projects, and will seek to be actively engaged in the life of my parish community.
- I will be respectful of my classmates, my catechists, the program coordinator, and my parish priests.
- I will remain open to growth in understanding, explaining, and defending my Catholic faith.
- I will attend all mandatory retreats.
- It is **MY** choice to enter the Confirmation Program in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Candidate’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent Pledge:

- I have read the program handbook and understand what is expected of my child.
- I will do my best to ensure that my child meets the requirements of the program while allowing him/her to take responsibility.
- I will aid and support my child in participating more actively in the sacramental life of the Church (Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, attending Reconciliation/Penance, Eucharistic Adoration).
- I will remain actively engaged in my child’s progress as he/she advances toward reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- I will do my best to demonstrate by example all tenants of the Catholic faith.

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_