

April 4, 2022

Dear Confirmation Candidates and Families,

Happy Spring! Confirmation is drawing very close, and our Confirmation Mass will be such a wonderful celebration of God's love and presence in your lives. We at the parish are looking forward to it!

Below you'll find all the final parts of Confirmation preparation. There is also an individualized postcard for you, noting anything that you personally still have outstanding. Please go through everything carefully and be in touch with any questions.

Everything you need to know & do BEFORE Confirmation

Please read this information carefully!

ALL forms can be found ONLINE at <http://www.sholnewton.org/confirmation-preparation>

SPONSOR FORM: Please choose someone to be your sponsor, someone who has helped you through your faith journey and who you would like to stand with you as you get Confirmed.

SERVICE REFLECTIONS: All candidates are required to complete a minimum of 6 hours of service, including 2 at the parish, and to turn in a service reflection based on those hours.

If you have a blank line on your progress postcard next to "Service Project", but you have done your service, it means that I have not yet received a report from you. If you are doing an extra service project to make up for the retreat, please turn in a separate form for that project. Reports are due by April 25th.

If you will not be completing your service project until after Confirmation, perhaps during the summer (*this includes those serving at Workcamp*), please turn in a modified report detailing what you have done so far or what you anticipate doing. Blank reports are available at the above website!

RETREAT: If you missed this year's retreat, there will be a blank on this line on your postcard. You need to do an extra six hours of service for missing the retreat. Exceptions are made for those enrolled in Catholic schools. Please call me if there are any discrepancies.

MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS: If you have missed 2 or more classes (in a year), you are asked to do a makeup assignment for those classes. I will send a final assignment update on April 4th, based off of your attendance for the year. Please finish any and all assignments asked of you by April 25th, and send them to my email (listed below) in either a word document or PDF. If you have any questions, please let me know.

CONFIRMATION REFLECTION LETTERS: As your celebration of Confirmation draws near, we would like to hear from you! All the candidates are asked to write a reflection letter about your experience in the Confirmation program. This can be about your experience in the program, favorite speakers, why you picked your Confirmation sponsor/name/both, or how you plan to get involved with your faith now as an adult in the faith. This is not a 10-page report – one paragraph or page will do! Please have this done by April 25th.

CONFIRMATION NAME: A name identifies you in a unique way – not just your physical self but who you are as a person. One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. During the actual celebration of your Confirmation, the bishop will address you by that name. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine your choice. You may want to recommit yourself to your Baptismal (given) name, since it expresses the relationship that exists between these two sacraments, especially if you reflect on its meaning and discover some people who shared your name in Christian history.

If you do want to take a new name (and it is not a requirement), you should choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. It is important to learn as much as you can about your chosen saint. After all, you are asking this saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life. Whether you decide on your Baptismal name or a new name, take the time to research and explore the root meaning of the name, for, as the Lord says, “I have called you by name: you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1d).

- Catholic Online Saints – <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>
- Catholic Information Network Saint Links – <http://www.cin.org/saintlink.html>
- Franciscan Media – <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/>
- LifeTeen - <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

Please fill out the form carefully and completely and turn it in immediately, regardless of whether you are choosing a new Confirmation Name. The Confirmation Name Form is also online and due April 25th.

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL AND LITURGY: I will be sending more information about the Confirmation rehearsal and Mass itself as the dates approach, but please make sure you have your calendars marked now.

Confirmation Rehearsal: Friday, May 13th at 7:00pm – WILL BE STARTING PROMPTLY

Confirmation Ceremony: Saturday, May 14th at 11:00am – BE THERE BY 10:30AM

Both Candidates and Sponsors are REQUIRED to be at the rehearsal. If a sponsor is unable to be present, a parent is required to come in their place. Rehearsal will last about 75 minutes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 617-527-7560 ext. 213 or email me at nwoll@sholnewton.org