

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONFIRMATION CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday and Holy Day Mass Attendance

Participate in the Liturgy of the Mass each weekend, and receive the sacraments frequently. This is a time of spiritual preparation for you, when you should give more attention to developing your spiritual self. Holy Days of Obligation are to be regarded as Sundays in our Mass participation.

Attendance

- Classes: Attend each class, either on Tuesday or Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30. We expect that you will make this class a priority, and adjust work and other obligations accordingly. **You may not miss more than two classes throughout the year.** Please see the schedule of classes and other pertinent dates. It is your responsibility to keep track of these dates, as other notices will not be given.
- HSYG: Attend two High School Youth Group events of your choice. The HSYG schedule includes bible study, social events and service opportunities. Service performed at HSYG events can be included as part of your Apostolic Service. Please see the HSYG page on the parish website for a complete calendar of events. (www.holyredeemercc.org)

Class Participation

- The activities, discussions and projects in class are your opportunity to take a look at our faith and beliefs as a maturing person. This is the place to bring your faith questions, and to learn and grow from the ideas others bring to the group. Your thoughtful participation will benefit you and others in class.
- Saint Name and Report

A name identifies us and tells others who we are. Candidates are asked to check into reasons for their baptismal name if they are not already aware of the reason. They may choose a new Confirmation name as a sign of growth in faith. One may keep the baptismal name to emphasize the fact that Confirmation is a sealing of the Baptismal Commitment.

Each candidate must complete a saint report on the saint whose name you choose as your Confirmation name. Teachers of each class will determine the presentation method of the report, which must be completed by the last class in December.

The report should include information on the chosen saint, with information acquired from books in our library, the public library, or online. The report should also include your reason for choosing this saint as your patron, and some of the qualities of that person you admire and hope to emulate.

If researching online, please use Catholic sites only, such as

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.asp>,

<http://www.theworkofgod.org/saints/>

- Letter to the Pastor

Candidates are required to write a letter to our pastor, Rev. Martin Mulqueen, indicating a desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It should be a statement of future commitment to study the faith and to advance the mission of Christ Jesus through His Church. Specific guidelines for the letter

will be discussed in class and the letters should be written after the Spirit Day retreat.

Apostolic Service

All baptized Christians are called to a life of service, following the example Jesus gave to us with his own life. As part of your Confirmation preparation, this is an opportunity for you to discover your own gifts and talents, using them in service to others and to God. You will discover the meaning of Christian service and ministry, your introduction to a life of giving yourselves to others as a part of the Body of Christ.

- Each candidate is required to give twenty (20) hours of individual service. Ten (10) of these hours must be done at Holy Redeemer church, and the remaining ten (10) may be done at church or in the community.
 - Church service may include service in one of our parish ministries, such as altar server, assisting in religious education classes, choir, lector or usher. It also may include serving in any service or social functions in our parish, such as serving coffee & donuts after Mass, serving at dinners and receptions, Project Bethlehem, Vacation Bible Camp, Women's Guild events.
 - Community service outside of the parish may include service performed at school or with school clubs and organizations, assisting with sports teams of younger children, Red Cross, humanitarian organizations and community service events. We have provided forms which you may use to record and submit your community service, signed by the supervising adult. You may submit a copy of your school service form instead of the one provided.
 - This is a great time to consider the 100 hours of community service you will need before graduation in order to qualify for scholarships. All of the service you complete at Holy Redeemer can be added to your school form and can be included in those required hours.
- All candidates must participate in a group project, which will be discussed and decided upon in class.
- Service opportunities available in the parish will be announced in class, and candidates will have the opportunity to sign up for them in class.

Retreats

There will be 2 retreats during the year that all candidates must attend as a required part of your Confirmation preparation.

- 1) Orientation Retreat on Saturday, September 24 beginning at 9:00 am
- 2) Commitment Retreat on February 18, 2017. If there is a serious reason you cannot attend our retreat, you must attend the Confirmation retreat in another parish in our Diocese. This must be arranged in advance with the Religious Education Office.

Sponsors

In the early Church, sponsors were Christians who presented their friends as candidates for Christian Initiation. When infant Baptism came into practice, godparents were to assist the parents their responsibilities of raising the child in the ways of the faith. The Code of Canon Law indicates that Baptismal godparents are preferred as Confirmation Sponsors because of the unity of Baptism and

Confirmation, assuming the godparents are actively practicing the Catholic Faith. Other practicing Catholics may be chosen as Confirmation sponsors, serving as mentors and guides in the faith to their candidates. Confirmation sponsors should be mature enough in their faith to be comfortable answering questions the candidate might have and sharing his/her faith.

- The sponsor must be 16 years of age or older.
- The sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- The sponsor must be an actively practicing Catholic, and provide a recommendation from their parish. We provide a form for this purpose, or the form used by the sponsor's parish is also acceptable. **The sponsor form should be received in the Religious Education Office by December 31st.**
- If the sponsor is married, the marriage must be valid in the Catholic Church.
- A parent may not serve as a sponsor for their child.

Baptismal Certificates

All candidates who were not baptized at Holy Redeemer must submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate by December 31st. The parish of Baptism is required to keep records of all sacraments received, and we will notify the parish that Confirmation has been received at Holy Redeemer.

Parent's Participation

- You and your Confirmation candidate (and hopefully the rest of the family) commit to attending Mass every week. If this has not been your family's practice in the past, be assured that you will appreciate the benefits by the time of Confirmation.
- Assist your child in attending all class sessions and other required events. Class and pertinent dates are listed on the schedule. Other notices will not be given, so please put these dates in your calendar now.
- Commit to pray for your child every day, to assist in his or her spiritual development. This may not be any easy time for your candidates, and they all will need the strength and support your prayers will give.
- Promote an open communication with your child regarding his or her spiritual life. Our spirituality is an integral part of ourselves which is easily ignored in today's hectic life. More is learned every day about the impact of our spiritual nature on every other aspect of our lives, from morals and ethics to how quickly we heal. Your child may be less aware of this part of him or herself, so be prepared to initiate the communication.
- Assist your candidate in understanding Confirmation as a completion of Baptism. Rather than a completion of Religious Education, Confirmation offers a beginning of our full lives as members of the Church, open to the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Through this sacrament, we are strengthened in our mission to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- We welcome parents' participation in our program! Please let us know if you can: assist in a class on a regular or occasional basis, assist with serving food at the retreats, or in another capacity.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Candidates and sponsors should avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation prior to Confirmation. Reconciliation will be a part of the Spirit Day retreat for candidates.

Communications

- Our primary mode of communication will be email. Please make sure that we have a current email address for parents.
- Please check the bulletin regularly for updates.
- Events and service opportunities sponsored by the HSYG can also be found on the HSYG page of the parish website, www.holyredeemercc.org

Confirmation Date and Rehearsals

Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, April 2, 2017 at 4:00 pm. Rehearsal for candidates and sponsors will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Confirmation Dress Code

The **candidates** will be wearing white Confirmation robes. The dress code under their robes is as follows:

- Boys Dress Slacks, any color
- Dress Shirt/Tie, any color
- Dress Shoes
- Sports/Suit Jackets **should not be worn** as it would be too hot under the robe.
- Girls Dress, skirt or dress pants, any color
- Dress Shoes

The **sponsors** should also be appropriately and modestly dressed, since in their role they are an official representative of the Church. Men should wear Dress Shirt/Tie and Jacket. Women should wear a skirt, dress or a dress pants suit appropriate for Mass and the sacramental occasion.