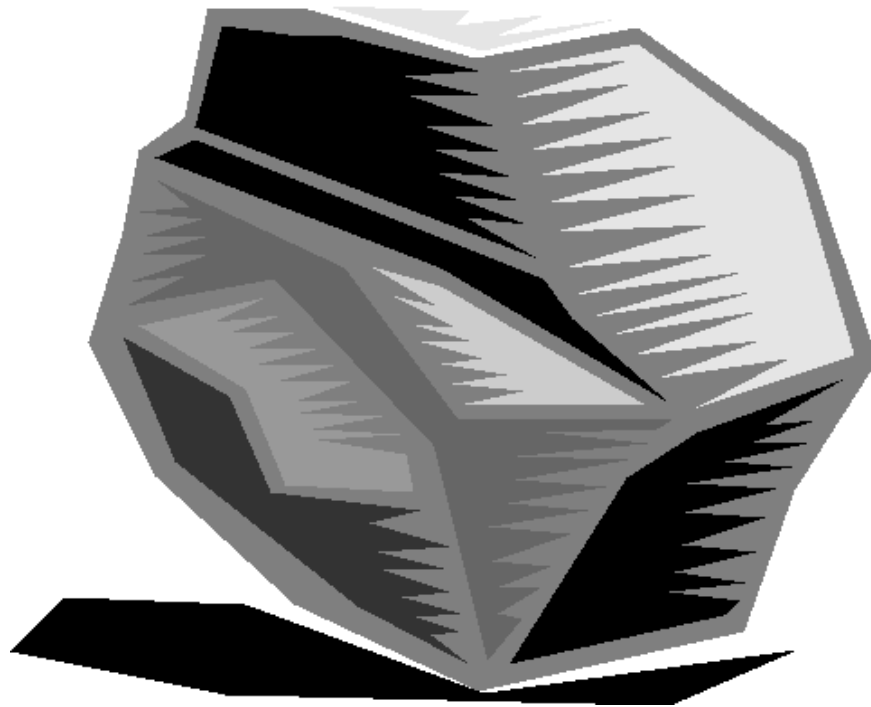


RITE OF CONFIRMATION

2013-2014 YEAR



R.O.C. Packet

For Students & Parents

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH - DENTON, TX

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.E.) OFFICE: 940-387-6223

Lindsey Boeshans – Coordinator of High School Youth Ministry and Confirmation
stmarkdentonhsym@gmail.com / ext. 32

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For more information about Confirmation events visit our website at  
[www.stmarkdenton.org/confirmation](http://www.stmarkdenton.org/confirmation)

**BE SURE TO WATCH THE WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR EMAIL FOR UPDATES  
OR CHANGES IN CONFIRMATION EVENTS**

*Email Lindsey to sign up for our weekly HSYM newsletter to keep up-to-date on different  
events happening at St. Mark*

## *Dear Candidates & Parents,*

Welcome to the R.O.C. (Rite of Confirmation)! I am very excited that you have chosen to receive this sacrament! I pray that this semester will show your whole family what it is to receive this amazing sacrament. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “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...[and] strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.” - CCC 1309

Our goal is to be true to this statement of preparation for Confirmation. **PLEASE KNOW THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR YOU WILL NOT KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**, but it is my hope that you will know more about your faith, feel a sense of belonging, and be closer to Christ.

*Parents*, we hope that through the course of this year you will actively participate in your child’s Confirmation. You can continue to encourage your child in his or her faith by asking them about the different events they attend, by volunteering for High School Youth Ministry (HSYM) events and most importantly... PRAY. This can be as much a life-changing process for you, as it can be for your child!

*Candidate*, receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) but it is far from the end of your spiritual growth! This year is a chance for you to continue to grow, to go deeper into the beauty of the Catholic Church and the love of Christ. **The ROC Team:** Fr. George, the teachers, volunteers, church staff and I are all here for you. God bless you in this coming year and throughout the Confirmation process!

His Servant,

Lindsey Boeshans  
Coordinator of High School Youth Ministry

*PS – Communication for Confirmation events will happen mainly through **email**. Please make sure to check your email weekly for updated information. The website will also be updated.*

# CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETION OF THE CANDIDATE'S CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Candidates will need to complete all the following requirements and assignments.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES' REGISTRATION

- Submitted Religious Education Registration Packet (*if not already turned in*)
- Full Payment of Fees
  - Registration Fee - \$40 per family (*paid at registration - \$95 per teen for non-St. Mark parishioners*)
  - Retreat fee - \$100 per participant (*due by January 2, 2014*)

## REQUIREMENTS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE

- Attendance at the 3 Super Sunday Confirmation Sessions  
(*Review Calendar on pg. 5 for dates. Be sure to arrive a few minutes early to sign in.*)
  - Completion of the initial and final interviews (*see pg. 7*)
  - Choose a Confirmation sponsor and attend Candidate/Sponsor meeting (*see pg. 8-9*)
  - Attendance at the Confirmation Retreat (*see pg.10-11*)
  - 3 Service Projects and reports (*see pg. 14-16*)
  - Continue in weekly participation in the life of the Church in one of the following ways:
    1. Attend all Life Teen Nights on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Main Worship Space;
    2. Attend all BOB & WOW Nights on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm in Portable F;
    3. A combination of the two options above. For example, if you normally attend Life Nights but you miss a week, you can make it up by attending BOB & WOW.
- \*\*\*Three absences are allowed – you do not need to contact the office unless you are sick and need to have an excused absence. These will not take away from your three allowed absences but too many will result in a meeting to discuss if this is a good time to be confirmed.\*\*\*

## ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE

*The following assignments may be found in this packet. Please note the due dates on page 5. It is the Candidate's (Student) responsibility to turn these assignments in on time.*

- Write a letter to Fr. George stating your desire to receive Confirmation (*see pg. 12*)
- Write a one-page report on your Saint (*see pg. 13*)

**\*\*\*All Information, Forms, Papers and Money must be turned into the Religious Education Office. Forms and Papers may also be sent to the church with attention to Lindsey Boeshans.\*\*\***

# CALENDAR OF CONFIRMATION EVENTS

| <u>Date:</u>         | <u>Time:</u>                  | <u>Location:</u>      | <u>Focus:</u>               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| September 15         | 1:30-2:30pm                   | Main Worship Space    | Parent Meeting              |
| January 5            | 1:30-2:30pm                   | Main Worship Space    | Candidate / Sponsor Meeting |
| <b>January 17-19</b> | <b>RETREAT AT CAMP COPASS</b> |                       |                             |
| February 9           | 12:30-3:30pm                  | Portable F            |                             |
| <del>March 2</del>   | <del>12:30-3:30pm</del>       | <del>Portable F</del> |                             |
| April 13             | 12:45-3:45pm                  | Portable F            |                             |
| May 4                | 12:45-3:45pm                  | Portable F            |                             |
| May 18               | 12:45-3:45pm                  | Portable F            | Final Interviews            |
| May 30               | 6:00-7:30pm                   | Main Worship Space    | Ceremony Rehearsal          |
| May 31               | 10:00-11:30am                 | Main Worship Space    | Ceremony                    |

**LIFE NIGHTS** are on Sunday evenings from **5-7pm** in the **Main Worship Space (MWS)**.  
**BOB & WOW** are on Wednesday evenings from **6:30-8pm** in **Portable F**.

## **IMPORTANT DATES 2014**

|               |                                              |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 17-19 | Required Confirmation Retreat at Camp Copass |                            |
| May 30        | Confirmation Mass Rehearsal                  | <u>Time:</u> 6:00-7:30pm   |
| May 31        | Confirmation Mass                            | <u>Time:</u> 10:00-11:30am |

## **DUE DATES 2014**

|            |                                             |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|
| January 2  | \$100 fee for Confirmation Prep             |
| January 5  | Sponsor Form                                |
| February 9 | Letter to the Bishop, 1 <sup>st</sup> draft |
| March 2    | Letter to the Bishop, final draft           |
| April 13   | Saint Report/Coat of Arms                   |
| May 4      | Three Service Reports                       |

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

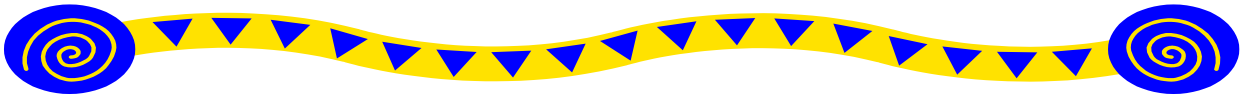
Parents, we only have a short time to prepare your child for this once in a lifetime Sacrament of Confirmation. Because of this, every event and class is vital to your child's formation and attendance is *extremely* important.

- We suggest that your child arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the start time of class to sign in and get settled.
- **Attendance at all 3 (three) Super Sunday Confirmation Sessions is required.**
- If your child must miss a class or other event, please call our office to let us know.
  - A message on voicemail or email is sufficient.
- If your child misses more than 15 minutes of a class he or she will be considered absent.
- If your child must miss multiple events for whatever reason, please let the R.E. Office know so we can discuss your child's options and see if waiting a year when their schedules are more available for them to focus on this sacrament is a more suitable option.

# INITIAL INTERVIEWS

Interviews will take place before November 21<sup>st</sup> during the social time of BOB & WOW or Life Nights. Please contact Lindsey Whitis via email or phone by November 10<sup>th</sup> if your child has not been interviewed and you are concerned about their interview being completed.

1. This is a conversational interview (10-15 minutes) by which the HS Youth Minister can assess the candidate's readiness to begin the Confirmation Sacrament Preparation process. No prior "cramming" is needed; simply a positive attitude and a willingness to discuss his/her faith.
2. Candidates should bring their completed Candidate/Parent Commitment form (*see pg. 17*).
3. Should a HS teen not be able to express a satisfactory understanding of our Catholic faith, he/she may be required to complete a remedial at-home class to be completed with the parents as to ensure they know the foundations of our Catholic Faith that they will be saying "yes" to at Confirmation.



# FINAL INTERVIEWS

Final interviews will take place on **May 18th from 12:45-3:45pm**. This interview will help us understand your child's readiness to be confirmed. This will not be on a "pass/fail" basis but more about your child's understanding of the sacrament they are about to receive and the responsibility they are taking on as a confirmed Catholic. As soon as your teen has completed their interview, they may leave for the evening.

# QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPONSORS

In order for a person to be qualified as a Sponsor for Confirmation, all the following requirements MUST be met:

- The sponsor must be sixteen years or older;
  - The sponsor must be *\*A Practicing Catholic* who has been Confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist; (\* see page 9 for more details)
- If the sponsor is married, it must have been by a Catholic Priest, or the marriage must have been blessed by the Catholic Church;
- The sponsor cannot be the father or the mother of the one to be confirmed; and
- It is highly recommended that the sponsor NOT be someone you are dating.

*It is desirable that one of those who took the role of Godparent at Baptism be your sponsor for Confirmation. Please involve your parents in the decision of whom you should choose to be your sponsor.*

## CONFIRMATION SPONSOR - FAQs

### **WHO SHOULD I CHOOSE AS A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?**

Someone whom you know that is *\* A Practicing Catholic*. If the person you are going to choose is married, they should be married in the Catholic Church. If they have been divorced and are remarried, they need to have had their marriage blessed by the Church.

### **WHAT QUALITIES SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A SPONSOR?**

Someone that you feel is trying to be close to God, someone that you admire for one or more of their virtues (i.e. goodness, kindness, patience, peace, perseverance). Someone you feel will support you through their presence in your life, by their prayers, spiritual support, and by interest in your life in various experiences or events.

### **WHY DO I NEED A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?**

You need a sponsor to be a role model, an example, someone who will be in your corner, caring about you and praying for you. The way the saints became saints were by learning from other holy people, namely other saints. They were individuals that wanted to be good, please God, and someday go to heaven. Your sponsor is your guide. When you go on a journey you have to plan where to go, what to take, who to go with, and how you're going to get there. Your sponsor will be the person who will help you to grow in your Faith, guide you in what steps you need to take to do that, make suggestions to help you in the right direction for your life, and ultimately be with you and God in heaven.

*\* see the next page for a better understanding of the phrase "Practicing Catholic" \**



# WHAT IS MEANT BY THE PHRASE: "A PRACTICING CATHOLIC?"

This phrase can be understood in several ways depending on the circumstances in which the question is raised. In one sense, a practicing Catholic is one who fulfills certain simple requirements established by Church law or by the rules of Catholic organizations. By fulfilling those minimum requirements, one can be considered a Catholic, but this says very little about what kind of Catholic a person is at heart.

To raise the question beyond the simple legalistic fulfillment of a certain list of requirements, one has to speak of attitude - of how a person **TRIES** to be Catholic with all their heart and soul, mind and strength. A practicing Catholic, in this sense, is one who has been baptized; one who has received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation; one who frequently receives Holy Communion and goes to Confession; one who sincerely tries to live a life of faith in communion with the Church; one who always tries to form their conscience according to the authentic teaching of the Church expressed by the Pope and the bishops in union with him; one who belongs and participates in the life and activity of their parish church and supports that community to the best of their ability with their time, talent, and treasure. A practicing Catholic is one who lives a chaste life according to their state in life whether single, married, or divorced; one who marries according to the laws of the Church and, if divorce occurs, does not attempt to marry again without submitting their case to the Church tribunal for judgment (annulment). *A practicing Catholic is one who lives to please Christ, not to please self.*

No one is perfect. No one is turned away for being imperfect but everyone is obliged to strive for perfection and we are strengthened in our efforts by the grace and support of God Himself. Those Catholics who are having serious difficulties with the practice of their faith should legitimately expect the sympathy and help of their fellow Catholic, not judgment, condescension or condemnation. "I must love, I may condemn a person (his actions), but I must love him. If I do not love him, my condemnation is a sign that I am not a Christian." (Pope John XXIII)

A more accurate definition of "A Practicing Catholic" then is not one who seeks to fulfill the minimum required, but rather, one who always tries to love God and neighbor and fulfill one's duties in the faith to the best of their ability.

# CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Our retreats are incredible events that allow you to encounter the Lord in a very real way. At this retreat, the Confirmation leaders and other High School Youth Ministry volunteers will use talks, small group discussions, skits and more to show you that Confirmation is not just a one-time event but the beginning of your life of faith.

This year the Confirmation Retreat will be January 17-19, 2014 at the Camp Copass. This retreat is *required*, so please mark your calendars now! We chose a holiday weekend this year so the teen's would have the following Monday to recover and complete homework for the upcoming week. The Confirmation prep fee is \$100.00. This covers the cost for the retreat, meals, supplies and lodging. The \$100 Confirmation fee is due January 2, 2014.

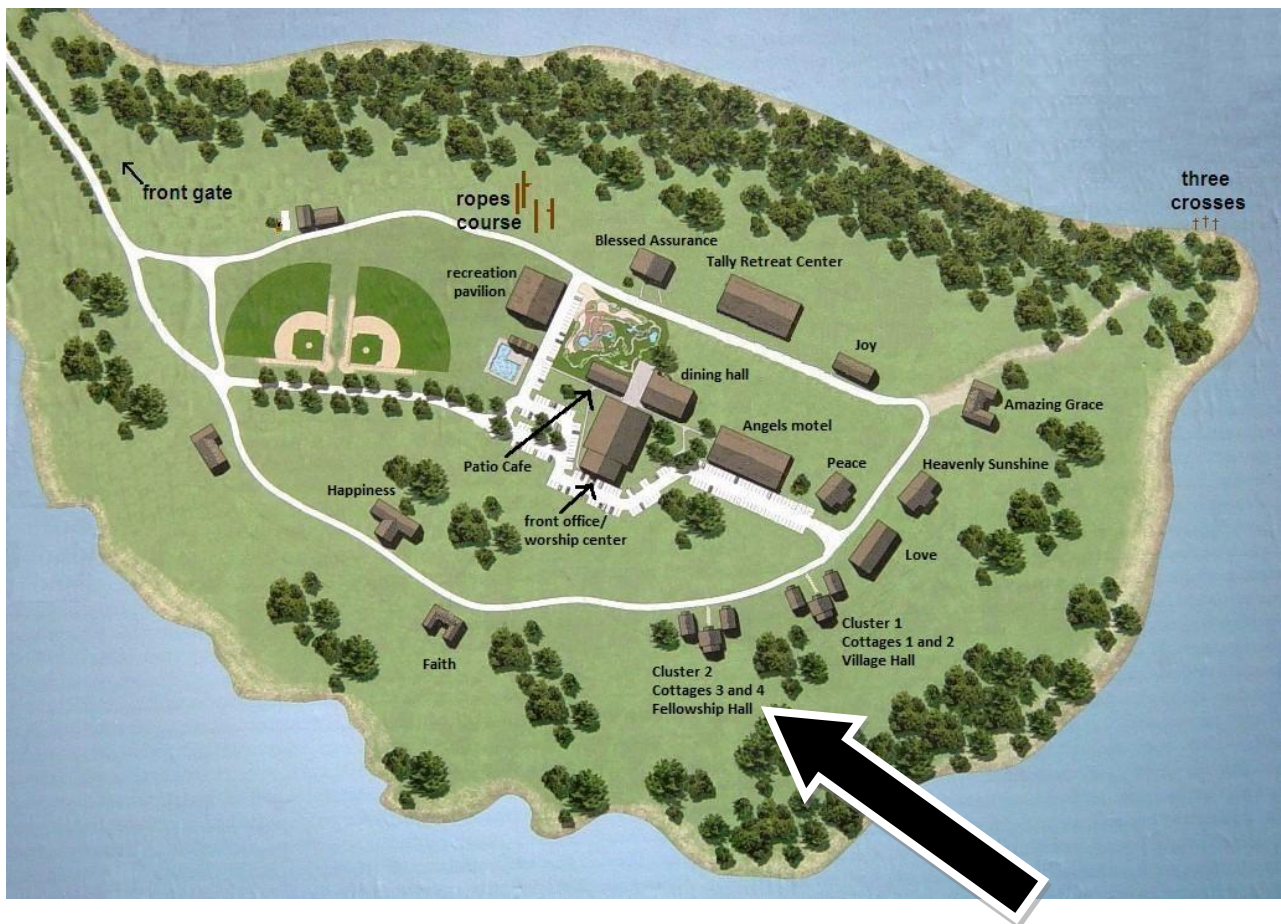
***\*\*\*Make sure to eat dinner before arriving\*\*\****

**Drop Off** at Camp Copass: 6:00pm – Friday at Cluster 2 (*see below*)

**Pick Up** at St. Mark: 2:30pm – Sunday

***Please join us on Sunday for Mass at 4pm at St. Mark***

***Transportation to and from the camp is the PARENTS' responsibility. This is helping keep the cost down on the retreat. Thank you for understanding. Teens may drive themselves but will have to turn in their keys to Lindsey upon arrival and will get the back on Sunday.***



# CONFIRMATION RETREAT

## Things to Bring:

- Positive Attitude**
- 2 sets of **MODEST** comfortable clothing  
(Jeans, Shirt, Socks, Underwear, etc... Remember everyone may be sitting on the floor at some point. Dress at all times should be casual but modest. No cutoffs or short-shorts, belly/A-style shirts or sports bras (exposed), band/concert t-shirts or t-shirts with suggestive or violent language will be allowed.
  - Quick Test for appropriate shorts: when wearing shorts properly around waist, the bottom of the shorts should minimally reach to the tip of your fingers as your arms rest along the side of your body. Nike shorts are ok.
  - Girls – please do not bring shirts or blouses that have an open neck line.
  - Guys – pants/shorts must be pulled up to the waist.
  - NOTE – We will have daily Mass on Saturday morning.
- Pajamas for sleeping
- Bible (*suggested*)
- 1 set of appropriate Clothes for Mass
- Tennis Shoes (*required for team building activities*)
- Toiletries: Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, etc...
- Towel and Wash Cloth
- Jacket
- Flashlight
- Snacks and 6 pack of water / juice / soda to share with small group.
- Sleeping Bag & Pillow or Sheets, Blanket & Pillow (they will sleep on twin-sized bunk beds)

## **Things NOT to Bring:**

- NO Watches or Phones
- NO Music Players (CD Player, MP3 Player, etc...)
- NO Video Players (DVD Player, VCR, TV, etc...)
- NO Video Games of any kind
- NO Weapons (Pocket Knives, etc...)
- NO Alcohol, NO Drugs
- NO Combustible Items (Matches, Fireworks etc...)

# **LETTER TO THE FR. GEORGE**

**Return your first draft no later than February 9, 2014**

**Return your final draft no later than March 2, 2014**

Another part of the Confirmation process is writing a letter to Fr. George. Fr. George, or our new Bishop, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to you, but he is not able to get to know each of you individually. Therefore, he has requested that you write a letter to him so he knows a little bit more about you and what you have done to prepare to receive this Sacrament. The letter must be **TYPED**. **I will let you know if this needs to be a letter to the Bishop instead once we find out if we have one or not for this year.**

## **Suggested Fr. George Letter Template**

|                       | Date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Greeting:</b>      | Dear Fr. George,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Body Includes:</b> | Introduction - Introduce yourself: use first and last name<br><br>Share with the bishop that you want to be confirmed at St. Mark Catholic Church in Denton in May 2014.<br><br>Share with him how you have prepared...<br>study (classes)<br>prayer<br>service projects (name at least one example)<br>special activities (retreat)<br><br>Who you have selected for your confirmation saint and why?<br><br>Who you have asked to be your sponsor and why? |
| <b>Closing:</b>       | <i>Choose one of the following:</i><br>Sincerely yours,<br><i>OR</i> In Christ,<br><i>OR</i> A Confirmation candidate,<br><br><i>(Don't forget your signature!)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

*This is only a **suggested** outline. Include anything you want Fr. George to know about your Confirmation process. **Remember** – he really does read these & might read parts at the Confirmation Mass.*

# SAINT REPORT

Return this assignment no later than March 2, 2014

A part of your Confirmation process is choosing a saint you admire and writing a mini-report on that saint. You may decide to choose a saint based upon what they are the patron (protector or supporter) of, but whatever saint you choose they become *your* patron. This means they will be looking out for you in a special way for your entire life until one day when you meet them in Heaven! But how can you strive to live like someone if you know nothing about them? This is why we require a saint report. It is recommended that you use your baptismal saint name, if you have one.

**Why is it even important to feel a connection with a saint?** As Catholics, we know the power of having Mary and the saints pray (or intercede) for us. Many saints are patrons of different things. For example, St. Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

The name of the saint you choose is the name that you will take at Confirmation. So if you choose St. Anthony, the Bishop will say, "Anthony, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" as you're Confirmed.

Take some time to find a saint you really have a connection with. If you have any trouble deciding on a saint, just ask and we will be happy to help!

### **1. Suggestions for where to do research:**

- a. [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)
- b. [www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm)
- c. [www.newadvent.org/cathen/index.html](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/index.html)
- d. Your local library – Sanctioned Catholic Saint Books

**\*\*Do not copy your paper directly from the website – You will be asked to rewrite your paper if you do\*\***

### **2. Paper requirements:**

- a. Typed
- b. 1 page
- c. Double-spaced
- d. 12-point font
- e. 1 inch margins

### **3. Paper should include:**

- a. Factual information about the saint
  - i. When he or she was born and died
  - ii. Where the saint was from
  - iii. What his or her life was like
  - iv. Why this person is a saint
- b. Why you chose the saint
- c. Where you found your information – Includes websites, books, magazines, and/or any other media used (this does not have to be in a formal outline – just for my information)

**IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO WRITE A PAPER, THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS.  
YOU NEED TO ASK LINDSEY IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE  
OTHER OPTIONS.**

# **COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

**Each Candidate must complete their service projects and journals no later than April 6, 2014**

One of the effects of Confirmation is “it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1303). Service projects are required as you prepare for Confirmation because service to the community is part of being a “true witness of Christ”.

Each Candidate is asked to complete *one full-season* or *three short-term* (about 4 hours each) service projects. The three projects should be split between parish service and community service. For example, the candidate may choose to do one project for the Church and two for community organizations. ***Full-season projects must be approved by Lindsey at your initial interview.***

**FAQ:** “How long should my project take to be considered a project?” As long as it takes to change the world. Since there is always more to change for good in the world, we are on a lifelong journey of discipleship and service.

These projects should be people-centered, always focused on improving quality of life and/or building up the Church. They should incorporate, when possible, the distinctive gifts and talents of the Candidate. The service projects are a time to discover ways which the Candidate can uniquely minister to God’s people. Finally, the projects chosen should allow the candidates to assume some responsibility in the ministry and service of the parish or greater community. You can always choose to do a group project with others in your Confirmation group or with friends who enjoy service as well.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Assist elderly neighbors with their chores, volunteer at the local library, contact Our Daily Bread and ask how you can help, support Project Gabriel by collecting supplies and/or money from people in the community, baby sit free of charge, visit the elderly in nursing homes, volunteer at a Boys and Girls Club, assist with the Mass as an usher or other minister, etc.

**Service Journal Pages:** (*see pg. 15-16*) Each Candidate must complete a journal entry by answering three questions about his or her experience. We hope that through your participation in these projects you will incorporate service to others as an important part of your faith. Candidates completely season-long projects must write two pages about their experiences using the journal pages as a guideline.

# **SERVICE HOURS - JOURNAL PAGE**

**(Please fill out one section for each place that your worked.)**

**Return these page no later than May 4, 2014**

---

Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person in Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of project: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of service project: \_\_\_\_\_

If Christ saw what you did today he would say.... \_\_\_\_\_

Something I learned about serving others was... \_\_\_\_\_

How was I changed by doing this... or... how were the people you helped affected: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person in Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of project: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of service project: \_\_\_\_\_

If Christ saw what you did today he would say.... \_\_\_\_\_

Something I learned about serving others was... \_\_\_\_\_

How was I changed by doing this... or... how were the people you helped affected: \_\_\_\_\_

---

# **SERVICE HOURS - JOURNAL PAGE**

**(Please fill out for each place that your worked.)  
Return these page no later than May 4, 2014**

---

Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person in Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of project: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of service project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If Christ saw what you did today he would say.... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Something I learned about serving others was... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How was I changed by doing this... or... how were the people you helped affected: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---



# CANDIDATE / PARENT COMMITMENT FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_, commit myself to begin preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. By signing this contract I commit myself to work to prepare myself spiritually and mentally between now and the end of my Confirmation Process. I will do this in the following ways:

- ✓ Through personal prayer.
- ✓ Through attendance at Mass at least weekly.
- ✓ Through studying the faith and asking questions.
- ✓ Through attendance and full participation at Confirmation meetings, classes and events.
- ✓ Through service to my church and community.
- ✓ Through my personal witness to Christ and His Church as evidence by my attitude and behavior.

I also commit myself to being open to all that Christ has to reveal to me during this time of preparation, to the Holy Spirit and how He wants to move in my life, and to what the ROC Team has to share with me.

I understand the Sacrament of Confirmation is a gift from God rather than a requirement to get out of the way. Therefore I take this step freely and without reservation.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Name Date

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian's Name Date