

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH – COOPERSBURG CONFIRMATION INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

Confirmation will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

The following information includes the requirements which must be completed in order for the student to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Important events & dates have also been listed. Contact Mrs. Lanning at the Rectory with any questions or concerns – (610) 965-2877.

1. Attendance

PREP STUDENTS: Public School Students & those not enrolled in a Catholic school are required to attend each PREP class held on Wednesday evening 6-7:30PM. Classes begin Wednesday, September 18th. A schedule for class dates will be available at the first class.

ALL STUDENTS: A **mandatory Retreat and Rehearsal** for the Confirmation students will be held on Sunday, March 22nd. We will attend the 11:00 AM Mass then proceed to the Parish Center for Lunch, followed by the Retreat. We will then meet our Sponsors in church for the Practice at 2:30PM. Sponsors OR an adult who can relay the info to them regarding seating and anointing must be in attendance. **There will also be a few additional attendance requirements**, including the Outdoor Mass & Meeting on September 15th at 5PM, Closing of Forty Hours on Tuesday, October 15th at 7PM, and the Investiture Ceremony on November 3rd at 9AM (more details below).

2. The Rite of Enrollment Form

The Rite of Enrollment form is signed by candidate (student), parents, sponsor and PREP teacher. The form details the expectations of students in preparation for Confirmation. **This form is submitted to Father Buckley at the Investiture Ceremony.**

3. The Investiture Ceremony

The Investiture Ceremony will take place during the 9:00 AM Mass on November 3, 2019. At this Mass, the Confirmation students will commit themselves to their sacramental preparation. **All Confirmation students** are required to attend this Mass.

4. Sponsor Selection and Submission of Sponsor Letter

All Confirmation students will select a Confirmation Sponsor. Sponsors are persons who are willing to help the Confirmation students live their lives as adult Christians in the church. Sponsors must be a mature member of the Church, living a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith, be at least **eighteen years of age** and be fully initiated by Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Godparents are ideal sponsors. **Parents may not serve as sponsors.** The sponsor will participate in the Confirmation Mass. Sponsor form must be filled out and signed by sponsor and sponsor's pastor. **These forms must be submitted no later than December 31st. No EXCEPTIONS!**

5. Service Hours

While preparing for Confirmation, students are required to perform 15 hours of community service. At least five different activities should be performed. Service log entries must be signed by an adult in charge of the activity. **Service logs are due to the student's teacher no later than December 31, 2019. NO EXCEPTIONS to this date!** Please contact your teachers or Mrs. Lanning at the Rectory (number above) if you would like service activity ideas.

6. Catholic Prayers

Prior to receiving Confirmation, the students must know by memory the following prayers: the Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, The Lord's Prayer, Glory Be, Apostle's Creed, and the Act of Contrition. These prayers are all printed on your Confirmation folder.

7. Attendance at Weekly Masses and Holy Days of Obligation

As a part of their Confirmation preparation, students are required to attend Mass each weekend and each Holy Day of Obligation. In this way, students demonstrate their commitment to their sacramental preparation. *All students must sign their bulletins and present them directly to Father Buckley or place them on shelf in the church vestibule. If you attend Mass at another church, please bring a signed bulletin from that parish.*

8. The Bishop's Questions

The Bishop may ask the Confirmation students one or more of 9 questions during the Confirmation Mass. Students are required to know by memory the answers to these questions prior to Confirmation. The questions and answers will be distributed to the students in October.

9. Selection of Confirmation Name

One of the favorite aspects of preparing for Confirmation is choosing a Confirmation name. In Confirmation, the bishop uses this name, saying "N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." It is customary to select the name of a person who has officially been declared a Saint. It is also possible to be confirmed under your middle, or Baptismal, name.

10. Saint Report & Shield

Prior to Confirmation, students will prepare brief reports about their Saint, including the reasons why they selected that particular Saint. More information about the content of the report will be distributed in class. Each student will also be given a template of a shield which will be decorated by the student and displayed in the church vestibule at Confirmation. This shield should also include your full name and the reasoning behind the choice for your Confirmation name.

11. Letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation

All students will prepare a letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation. In the letter, the students describe what Confirmation means to them and why they want to be confirmed. These letters are mailed and read by the Bishop prior to the Confirmation Mass. More information about the content of the letter will be distributed in class a few weeks before Confirmation.

12. Confirmation Gowns

Gowns will be worn for Confirmation. These gowns are similar to graduation or choir robes, and are worn over the student's dress clothes. Sizing will be done at the Retreat. The gowns are provided by our Parish and will be ready for wear when we line up for the Confirmation Mass.