

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirements Packet



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Saint James Parish Catechetical Leader

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirement: Letter to the Bishop

As part of the Confirmation process, we ask all Confirmation Candidates express their decision and desire to be confirmed by writing a personal letter to our Bishop.

The Letter should clearly express the following:

- That the Sacrament of Confirmation is your decision;
- That you are preparing for the Sacrament through study and instruction;
- That you have already accepted the responsibility of living a more Christian life by being of service to your Church, school, community and home.

The following page is an “example” of what you might say to the Bishop in your letter. You do not have to follow this format, but be sure to include the above three points. Letters to the Bishop may be completed on a computer or neatly handwritten on appropriate stationary.

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirement: Sample Letter to the Bishop

(Please do not copy this letter. This is a SAMPLE only.)

Dear Bishop,

I have been preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation for quite some time and I would like to be confirmed in my faith. I would like to be sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As a teenager, I realize that more and more maturity will be expected from me. This is true of my faith also. I would like to be strengthened by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as I begin this important task.

To prepare for this Sacrament, I have faithfully attended the Catechetical instructions at my Parish/School and tried to be of service to others by (list here the specific service projects you participated in). In the future, I intend to continue to serve others.

As you can see, I've chosen to be a part of the Mission of Christ. I am requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

_____ (your signature) _____

_____ (your name) _____

St. James Parish

Basking Ridge, NJ

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirement: Saint Report

All Confirmation Candidates should have a Christian name for Confirmation and prepare a report concerning the Saint's name you have chosen. Many people choose an additional Saint's name, however it is acceptable to use your Baptismal name. This would further express the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. If a new name is taken, it should be the name of a canonized Saint of the Catholic Church or a derivative of that name. If the Baptismal name is not that of a canonized Saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation.

Names of Saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a name not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because you are attracted to the virtues of that Saint and of the Christian life that Saint led.

The written report of your chosen Saint may be completed on a computer or neatly handwritten on lined paper and should include the following:

- Your name and section (8A, 8B, etc.)
- Saint's name and derivative name (if applicable)
- Date/place of birth
- Feast Day
- Information about Saint's family and childhood
- Occupation
- Death

Please be sure the following questions are answered in your report:

- What virtues did this Saint practice in his/her life?
- What part of this Saint's Christian life attracted you?
- How is this Saint a model for Christians today?

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirement: Service Hours

"Helping a person in need is good in itself. But the degree of goodness is hugely affected by the attitude with which it is done. If you show resentment because you are helping the person out of a reluctant sense of duty, then the person may receive your help, but may feel awkward and embarrassed. This is because he will feel beholden to you. If, on the other hand, you help the person in a spirit of joy, then the help will be received joyfully. The person will feel neither demeaned nor humiliated by your help, but rather will feel glad to have caused you pleasure by receiving your help. And joy is the appropriate attitude with which to help others because acts of generosity are a source of blessing to the giver as well as the receiver." – St. John Chrysostom

Helping others is a foundational part of Catholic teaching. It is our obligation and our duty. We ask each Confirmation Candidate to perform **10+ hours in Grade 7 and 10+ hours in Grade 8**. Each year we require 5+ hours earned for St. James Parish or School* and 5+ hours earned for our community. Students may serve more than the 10 required hours for each grade, however, a student may not count any of the "additional" hours earned in 7th grade toward his/her 8th grade service.

*1. For those children who are Altar Servers or sing in the Children's Choir, *Praisers*, a maximum of 7 hours may be earned per year for each of these services.

2. Services hours earned through the following organizations are acceptable:

- Service Projects through our Parish (please see the weekly Church bulletin, the School of Religion's weekly e-newsletter or St. James Bold Middle School Ministry - stjames@boldym.com for opportunities)
- Serving at Mass - Lecturer, Usher, etc.
- Matheny School
- Bethel Ridge
- Knights of Columbus, Lyons Club, etc.
- Any charitable organization that aids in the feeding, clothing, housing or educating those in need.

3. The following does NOT qualify as service for Confirmation:

- Babysitting
- Writing notes and letters to relatives or military
- Tutoring
- Yard work/house work at home
- Any service that provides "free labor" for a private company or business
- Any service for a sporting activity, i.e. helping with practices, volunteering at a snack shack, etc. **(participating in 5K Runs are acceptable as long as money raised is for a charitable organization)**

4. Any hours earned through Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts may NOT count toward Confirmation service.

If you would like to serve an organization not listed here, or have any questions regarding Confirmation Service Projects, please contact St. James School of Religion at (908) 766-1227 or email stjamesccd@yahoo.com.

Please submit service forms to the School of Religion Office:

- Scan and email to: stjamesccd@yahoo.com; OR
- Place in Drop Off Bin outside the School of Religion Office; OR
- Mail to: St. James School of Religion, 200 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF ALL FORMS BEFORE SUBMITTING!

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirement: Service Project Record Form

Please complete a Service Form for EACH Service Project.

Confirmation Candidate and Section (7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, etc.):

Project Name or Description: _____

Date/Time Spent: _____

What I learned (describe feelings or reactions): _____

Signature of parent/guardian or person served as witness to the service hours earned:

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirement: Confirmation Application

The following form, the *Confirmation Application* is required to be completed and submitted to the School of Religion Office. This form verifies Baptismal information and asks for the Confirmation Candidate's chosen Confirmation. The chosen Confirmation Name should be the name of the Saint for whom a Saint Report has been completed by the candidate.

***DO NOT SUBMIT THE CONFIRMATION APPLICATION
WITHOUT A CHOSEN CONFIRMATION NAME WRITTEN ON THE FORM***

**SAINT JAMES SCHOOL OF RELIGION
200 SOUTH FINLEY AVENUE
PO BOX 310
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07920
908-766-1227 stjamescccd@yahoo.com**

APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Please type or print clearly the information below. What is recorded on this paper is what we will use for all certificates and official records. Any changes made after this paper is submitted, must be in writing and submitted to the CCD Office.

Candidate's Name: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Class Section (see your package label or refer below): _____

CCD Classes: 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8I. SJS Classes: 8SJA, 8SJB. Family Centered Catechesis: 8FCC.

Date of Baptism: _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Church Address (if other than St. James): _____

Note: All Baptismal Certificates for Candidates should have been submitted at the time of school or CCD registration.

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

Relationship to Candidate: _____

Saint James School of Religion

Confirmation Requirement: Confirmation Sponsor Certification

The *Confirmation Sponsor Certification* which follows is a Confirmation requirement for the Candidate and Confirmation Sponsor.

Choosing Your Confirmation Sponsor:

- A confirmation sponsor is a special person who, by their example, shows you how to live your Catholic faith every day. They live a life that reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- A parent cannot be a sponsor, but an older sibling can be if they meet the qualifications. Many choose one of their baptismal godparents.
- A sponsor must be a fully initiated and practicing Catholic: one who has celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation and attends Mass and receives Holy Communion on a regular basis.
- You want someone you are comfortable talking to. Choose a person who will not only listen as you share this faith journey with them, but will also speak to you about their own faith and beliefs.
- The sponsor should be a significant person in your life. You are looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. The purpose of the relationship between you and your sponsor is to lead you into a deeper relationship with Jesus.
- In choosing a sponsor, pray to God for guidance.

Once a Sponsor is chosen, the Sponsor needs to complete the TOP PORTION of the form which follows. The form is then submitted to the Sponsor's Parish to be completed by their Pastor and receive the Church seal.

***All Sponsor Certification Forms must be signed and sealed
even if the Sponsor's Parish is St. James.***

No forms will be accepted without a Pastor's signature and Church seal.

**SAINT JAMES SCHOOL OF RELIGION
200 SOUTH FINLEY AVENUE
PO BOX 310
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07920
(908) 766-1227 stjamescccd@yahoo.com**

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORM

**DO NOT LEAVE ANY BLANKS. BOTTOM MUST BE SEALED AND SIGNED BY
CONFIRMATION SPONSOR'S CHURCH – INCLUDING ST. JAMES PARISHIONERS.**

This is to certify that I,

(Sponsor Name)

of

(Name of Parish)

accept the invitation to be a Sponsor at the Confirmation of:

(Candidate's Name)

At Saint James Church, Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

I affirm that I am a **Baptized, Confirmed and practicing Catholic** in good standing with the Church.

I understand that I am acting as a witness to the public acceptance of the Catholic religion by this Candidate.

I agree to act as a guide and advisor to this Candidate, most especially by my own example and witness.

(Signature of Sponsor and Date)

PRIEST'S SPONSOR CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that _____ is in good standing in this Parish and that

(Name of Sponsor)

he/she meets the above requirements for Sponsorship at Confirmation.

(Signed) Rev. _____

Date _____

(Parish Seal)

Parish _____

City & State _____