



Religious Education Department 732- 741-1714 ext. 3

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Dear Confirmation Candidate:

The sacrament of Confirmation seals the covenant with God that was created when you were baptized. Confirmation is bestowed upon you when you reach the age of reason, and the church views you as a mature member of the church community.

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and to defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

Preparation for Confirmation requires the completed forms in this packet, mass attendance (regular attendance as well as holy days and special masses), church/community service, and additional Confirmation related church activities. A schedule of classes and events will be provided to you at the start of Fall classes.

A candidate's Baptism Certificate MUST be on file with the RE Office before any paperwork will be processed.

This preparation is an important time for you to reflect upon your faith, the role your faith plays or will play in your life, and your place in the church community. Please take time to think about your answers when filling out the forms. The forms have specific instructions for completion.

Please complete the forms by the indicated due date. **The RE Office must have these forms on file as per diocese requirements.** If you have any questions about any of the forms, please contact the RE Office and we will be glad to help.

With careful planning and commitment, the preparation for Confirmation does not have to take up a lot of your time. You will have the love and support of your family, sponsor, friends and parish community. Take this preparation time seriously.

You are expected to do your part and meet these requirements. ***If a candidate is deemed to be insufficiently prepared (incomplete paperwork, too many missed classes, masses or assignments) receiving the sacrament of Confirmation may be postponed.***

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Confirmation Compliance Checklist

Below is a list of required documents and the dates by which they are due. The dates are approximate, but please make an effort to have the documents uploaded or turned into the RE Office by the given date. If documentation is not on file as required, selection of a date for Confirmation may be withheld. If you have any questions about any documents or trouble uploading documents, please contact the RE Office. If you prefer to have the RE office upload documents, email the documents to clunz@nativitychurchnj.org.

A candidate's Baptism Certificate MUST be on file with the RE Office before Confirmation paperwork will be processed.

<u>Document</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Application*	3 rd Week of October
Letter of Request to Father Chris	3 rd Week of October
Personal Reflection*	3 rd Week of October
Confirmation Name*	3 rd Week of October
Sponsor Reflection*	3 rd Week of October
Sponsor Eligibility	2 nd Week of December
Service Activity Report	4 th Week of January
Volunteer Timesheet/Letter	4 th Week of January

***Double-sided document – please upload BOTH sides of the document**

Preparation for Confirmation includes attending weekly mass, holy days of obligation, special masses (Advent, Ash Wednesday) and other events such as the Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation and a Confirmation retreat. In addition, candidates must complete a set number of masses quizzes, which can be done while attending weekly mass. A full calendar and detailed instructions will be provided at the start of the Fall session.

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Uploading Documents to Your Parish Giving Account

To upload Religious Education forms for Confirmation:

- Access your Parish Giving account at parishgiving.org. DO NOT access Parish Giving thru the tab on Nativity's website. This tab is for new registering families.
- Scroll down to the Documents tab. Click on My Documents. A drop-down menu will appear with a list of the documents required by the RE Department.
- Choose the document heading to which you need to upload a document.

- Before uploading, please RENAME your document indicating the candidate's FIRST and LAST Name, the name of the document, and the year of the Confirmation.

Example: John Smith Confirmation Name Document: **John Smith Confirmation Name 2025**

- **Please note which documents are DOUBLE-SIDED and upload BOTH sides.**
- Access the document heading and upload the document. **BE SURE TO SAVE AFTER SUCCESSFULLY UPLOADING EACH DOCUMENT.**

To upload Church documents (Baptism Certificate, Communion Certificate, etc.):

- Access your Parish Giving account. Use parishgiving.org.
- Scroll down to the child for which you wish to upload a document. Click on the child's name.
- Scroll down to Sacramental Information. Click on the section to which you wish to upload the document.
- **BE SURE TO SAVE AFTER SUCCESSFULLY LOADING EACH DOCUMENT.**

If you have any issues or questions uploading documents, please contact the RE office.

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Application for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Please type or print clearly in blue or black ink on all forms. Please do not use pencil.

Applicant Information:

Name of Applicant: _____
(Baptismal First, Middle, Last – no nicknames)

Preferred Name/Nickname: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Birthplace: _____
(MM/DD/YYYY) (City, State)

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School : _____
(School Name and Town)

Date of Baptism:* _____ **Church of Baptism:** _____

Church of Baptism City, State and Zip: _____

Parent Information:

Father's Name: _____

Mother's First and Maiden Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Contact Cell: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

***As per the Diocese of Trenton, a copy of the applicant's Baptism Certificate MUST be on file with Nativity's Religious Education Department.**

OVER

Sponsor Information:

- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age on the date of Confirmation. Those under 16 will not be considered to be a sponsor.
- A sponsor may not be a parent.
- A sponsor must be a registered member in good standing in his/her home parish.
- If a sponsor is married, s/he must have been married in a Catholic church.
- A sponsor from The Church of the Nativity should contact the RE Office for a Sponsor Eligibility form; sponsors from another parish must obtain a sponsor verification form from his/her home parish office.

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

City: _____ State: _____

LETTER OF REQUEST TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION

Candidates must write a formal letter to The Church of the Nativity's Pastor, Reverend Christopher Picollo (Father Chris), indicating one's wish to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. This letter lets Father Chris know you are ready to make the commitment to begin the preparation process.

Please take time to think what Confirmation truly means to you, and how you will commit yourself to taking this important step in your growth as a Catholic and a member of the parish family.

The following should be included in your letter. In your own words:

- Request to be considered as a Confirmation candidate
- Why you believe you are ready to be confirmed
- What the sacrament of Confirmation means to you
- Your commitment to fulfilling Nativity's Confirmation requirements including: completing RE assignments; participating in scheduled activities; and practicing and growing your faith through Mass attendance and receiving Reconciliation and the Eucharist
- Your confirmation name, and why you chose to honor this saint.
- The name of your sponsor, and why you chose this sponsor
- The role you foresee for yourself in the parish; what will you bring to the parish community. You can write about your service project.

Typing your letter is preferable, but you may hand write it if you wish. Please put your name and date at the top of your letter.

Please sign your letter. Your letter MUST have a parent's signature as well.

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Candidate's Name: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Preparing to be welcomed into the church as a mature Christian is a time for self-examination. Think about how you feel now, before Confirmation, and how you are readying yourself to receive the Holy Spirit.

What do you think it means to be Catholic, a child of God, and a saint?

Describe your faith and relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church in your life.

OVER

Why do you want to be confirmed? What does the sacrament mean to you?

How do the sacraments fulfill your spiritual needs?

Using the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit," (included in this packet) which of the gifts do you want to become more aware of during this period of preparation?

Candidate's Name: _____

CONFIRMATION NAME

Your Confirmation name reflects your new role as a mature Christian and is a sign of your growth in the faith. The name you chose can be in honor of someone in your life you admire or admired, or reflective of a saint whose story or patronage has a special meaning to you.

Your Confirmation name **must** be the name of a saint recognized by the Catholic Church. Please **do not** Anglicize or make masculine/feminine a saint's name. Refer to <https://www.catholic.org/saints> for a list of acceptable names. The RE office will ask you to choose another name if the one chosen does not meet Nativity's Confirmation requirements.

If you change your confirmation name, **you must complete a new Confirmation Name form and biography.** Please notify the RE Office immediately if you change your confirmation name so all records are accurate.

Confirmation Name: _____

Confirmation Name is taken from Saint: _____

I have chosen this name because: _____

One way in which I want to be become like the saint I chose is: _____

OVER

SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

Your sponsor witnesses the commitment to Christ you are making at Confirmation. Your sponsor presents you to the presider to be anointed with the Holy Chrism. Your sponsor's hand on your shoulder signifies your spiritual relationship.

Your sponsor:

- *Must be 16 years of age or older. Anyone under the age of 16 is not eligible to be a sponsor.
- *Your sponsor may not be a parent.
- *Your sponsor must be a member in good standing in his/her home parish.
- *If your sponsor is married s/he must have been married in a Catholic church.

Please contact your sponsor as soon as possible to give your sponsor time to obtain the proper form from his/her home parish.

If your sponsor is a member of The Church of the Nativity, s/he should contact the RE office for a Sponsor Eligibility form. This form must be signed and stamped in the main office BEFORE it can be uploaded. Nativity's sponsor form can **only** be used for Nativity parishioners.

If your sponsor is not a member of The Church of the Nativity, your sponsor must get a letter/certificate of eligibility from his/her home parish. This letter is available in the home church's main office, and must be stamped and signed and by a church official.

You will not be allowed to make your Confirmation without the Sponsor Eligibility Form on file with the RE office.

Candidate's Name: _____

SPONSOR REFLECTION

Sponsor Name: _____

Relationship of your sponsor to you: _____

I have chosen this person to be my sponsor because: _____

What qualities do you admire about your sponsor: _____

What Gifts of the Holy Spirit do you see in your sponsor: _____

How does your sponsor show love for others: _____

What three words best describe your sponsor: _____

How can you exemplify your sponsor: _____

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that, “**The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.**”

The Corporal Works of Mercy are **concrete and tangible ways** that we can follow the example of Jesus and live out our Christian faith.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are **directed toward our spiritual well-being** that we may recognize the eternal goal we are called to attain.

Selflessly giving of your time to help members of your church and community is a crucial part of your personal and spiritual growth. No payment is accepted for volunteering. In volunteering, you expect nothing in return; you will appreciate the joy and satisfaction knowing you made a difference in someone’s life.

To fulfill your Confirmation volunteer requirement, you must perform SIX hours of service.

Volunteer service can be done at the church by helping at church functions or with church programs. You can also volunteer your time at community functions or through school programs. Check your town, school and Nativity webpages for volunteer opportunities. If you are unsure if a volunteer opportunity is acceptable, please contact the RE Office before you commit to any service.

It is suggested you look for volunteer opportunities as soon as possible. Some volunteer opportunities are on-going such as food pantries; other events have a finite day with limited hours available. Be sure to ask if volunteering for a project or service requires signing up before the event; space may be limited.

When you complete your service, please request a log, timesheet, certificate or letter signed by an official of the service or event. This document should be uploaded or turned into the RE Office.

After completing your volunteer time, please fill out the Service Project Reflection form and upload that as well.

If you have any questions or concerns about the volunteer service portion of your Confirmation preparation, please contact the RE Office.

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Candidate's Name: _____

SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION

This form is your reflection on your volunteer service.

Does your activity reflect a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy: _____

Date(s) of service: _____

Type of Service: _____

When I began this service, I felt/thought/expected: _____

The best part of this service was: _____

The hardest part of this service was: _____

I realize that other people: _____

OVER

Performing this service, I learned: _____

After completing this service, I felt: _____

Parent/Sponsor Signature: _____

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Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are heroic character traits that Jesus Christ alone possesses in their plenitude but that he freely shares with the members of his Church. These traits are infused into every Christian as a permanent endowment at his Baptism, nurtured by the practice of the seven virtues, and sealed in the sacrament of Confirmation. They are also known as the sanctifying gifts of the Spirit, because they serve the purpose of rendering their recipients open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their lives, helping them to grow in holiness and making them fit for heaven.

Wisdom

Wisdom is considered the first and the greatest of the gifts. It acts upon the intellect and the will. Wisdom is the knowledge of and judgment about “divine things” and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth.

Understanding

Understanding is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to “see” God. Understanding further illuminates one's comprehension of Sacred Scripture, and it assists us to know the significance of religious ritual. This gift strengthens one's insight through prayer, scripture, and the sacraments, as well as giving a person a profound appreciation for God's providence.

Counsel

Counsel allows a person to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation. Counsel functions as a sort of supernatural intuition, enabling a person to judge promptly and rightly, especially in difficult situations. The gift of counsel operates under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to illuminate the will of God.



Fortitude

Fortitude denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life. Fortitude is often identified with courage, but also to encompass endurance. This gift gives a willingness to stand up for what is right in the sight of God, even if it means accepting rejection, verbal abuse, or physical harm.

Knowledge

Knowledge is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as never to wander from the straight path of justice. The gift of knowledge allows one, as far as is humanly possible, to see things from God's perspective, allowing us to perceive the greatness of God and his love for his creations.

Piety

Piety is, revering God with affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. A person with reverence recognizes his total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust, and love. Pope Francis said that piety is a recognition of "our belonging to God, our deep bond with him, a relationship that gives meaning to our whole life and keeps us resolute, in communion with him, even during the most difficult and troubled moments". Francis goes on: "Piety is not mere outward religiosity; it is that genuine religious spirit which makes us turn to the Father as his children and to grow in our love for others, seeing them as our brothers and sisters."

Fear of the Lord

Fear of the Lord is wonder or awe. With the gift of fear of the Lord, one is made aware of the glory and majesty of God. Pope Francis said that it "is no servile fear, but rather a joyful awareness of God's grandeur and a grateful realization that only in him do our hearts find true peace." A person with wonder and awe knows that God is the perfection of all one's desires, and the fear is of offending God rather than fear of a punishment.



There are correspondences between the seven heavenly virtues and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- The gift of wisdom corresponds to the virtue of charity.
- The gifts of understanding and knowledge correspond to the virtue of faith.
- The gift of counsel corresponds to the virtue of prudence.
- The gift of fortitude corresponds to the virtue of courage.
- The gift of piety corresponds to the virtue of justice.
- The gift of fear of the Lord corresponds to the virtue of hope and temperance (forbidden pleasures).

There are connections between the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Beatitudes (Matt.5:3-12).

- *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*, reflects Fear of the Lord as the "poor in spirit" are the humble and God-fearing.
- *Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted*, corresponds to the Gift of Knowledge, as the knowledge of God brings both an increased awareness of personal sin, and to some extent grieving at the abandonment of practices and activities that separate one from God.
- *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land*, relates to Piety.
- *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied*, pertains to Fortitude.
- *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy* demonstrates the Gift of Counsel.
- *Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God*, the Gift of Understanding.
- *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God*, Wisdom.
- *Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*.

These gifts are "habits," "instincts," or "dispositions" provided by God as supernatural helps to man in the process of his "perfection." They enable man to transcend the limitations of human reason and human nature and participate in the very life of God, as Christ promised (John 14:23). The gifts are necessary for man's salvation, which he cannot achieve on his own.