

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Prep Overview: Year Two

Welcome:

Welcome to our second year of Confirmation prep.

This packet will serve as an overview of the formation program, as a syllabus of sorts.

In the words of St. Benedict, our hope is to “set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome.” Rather, this formation program should serve as a sort of “training wheels” for living an active Christian life.

## Prep Program Registration:

If you have not already done so, please register for the program using this link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/MaryMotherOfMercyParish/ConfirmationPrepRegistration2223AllStudents>

## Program Website:

We will be using our new Confirmation Prep Website for much of this year. It can be accessed with this link: <https://marymomconfirmation.wordpress.com/>

Please bookmark the page as you will need it for accessing information and uploading documents throughout the year.

It will also be helpful to have a Google Account (Gmail) in order to upload documents via the website. A Google account can be created for free in just a couple of minutes.

If you wish to not create a Google account, you may email files to [apprentice@mary-mom.com](mailto:apprentice@mary-mom.com) or drop them by the office.

## Paperwork Checklist:

- Confirmation Application (please make sure that all sections are completed)
- Certificate of Baptism (if *not* Baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes or Our Lady Queen of Peace)
- Sacrament Fee: \$90 (if not already paid)
- Letter to the Bishop
- Gifts of the Spirit Activity
- Certificate of Eligibility
  - requested by the Sponsor from *their* Parish, even if they attend Mary, Mother of Mercy

Faith Reflection

-The Sponsor is to write a reflection based on their own faith life. The reflection should discuss their prayer life, reception of the Sacraments (i.e. do you regularly attend Mass and go to Reconciliation), role of faith in your daily life, etc. The reflection should be at least a paragraph.

### Sacramental Obligations:

- Attendance at Sunday mass each week
  - Either at our parish or elsewhere
  - Upload proof of attendance on website each week by Monday at 5pm
- Reconciliation
  - The candidates are required to make a good confession shortly before their Confirmation
    - Opportunities will be provided for them as we draw closer to the Sacrament
    - More frequent recourse to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is certainly encouraged but not required.

### Mass Attendance Tracking:

In order to ensure that candidates are making the sacrifice to attend mass each week, we will use the following system to track mass attendance.

Three options (listed in order of preference)

1. Submit a photo of the bulletin online, or hand it in at the office or during Encounter.
2. If you are unable to upload a picture of the bulletin, you may write a brief reflection on the mass of the day, using the same online form as above.
3. If using the website for mass attendance tracking is not possible, please make use of a mass attendance slip, which can be found in the back of our Churches. Simply sign and date the slip and drop it in the collection basket during mass.

### Ministry commitment:

Candidates are required to commit themselves to an apostolate/ministry for this year. Ideally, this is something that they would continue after their Confirmation.

Apostolate is an essential part of the Christian life. Service to others is a fruit of the Spirit, meaning that it is something that flows from a life of prayer and a relationship with God. God gives each of us unique gifts and talents that He desires that we share with others. This is an opportunity to practice just that.

We do not track a number of hours of service, because this should be an act of love for God and our neighbor, which does not count the cost. Whichever ministry/apostolate is chosen, there should be opportunity for regular activity (at least once each month).

In October, we will have Candidate Ministry Interviews, during which the candidates will meet with a member of the parish staff and propose their ministry plan for the year, explaining why they want to commit themselves to a particular ministry/apostolate.

Below is a list of several options. Candidates need not be limited by what is on this list.

### Parish Ministry options:

- Liturgical ministries:
  - Altar serving
  - Lectoring
  - Choir
- Pro-life ministry
- Cathedral kitchen club
- Going to serve at a soup kitchen
- Gardening angels
- Visiting a nursing home on a regular basis

### Schedule/Calendar:

Monday, Sept. 12, 2022 – **Confirmation Candidate & Parent Meeting**

*Via Zoom*

*Link can be found on Confirmation website*

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022- **Confirmation Candidate & Parent Meeting**

*(in-person option) Our Lady of Lourdes Church*

October 10, 2022– **Ministry Commitment Form Due**

*The Candidate should select a Parish Ministry to join from the approved list of ministries and fill out the Ministry Commitment Form*

October 17 – 21, 2022 – **Confirmation Ministry Interviews**

Monday, November 7, 2022 –**Confirmation Application Due**

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 – **Candidate & Family Holy Hour**

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 – **Parent Retreat**

*Queen of Peace Basement*

Monday, Dec. 5, 2022 – **Sponsor Forms Due (cert. of eligibility and faith reflection)**

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 – **Letters to the Bishop Due**

Saturday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat**

*Mercy Hall, 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm*

Monday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - **Gifts of the Spirit Activity Due**

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>-Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 – **Candidate Readiness Interviews**

*Parish Office with Clergy, Times Assigned*

Monday, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – **Candidate & Sponsor Activity Due**

Dates TBD – **Sacrament of Reconciliation Opportunities**

Date TBD – **Confirmation Rehearsal**

Date TBD – **Conferral of Confirmation & Mass**

### Overview of Candidate Obligations:

1. Go to mass each Sunday
2. Go to faith formation class (wherever you are registered [Catholic School, Encounter WFC, etc.]
3. Commit yourself to a life of prayer and service
4. Turn in paperwork
5. Attend retreat and other events