

Candidate's Name: _____ *Phone #* _____

Catechist's Name: _____ *Room #* _____

Level 1 = Grade 7
WORKBOOK
CALLED TO WITNESS



LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL COMMITMENT

Confirmation Preparation Process

Our Lady of Victory Parish, Floral Park, New York

Living the Sacramental Commitment

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors:

*May the grace and peace of God our Father,
The Love of Jesus His Son
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you on your journey.*

Welcome to **LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL COMMITMENT**, the Confirmation preparation process for Our Lady of Victory Parish. Note that **process** is defined as an action going forward; perhaps in that spirit we may substitute another word— **journey**. **Process or Journey** is a forward movement of a person that brings him/her closer to their destiny, their goal. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1309) explains that 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.*”

The concept of **Process or Journey** is a powerful one for people of faith because the act of process, the very journey in and of itself, becomes our point of encounter with God. The **Process or Journey** offers us new experiences, teaches us new insights, and introduces us to new people who we discover are fellow travelers on the journey with us. This Journey brings us closer to God and His Church through study and practice of the Catholic faith.

*Every Journey involves planning and mapping out a course. We would like to suggest a spiritual pre-planning activity, in which the Confirmation candidate, along with your family and/or sponsor, read and reflect on the following Scripture passages:
from the book of Genesis, Chapter 12 verses 1-9, the calling of Abram*

from the Gospel of John, Chapter 1 verses 35-42, the calling of the first disciples

You are embarking on something bold! So before you begin, take the time to pray and reflect upon the process, the journey, that you are about to undertake. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide and strength throughout the process.

The workbooks will be your guide to understanding the life commitment you make to Jesus and the Roman Catholic Church in the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will help you to expand your knowledge and understanding of faith in God. They will also give you the opportunity to put into practice all that you have learned on your journey.

Your workbook pages will be collected on their due dates throughout the year. Those dates are listed on the Table of Contents page. This will assist us in monitoring your work and will give you an opportunity to show your interest in deepening your commitment to Jesus and the Roman Catholic Church. These workbooks should not be looked at as “tasks” to get done, but rather, as milestones on a faith journey that will lead you to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Know that the parish community of Our Lady of Victory will be praying for you during your faith journey.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten your mind and open your heart.



Living the Sacramental Commitment

Confirmation Preparation Process

Guidelines and Expectations

Each Confirmation candidate enrolled in the Our Lady of Victory Confirmation Preparation Process will receive the following workbooks:

Grade 7 - Confirmation Level One: CALLED TO WITNESS

Grade 8 - Confirmation Level Two: ALIVE IN OUR FAITH

The workbooks are designed to complement the classroom instruction presented by your catechist. Therefore, the workbook ***CALLED TO WITNESS*** will be presented to each Confirmation Candidate in the fall of the year that he/she enters the preparation process (generally Grade 7). The workbook ***ALIVE IN OUR FAITH*** will be presented to the candidate upon completion of the ***CALLED TO WITNESS*** workbook, but no earlier than the second fall season of the Confirmation Journey.

The format of these workbooks consists of various projects, to be completed by the candidate. Certain projects will have specific dates and/or time frames attached to them.

Each project is explained in detail throughout the workbook. Read through it all and plan out your Journey. During the year you will be asked to submit your completed work to your catechist. Please see page 5 for review dates and the projects schedule.

It is our hope that candidates, their parents and their sponsor will work together on projects contained in these workbooks.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is one of the few sacraments that we can receive more than once in our lifetime. It is a wonderful experience of God's mercy and love for each of us. Many young people who receive this sacrament say that it lifts the burdens of their hearts.

It is important for all Catholics to participate in this sacrament regularly. Jesus told his apostles, "Whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven . . ." This established the apostles, and today, priests, as the representatives within the Christian family invested with the power of forgiving sins in Jesus' name.

Our parish celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession)

Every Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm–3:45 pm in the church **OR** other special occasions during the Church year, for example during a Parish Mission, before Christmas, and during Lent.

Each Confirmation candidate is *expected* to celebrate this great sacrament of God's healing forgiveness and love in the course of his/her Journey of preparation. Advent and Lent are good times to seek God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance.

THE EUCHARIST – SUNDAY MASS

Eucharist (Holy Communion) is another sacrament that we receive more than once in our lifetime. At the Last Supper Jesus changed the bread and wine into His own Body and Blood. He told the disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me." That is what we do when we come to church on Sunday to celebrate Mass. We are doing what Jesus asked us to do.

On Sunday, we gather together as the Body of Christ, believing in the true presence of Jesus who continues to teach and guide us through the Liturgy of the Word and enliven us through our reception of His Body and Blood during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is one of the precepts of the Catholic Church that all Catholics attend Mass on Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation.

Therefore, all candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are *expected to be regularly attending and participating in the Sunday gathering of the disciples – the Eucharist (Mass)*.

Table of Contents

Projects

to be completed by:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reflection on the Blessed Mother
(Page 7) | October 26, 2016 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Your Baptism History
(Pages 8-9) | November 16, 2016 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reflections on Eucharist (pgs. 10-14)
<i>Advent</i> - p. 12- December 21, 2016; <i>Christmas</i> - p. 13-January 25, 2017
<i>Lent</i> - p. 14- March 29, 2017 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Attend a Baptism Celebration
(page 15) | January 18, 2017
(don't delay) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Prayer Experience
(Page 16) | Any review date |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reconciliation Reflection
(Page 17) | The week following
Reconciliation
(Reconciliation will take place
during class time) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Service / Ministry
(Pages 18-19) | March 22, 2017 |

REVIEW of the WORKBOOKS

Your completed projects must be handed in and reviewed by your Catechist/Teacher on the date it is due. In order to move to the next level of the Confirmation preparation process, ***all*** projects must be completed and submitted to the Director of Religious Education no later than **April 5, 2017**.

<i>NAME:</i>	<i>Teacher:</i>
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REFLECTION ESSAY

On our Patron: The Blessed Mother

Mary, the Mother of God, our Blessed Mother is Our Lady of Victory – our Patron Saint. Please research the story of Our Lady of Victory – or any other title of the Blessed Mother – and write an essay on interesting facts you learn about Mary.

<i>NAME:</i>	<i>Teacher:</i>
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BAPTISM

In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Church welcomes children and adults into the faith community. In infant Baptism, the priest or deacon asks the parents, “What do you ask of God’s Church for your child?” The response to this is “faith,” “baptism,” or “entrance into the community of faith.”

The gift of faith comes to you from God through the Church and the community of believers, your family and the parish family. The gift of faith must be accepted if it is to be truly a gift for you. At Baptism, your parents and godparents accepted this gift in your name. They promised to nurture you in the faith of the Church and help you to understand this gift by their lived example, so that one day you would be able to accept it yourself.

The Sacrament of Baptism is the first step of our Faith Journey. It is probably one of the most important steps of that journey.

1. Ask your parents about your Baptism and answer these questions.

a. Why did they want to baptize you? What were their hopes and dreams for you in faith?

b. When and where were you baptized?

c. Who are your godparents and why did they choose those two people as your godparents?

2. Ask your parents why they gave you the name they gave you. Was it in honor of a family member or a favorite saint? *Write about who you are named for below.*

About my Baptismal name:

(Write about the family member or the saint's virtues and character traits or why your parents like the name.)

REFLECTIONS ON THE CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

The Sunday Mass is the gathering of the faithful to pray and give praise to God. During the liturgy we hear the Word of God proclaimed; the Celebrant (priest) or deacon shares his thoughts on the Word so that we may take the Word with us as we leave the Church. One way for us to truly live out the Word of God is to spend time reflecting on what these words mean to us.

Each candidate, with the help of his / her parent(s), must write a reflection on the Gospel and homily for three (3) Sunday Masses during the year:

- ***Mass during Advent***
- ***Mass during the Christmas Season***
- ***Mass during Lent***

There are designated pages in this workbook for your reflection.

Suggestions on how to write these papers:

- Bring a pad of paper with you to Church and write down some thoughts or words you hear in the Gospel and homily. ***Please do not bring your workbook to Mass.***
- Write down the Scripture reference (e.g. Luke 5:1-5) of the Gospel so you can refer back to it when you are writing your paper.
- Discuss what you heard and wrote down on the way home in the car, asking everyone to participate.
- Ask yourself and your family what the Scripture and homily has to do with your life today.
- When you get home, write your reflection in your workbook while it is fresh in your mind.

Remember, this is a reflection paper; what you write is what you feel the Scripture is saying to YOU at this moment in your life's journey.

SAMPLE: SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION

NAME:

Date: January 6, 0000 Epiphany Time: 10:30 Mass
Celebrant (Priest's Name): Father Rony

Brief summary of the Gospel:

The Magi come searching for the King of the Jews. They followed a star and found Jesus in the city of Bethlehem. They offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Reflection on what the Gospel means for you.

What did you get out of the Gospel and Homily?

It makes me ask the question of how faithful I am in following / searching for Jesus in my own life.

The Kings come to Jesus through a star whose light leads them. How do I come to Jesus, what leads me to Him? Parents, Church, friends, nature? What are the signs that direct me to Jesus and allow me to proclaim Him the King, the Lord and truth of my life?

The Gospel also makes me ask: What are the gifts that I offer to Jesus? How willing am I to offer them to Jesus or to other people? I guess my gift is my time with family, especially when I help out at home. Also my being respectful of other people, especially if they are different from me.

Most importantly it is to be like the Kings and listen to how God calls me to come to Him, to follow Him. So I know that it is important to make sure I pray every day and go to Mass.

SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION FOR ADVENT

NAME:

Teacher:

Date: _____ *Time:* _____

Celebrant (Priest's Name): _____

Brief Summary of the Gospel:

What did you get out of the Gospel and Homily?

SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION FOR LENT

<i>NAME:</i>	<i>Teacher:</i>
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Date: _____ *Time:* _____

Celebrant (Priest's Name): _____

Brief Summary of the Gospel:

What did you get out of the Gospel and Homily?

NAME:

Teacher:

REFLECTION on A CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Each candidate must attend a parish celebration of Baptism and then write a reflection on what they saw and how they felt as they watched the ceremony. The candidate's reflection should include his/her impressions of the ceremony and his/her thinking on why the Presider (priest or deacon) did what he did (e.g.: the questioning of the parents' intention; the presence of the Paschal Candle; the giving of a candle; the blessing of the senses; etc.). We remind the candidates to review *Project #1* in this workbook, especially the material about their parent's promise and reasons for their receiving their name.

*Our Lady of Victory celebrates Baptisms on the **second** and **fourth Sundays** of the month throughout the year at **2:45 pm in the church**. You may also attend a celebration of Baptism in another parish.*

Reflection

Celebrant (Priest or Deacon): _____ *Date:* _____

NAME: _____ Teacher: _____

PRAYER/DEVOTION EXPERIENCE

In preparation for the reception of Confirmation, each candidate should strive to deepen his/her own faith, develop his/her own prayer life and participate in the communal prayer services of the parish community.

In this stage of the Confirmation Preparation process (Level 1 - Grade 7), the candidate is required to attend ONE of the following

PARISH PRAYER EXPERIENCES

- ***Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:***
 First Fridays: 7:00 pm.—8:00 pm. (in the church)
 Fifth Fridays: March 31, 2017, June 30, 2017

The candidate is asked to write a reflection on the particular Prayer Experience he/she attended. Which did you attend? What happened and how did you feel or respond to what was happening?

Prayer Experience Reflection

Parent's signature _____ Date attended _____

NAME: _____ Teacher: _____

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) is one of the few sacraments that we can receive more than once in our lifetime. It is a wonderful experience of God’s mercy and love for each of us. Many young people who receive this sacrament say that it lifts the burdens of their hearts. Although many young people struggle with this sacrament because they do not understand it, it is important for all Catholics to participate in this sacrament regularly. Jesus told his apostles, “Whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven.” This established the apostles, and today, priests, as the representatives within the Christian family invested with the power of forgiving sins in Jesus’ name.

Each Confirmation candidate is expected to celebrate this great sacrament of God's healing, forgiveness and love during this year’s preparation.

Based on your recent experience of Reconciliation, how would you explain the sacrament to a non-Catholic friend? You can include: How you prepare for the sacrament. What actually happens? How does the priest participate? How do you feel after the sacrament? Why is it important to go to Reconciliation?

Please have your parent sign this page acknowledging that you attended Reconciliation.

Parent's signature

Date of Reconciliation

NAME:

Teacher:

SERVICE / MINISTRY PROJECT

The Sacrament of Confirmation is our call to serve the Church and community just as Jesus served the people around Him. Jesus' whole life was an example of service to others. "I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:27), He said. When we help others, we are following Jesus' example and are *living out the Sacramental Commitment of our Initiation into the Church - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist*.

In preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation each candidate is asked to assist in planning and participate in *service/ministry projects*.

The service / ministry projects can be planned from a variety of activities from our parish community, local community or from a personal experience ***and must be done during the time you work with this workbook. You may not use projects you did in previous years.***

The following are suggestions for planning this activity:

- **PARISH ACTIVITIES**

- * You may come up with your own ideas or join in those planned by the various ministries of the parish, for example:
 - + Assist parish organizations as needed
 - + Blood Drives

- **HOME**

- * Babysitting
- * Home maintenance projects assigned by parents

- **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- * Boy / Girl Scouts
 - Are you involved in community service projects connected with scouting?
- * School Clubs: Service projects
 - Are there clubs you belong to through the school you are attending, or the local community, that do service projects for or in the local community?
- * Neighbors who may need help
 - Do you know of an elderly person who would be in need of assistance?
 - You could help them by doing shopping, yard work, reading, and writing or spending time with them.

Each candidate must decide how this project will be done. Upon completion of the project, write a reflection describing what the community service / ministry project was about, how this project helped you to become a stronger Catholic Christian and how it strengthened your commitment to following the example of Jesus.

NAME: _____ *Teacher:* _____

SERVICE / MINISTRY PROJECT

COMMUNITY SERVICE/MINISTRY PROJECT REFLECTION

BASICS

♥ *The Candidate is required to know this material by heart!*

OUR FATHER

HAIL MARY

SEVEN SACRAMENTS

ACT OF CONTRITION

APOSTLES' CREED

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Spy Wednesday	Judas Iscariot makes arrangements to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.
Holy Thursday	Jesus celebrates the 'Last Supper' with the twelve apostles
Good Friday	Jesus is tried and condemned to die upon the cross by the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. INRI is the charge: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews
Holy Saturday	Jesus is in the tomb
Easter Sunday	Jesus rises from the dead
Ascension Thursday	40 days after Easter, day Jesus ascended into Heaven
Pentecost	50 days after Easter, the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles as Jesus had promised.

THE TWO 'SECTIONS' of the BIBLE

Old Testament: Hebrew Scriptures & New Testament: Christian Scriptures

The Old Testament is the story of God's Covenant with His people (Jewish). The key event for the Jewish people, which revealed God's love for them, is the **EXODUS** from their slavery in Egypt. In this story we find the Passover, the Red Sea, the giving of the Ten Commandments, Moses and the promise of a Land flowing with milk and honey, which was to be their own- The Promised Land.

The Old Testament books are a collection of Stories (as in Genesis 1-11), Poetry, Psalms, Historical books (as in Chronicles, Samuel, Kings), Proverbs, Prophetic books (as in Isaiah, Jeremiah) and apocalyptic books (as in Daniel).

The New Testament is the story of God dwelling in the flesh, Jesus, and the final action of God to reconcile humanity to Himself through Jesus' Life, Death and Resurrection (The Paschal Mystery).

The New Testament books are a collection of Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), Epistles (letters written by St. Paul to various Christian communities), and Historical (Acts of the Apostles) and Apocalyptic (Revelation) writings.

Candidate's Covenant

As a Confirmation candidate, I agree:

To continue to cooperate to the best of my ability with the parish program preparing me for the Sacrament of Confirmation;

To participate wholeheartedly in all classes and activities;

To complete the workbook projects that help me to learn to experience more fully what it means to live a Catholic life;

To try to the best of my ability to place my gifts and talents at the service of others;

To accept more responsibilities in my family, my parish and my community; to pray for continued growth in faith, hope and love.

Candidate's Signature: _____

PRINT Candidate's Name: _____

Parent's Covenant - As a parent of a candidate I will:

Assist my son/daughter as he/she prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation through my prayers and good example;

Support their efforts to complete the workbook projects that provide concrete experiences of an active role in parish life

Parent's Signature: _____

Teacher's name: _____

