

Candidate's Name: _____

Catechist's Name: _____ *Room #* _____

Level 1 - Grade 7
WORKBOOK
CHOSEN: YOUR JOURNEY TO
CONFIRMATION
2024/2025



Our Lady of Victory Parish, Floral Park, New York

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain...” Jn 15:16

LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL COMMITMENT

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors:

Welcome to ***CHOSEN***, the Confirmation preparation program for Our Lady of Victory Faith Formation. ***CHOSEN*** is a catechetical journey for teenaged Confirmation candidates. This program is designed to provide the essential intellectual and spiritual catechesis vital to sacramental preparation.

Catechesis is different from an academic course, which seeks to impart knowledge about a given subject. While a catechist certainly teaches and the student certainly learns, the goal of catechesis is to bring about a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. It is teaching for conversion. The result of effective catechesis is not a classroom of smart students but a community full of disciples! Each lesson of ***CHOSEN*** has been carefully laid out with this aim in mind.

The name of this program, ***CHOSEN***, is meant to convey that Confirmation, like the other Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism and Holy Eucharist), is not so much about us choosing God as it is about Him choosing us!

Over the course of this two-year preparation period, your children will be invited to hear and then to respond with faith to the voice of God, Who has called each of us to become His sons and daughters...simply because “He first loved us” (1Jn 4: 19).

YOUR CONFIRMATION PACKET

Students, this packet will be your supplement to understanding the life commitment you will make to Jesus and the Roman Catholic Church when you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. During this 7th grade year, in addition to your classroom time, you will also be given out-of-classroom Catholic experiences. Some of these Catholic experiences will include attending a Holy Hour, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, listening to presentations about various topics such as one about our Blessed Mother just to name a few. After each of these experiences, you will be given the opportunity to reflect upon what you learned and how it affected you. In the long run, this will help you to put into practice and to reflect upon what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Your assignments will be collected on their due dates throughout the year. Due dates are listed in the Table of Contents on page 6. On a practical note, we ask that each reflection be at least one typed page, single spaced unless otherwise specified. While this will assist us in monitoring your work, it will more importantly give **you** an opportunity to think about what it really means to live as a teen committed to Jesus and to be a participating member of His Church. These packets should not be looked at as “tasks” to get done, but rather, as road signs on a faith journey that will all point 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 minds and open your hearts.



CHOSEN: YOUR JOURNEY TO CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Preparation

Guidelines and Expectations

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

CHOSEN: YOUR JOURNEY TO CONFIRMATION

The same workbook will be used in both the 7th and 8th grades. Each grade will cover approximately 12 lessons per year for a total of 24 lessons for the entire two-year preparation period.

Each lesson has a 15–25-minute segmented video lesson with discussion questions in between each segment. The student workbook will be used in conjunction with these video lessons. The workbook also contains presenters' stories, saints' stories, prayers, challenge activities for the week, vocabulary words and fill in the blank questions.

A word about the weekly challenge activities. Students, you will notice one of the reflections in your packet is about Service Ministry. It will make life much easier for you if you complete one challenge each week and then when it comes time to do this reflection all you would have to do is a recap of your entire experience with the weekly challenges.

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 removes the burdens from 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’s 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 3:00pm–3:45pm in the church and on other special occasions during the Church year, for example before Christmas and during the season of Lent.

Students, it is expected that you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during your journey to Confirmation. While you will be given the opportunity to receive this Sacrament during our school year, we also encourage you to receive at other times in order that you may receive the special graces which this Sacrament can provide to you.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – SUNDAY MASS

The Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) is another Sacrament that we can 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. Not only are we doing what Jesus commanded us to do but we are giving Him the worship that He is entitled to as our Lord and Savior.

On Sunday, we gather 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.

Students, as candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are ***expected to attend and participate in Mass each Sunday (or attend the Saturday evening vigil Masses.)***

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Projects

- Your Baptism History
- Prayer Experience Reflection
- Our Blessed Mother Reflection
- Reconciliation Reflection
- Service Ministry Reflection

To be completed by:

November 13, 2024

November 22, 2024,
or
November 29, 2024

December 11, 2024

March 5, 2025

April 2, 2025

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 Coordinator of Confirmation no later than **April 2, 2025.**

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

YOUR BAPTISM HISTORY

In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Church welcomes children and adults into our faith community. During an 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, 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 to help you understand this gift by their lived example with the hope that one day you would embrace our Faith for 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. (please print)

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?

PRAYER EXPERIENCE REFLECTION

Prayer, the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God, is an essential for the spiritual life of anyone who is a Disciple of Jesus and is absolutely necessary for anyone who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students now is the time to start to develop good spiritual habits: get into a regular prayer routine, explore different ways of praying (ie: say a Rosary, read your Bible), learn to pray “on the go” and find the time to participate in the communal prayer services of our parish community. During this stage of the Confirmation preparation process you are required to attend the following:

Examples:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (during Faith Formation student’s class time)

School held Liturgies (Our Lady of Victory/Kellenberg students)

Stations of the Cross

Students, please write a reflection on the Prayer Experience you attended. What happened and how did you feel or respond to what was happening?

OUR BLESSED MOTHER REFLECTION

Mary, the Mother of God and our Blessed Mother is known under many different titles which honor her. In fact, our Parish was established under one of her titles, Our Lady of Victory. That means that Mary as the patroness of our Parish is our Protector and Supporter. Research the story of Our Lady of Victory or any other title of the Blessed Mother and write an essay/reflection on what you have learned about Mary and what it means to you.

RECONCILIATION RELECTION

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.

After receiving the Sacrament 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?

SERVICE MINISTRY REFLECTION

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 the one who serves"* (Luke 22:27). 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 participating in *service ministry projects*.

The service/ministry projects can be planned from a variety of activities from our parish community, local community or from 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: Mercy Workers or Respite Nights
- Boy / Girl Scouts: Are you involved in community service projects connected with scouting?
- School Clubs: Service projects: Are there clubs you belong to in school or in our local community, that do service projects for or in the local community?
- Assisting elderly neighbors who may need help.
- **For 7th Grade Faith Formation Students:** you may use your weekly challenges to complete this assignment.

Upon completion of the project, write a reflection describing what the community service/ministry project or challenge was about, how this project/challenge strengthened your commitment to following the example of Jesus.

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 books 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, and 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.

I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all Holy Days of Obligation.

I will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before my Confirmation.

I will commit to daily prayer especially for growth in faith, hope and love.

I will try to the best of my ability to place my gifts and talents at the service of others.

I will try to accept more responsibilities in my family, my parish and my community.

Candidate's Signature: _____

PRINT Candidate's Name: _____