

Candidate's Name: _____

Teacher/Catechist Name: _____ **Room #:** _____

GRADE 8 PROJECT BOOKLET CHOSEN: YOUR JOURNEY TO CONFIRMATION

2025/2026



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:

Students, this is certainly an exciting time for you and your families as you enter this final year of preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation!

Last year you began this journey by learning more about Jesus and His Church. While you will continue to learn more this year about what we believe as a Church, it is our prayer for you that you will continue to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. It is this relationship that will stay with you for a lifetime and form you into the disciple Jesus planned you to be!

YOUR CONFIRMATION PROJECT BOOKLET

Students, as you learned last year, your project booklet is your learning supplement to your workbook and classroom learning. As was the case last year, in addition to regularly attending your religion classes, you will also participate in out-of-classroom Catholic experiences. Some of these will include attending your Confirmation retreat, interviewing your Sponsor, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attending a Holy Hour and creating and performing a service project. After each of these experiences, you will have the opportunity to reflect upon what you learned and how it affected you. In the long run, this will help you put into practice and think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Your assignments will be collected by your teachers on their due dates throughout the year. Project due dates can be found on page 5. On a practical note, we ask that each reflection be at least one typed page unless otherwise specified.

While these projects will assist us in monitoring your work and understanding, it will more importantly give you an opportunity to think about what it means to live as a teen committed to Jesus and to be a participating member of His Church. These booklets should not be looked upon as “tasks” to get done, but rather as road signs on your faith journey that will point you to your celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Students, please know that the parish community of Our Lady of Victory will be praying for you as you fast approach the reception of your Confirmation this school year! May the Holy Spirit enlighten your minds and open your hearts.

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 us. Many young people who receive this Sacrament say that it lifts burdens from their hearts.

It is important for all Catholics to participate in this Sacrament regularly. As is the case with all other Sacraments, we receive special graces from the Sacrament of Reconciliation which strengthen us to live as disciples of Jesus. This Sacrament is also considered a Sacrament of Healing. Through the priest acting in the Person of Jesus, this Sacrament heals our souls of sin and enables us to live more freely as children of God.

Students, it is expected that you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. While you will be given the opportunity to receive this Sacrament during the school year, we encourage you to receive this Sacrament at other times during the year to receive the special grace this Sacrament can provide to you.

Our parish celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday afternoon from 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM in the Church. Confessions are also heard on special occasions during the Church year, for example during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – SUNDAY MASS

The Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) is another Sacrament that we can and should receive more than once in our lifetime. At the Last Supper, Jesus changed the bread and wine into His Body and Blood. He told His Apostles to "*do this remembrance of Me.*" That is what we do when we go to Mass on Sunday. Not only are we doing what Jesus commanded us to do but we are giving Him the worship to which he is entitled to as our Lord and Savior!

Jesus also told the people of His time, *“whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood remains in Me and I in him.”* On Sunday, when we gather as the Body of Christ at Mass, we listen to and learn from God’s Word during the Liturgy of the Word. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we believe that Jesus becomes truly present to us when the priest changes the bread and wine into Jesus’ Body and Blood during the Consecration. When we receive Holy Communion, Jesus comes to each of us in a most personal and intimate way. Through this Sacrament, Jesus gives each of us His Grace to help us be the person He created us to be. That is why the Church requires all Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays and on other Holy Days of Obligation.

Students, as candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are expected to attend and participate at Mass each Sunday (or attend a Saturday evening vigil Mass) and on all Holy Days of Obligation. In truth, what better way to prepare for this wonderful Sacrament of Confirmation then to receive Jesus in Holy Communion each week!

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******FOR OLV STUDENTS your due dates will be determined by your teacher. Your projects will be handed in and reviewed by your teacher.**

******FOR KELLENBERG STUDENTS your completed projects must be submitted to be reviewed by the Confirmation Coordinator at OLV's Faith Formation Office by the above due dates.**

YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

In choosing a Sponsor, the Church gives us some requirements that must be met:

- **A Sponsor must be at least sixteen years old.**
- **A Sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (one who has celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and who "leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken."**
- **A Sponsor cannot be a parent of the one to be confirmed.**

WHAT IS A SPONSOR

Your sponsor will have three main roles which take place before, during and after Confirmation:

- **BEFORE:** Your sponsor will assist you as you prepare for Confirmation.
- **DURING:** Your sponsor will be with you on your Confirmation Day.
- **AFTER:** Your sponsor will help you to live out your Catholic Christian faith.

WHAT DOES A SPONSOR DO

- **Your sponsor should be someone to whom you can talk to about your spiritual life.**
- **Your sponsor should be someone who will pray for you regularly.**
- **Your sponsor should be someone who will encourage you and challenge you to grow in virtue and set aside any habits that would prevent you from receiving all the gifts the Holy Spirit wants to give you.**

YOUR CHOICE FOR YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

****All students must complete and submit this form****

In preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, you must finalize your choice of a Sponsor.

STUDENT NAME: _____

TEACHER NAME: _____

SPONSOR NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

SPONSOR'S PARISH: _____

If your choice of a Sponsor is
NOT a registered parishioner at Our Lady of Victory:

The Sponsor must bring the certificate on page 9 of this workbook to their current Parish to be *signed and stamped* by the Pastor or representative of the Pastor at their home parish.

SPONSOR INTERVIEW

Interview your Sponsor and write a summary based on the questions below.

Some suggestions for the interview:

- How did your Sponsor feel when you asked him/her to be your Sponsor?
- What were the reasons why you selected him/her to be your Sponsor?
- According to your Sponsor, what is the most important part of being a Sponsor for Confirmation?
- How does he/she see himself/herself fulfilling this role?
- According to your Sponsor, what does it mean to live a good Catholic life?

******Please type your sponsor interview. Your interview should be about one typed page.**



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Rockville Centre, NY

Testimony of Designated Sponsor

The role of sponsor is an important one for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Today some may see the role as honorary, but the Church sees the sponsor, popularly called a godparent, as a fully-initiated Catholic who actively supports the newly Baptized or Confirmed by good example and instruction in the Christian life.

In order to be admitted to the role of sponsor, the law of the Church directs that a person must be designated specifically by the parents of the infant or the individual who is to be baptized or confirmed. To be a Sponsor, a person must be a Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, and have already received the Sacraments of Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and not be bound by a canonical penalty.

I, _____, declare that I have been chosen to act as a sponsor for _____, who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation on _____ at the Church of _____ in _____.

In assuming this responsibility, I testify that:

- ♦ I am at least sixteen years of age.
- ♦ I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- ♦ I am living a life in harmony with the teaching of the Catholic Church in faith and morals.

Understanding the role of sponsor as prescribed by the Church and aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this role, I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear that I fulfill all of the requirements to be a sponsor as described above. I attest to the truth of this statement, so help me God.

Date

Designated Sponsor

Parish

Pastor/Delegate

YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME

One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a Saint's name that will remind you of your Confirmation. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. You might want to choose the name of a Saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. You might want to recommit yourself to your baptismal name. You will want to explore the root meaning of the name, for as Scripture says, "*Yahweh calls each of us by name.*"

Your report must be typed and include the following:

- **Name of Saint – Confirmation Name**
- **A short biography about what your Saint did including any special miracles or stories of faith with which they were associated.**
- **The Saint's Feast Day.**
- **Why did you choose this Saint?**
- **How do you think this Saint will inspire you to lead a Catholic life?**

CONFIRMATION RETREAT EXPERIENCE

Please write a reflection on your retreat experience. What did you discover about Jesus, your Catholic faith and about yourself?

******PLEASE SUBMIT A ONE PAGE TYPED REPORT ON YOUR
EXPERIENCE. ******

GUIDELINES FOR READINESS FOR CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a sacrament that completes our Baptism and makes us full members of the Catholic Church. Because it is a Sacrament representing maturity in our Catholic Christian faith, it is not required to be received by a specific age. Your readiness to receive this Sacrament cannot be determined by your parents, your teachers or even your friends. The Sacrament should be celebrated by those students who have made a mature and honest decision to make a personal commitment to Christ and are ready to live a full and involved Catholic Christian life in their parish and in the larger community.

Some signs of readiness include:

- *A cooperative, responsible, Christian attitude toward all life, evidenced in class, at home and in the community.*
- *Prayer and regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church (attends Mass regularly.)*
- *Willingness to take responsibility for oneself, with regular class attendance, completion of assignments, and a growing knowledge of our Catholic faith.*
- *A willingness to recognize Christ in others; to serve and freely share one's gifts and talents with those in need and respond with appreciation to those who do.*
- *The personal desire to receive Confirmation, to be in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and a determination to live out your faith in everyday life.*

Do you show all the signs of readiness? How well would you meet these guidelines?

Having reflected on the guidelines for readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation now write a letter to Fr Tom, our Pastor requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. You can use the outline on the following page.

MY LETTER OF INTENT

[DATE]

Reverend Thomas M. Fusco, Pastor
Our Lady of Victory Church
2 Floral Parkway
Floral Park, NY 11001

Dear Father Tom,

Write your reasons for requesting the Sacrament. Who is Jesus Christ to you? How have you experienced God's presence in your life? Indicate why you believe that prayer, attending Mass each Sunday and Christian service are necessary and vital parts of being a confirmed Catholic.

If you have already decided on your Confirmation name or gifts & talents project, write about why you chose it.]

Sincerely yours,

[Candidate's Signature]

Candidate's Name Printed

****This letter must be typed not hand written****

SERVICE MINISTRY

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) When we help others, we are following Jesus' example and are living out the sacramental commitment of our Initiation into the Church: Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

As you continue to prepare to receive your Confirmation this year, you are asked to assist in planning and participating in a Service Ministry project.

Please keep in mind your Service Ministry project is not just a 'thing to get done' for Confirmation preparation- rather serving others should become a way of life for you as a disciple of Jesus!

So, what are ***your God given talents and gifts?*** Sit down with your parents and/or Sponsor and make a list of your talents, gifts and skills. I'm sure you have many, for example:

Knowledge	Leadership	Generosity	Teaching
Encouragement	Music	Caring	Organization
Compassion	Sports	Dancing	Creative Writing
Patience	Reading	Kindness	Faith
and many, many more			

Let your service project be based on the gifts/talents God has given you. Maybe previous service experiences can help figure out where and how you can best serve God and the community while still enjoying yourself.

For example: Have you been blessed with gifts of caring, compassion and patience? Perhaps you, your family and friends would like to organize a visit to a Nursing Home. There you could share your talents, gifts and skills such as singing, dancing or playing a musical instrument, and bring joy and happiness to someone who may be lonely.

Perhaps you have an organizing or leadership talent, gift and skill that could allow you to organize a yard cleanup for an elderly person on your block, or an area of the community, etc. Some of you volunteered many hours of your time at OLV's Vacation

Bible Camp this summer. Could you turn your love of Soccer, Football or Basketball etc. into an opportunity of sharing and giving to others?

Remember, no money needs to be involved in any of these projects, but in some cases, it could become a donation to the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Service Ministry Reflection

When you have completed your service project, we would love to read about it! Tell us exactly what you did and what talents, gifts and skills you used and shared with others. Don't leave anything out! Finally tell us how this project brought you closer to God!

*****YOUR SERVICE PROJECT REFLECTION SHOULD BE AT LEAST
ONE TYPED PAGE*****

BASICS

OUR POPE'S NAME: Pope Leo XIV, Bishop of Rome

OUR BISHOP'S NAME: Bishop John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre

OUR PASTOR'S NAME: Father Thomas Fusco

THE LITURGICAL SEASONS OF THE YEAR OF GRACE

Advent: The season begins four Sundays before December 25 and ends at the Mass on Christmas Eve. The seasonal color of vestments is violet, signifying a time of expectation. Symbols of the season are the Advent wreath, Advent calendar and the Jesse Tree.

Christmas Season: The season begins at the Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The seasonal color vestments is white or gold, signifying a time of joy at the presence of Christ. Symbols of the season are the Crèche and the Angel's Star/ Epiphany Star.

Lent: The season begins on Ash Wednesday, forty days before Easter, and ends on the Thursday of Holy Week. The seasonal color of vestments is purple or violet, signifying a time of penance and reflection. Symbols of the season revolve around the sense of starkness and absence: a sense of the desert. Hence, the starkness of Church decoration, the absence of holy water in the fonts, the absence of the Gloria, Alleluia being sung, plus the focus on the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and most traditionally ashes.

Triduum: These three days in which the Church remembers the Death and Resurrection of Jesus are the most important time of the Church's year. The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday evening with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues on Good Friday with the celebration of the Lord's Passion, reaches its high point on the evening of Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil, and ends on the evening of Easter Sunday, the great feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. The seasonal colors of vestments is in sequence of the days: white, red, white or gold signifying a time of joy, sorrow and sheer ecstasy in the victory of Christ. Symbols of the season are the return of the Alleluia, the return of holy water, the return, in abundance, of color and flowers, especially lilies, and most traditionally, in the celebration of Baptism and the reception of catechumens.

Easter Season: This season of fifty days, the Great Easter, begins on the Monday of Easter week and ends on the feast of Pentecost. The seasonal color of vestments is white or gold signifying the joy of the season. Celebrations in this season: Ascension Thursday, forty days after Easter and Pentecost (the giving of the Holy Spirit), fifty days after Easter.

Ordinary Time: The season begins on the Monday after Pentecost and ends on the last Sunday of the year, the feast of Christ the King. The seasonal color of vestments is green, signifying hope.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I, the Lord, am your God: you shall not have other strange gods besides me
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain, for it is holy
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath (Lord's) Day
4. Honor (respect) your father and mother
5. You shall not kill
6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false witness (lie) against your neighbor
9. You shall not covet (lust) your neighbor's wife
10. You shall not covet (be jealous of) anything that belongs to your neighbor

THE BEATITUDES

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted
3. Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:

You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength; You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Knowledge
4. Right Judgment
5. Courage
6. Reverence
7. Wonder and Awe

THE FOUR MARKS OF THE CHURCH

One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

THE WORKS OF MERCY

Spiritual:

1. Sharing our knowledge with others
2. Give advice to those who need it
3. Comfort those who suffer
4. Be patient with others
5. Forgive those who hurt us
6. Give correction to those who need it
7. Pray for the living and the dead

Corporal:

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Help the imprisoned
5. Shelter the homeless
6. Care for the sick
7. Bury the dead

THE VIRTUES

Theological:

1. Faith (Belief)
2. Hope (Trust)
3. Charity (Love)

Cardinal:

1. Prudence (Right Judgment)
2. Justice
3. Fortitude (Constancy of resolve)
4. Temperance (Moderation/Balance)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus takes up His cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets His Mother
5. Simon helps Jesus carry His cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of His garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in His Mother's arms
14. Jesus is buried in the tomb

THE ROSARY

A rosary has a cross, followed by one large bead and three small ones. Then there is a circle with five decades. Each decade consists of one large bead followed by ten smaller beads. Begin the rosary with the sign of the cross. Recite the Apostles Creed. Then pray one Our Father, three Hail Mary's and one Glory to the Father.

To recite each decade, say one Our Father on the large bead and ten Hail Mary's on the ten smaller beads. After each decade, pray the Glory to the Father. As you pray each decade, think of the appropriate Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous Mystery, or a special event in the life of Jesus and Mary. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen as the last prayer of the rosary, finishing with the sign of the cross.

JOYFUL

The Annunciation (The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear a son)

The Visitation (Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist)

The Nativity (The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem)

The Presentation (The presentation of Jesus in the Temple)

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

SORROWFUL

The Agony in the Garden

The Scourging at the Pillar

The Crowning with Thorns

The Carrying of the Cross

The Crucifixion

GLORIOUS

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead
The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven
The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles (Pentecost)
The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
The Coronation of Mary, Queen of Heaven

LUMINOUS

Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan
The Miracle at the Wedding at Cana
Jesus Announces the Kingdom of God
The Transfiguration
The Institution of the Eucharist

HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy; our life,
our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to
you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this vale of tears.

Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes
of mercy towards us; and after this our exile;
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,
Jesus

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary Pray for us O holy
Mother of God, that we may be made worth of the promises of
Christ. Amen