Revised 2026

CHURCH of the INCARNATION
A PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

PREP CONFIRMATION PACKET

Complete this entire packet by the **first full week in January** prior to the calendar year you are being Confirmed. (For example, if you are being confirmed in spring of 2027, the packet **MUST** be completed by the first full week in January 2027.)

Check this website for current dates added as they become available:

https://www.incarnation-church.org/newpage3c671161

Your finished packet must have all of the following completed by the first full week in January:

- Confirmation Information Sheet (see page 2)
- Sponsor Verification Letter/Form (see page 2)
- Letter to the Pastor (see page 3)
- Service Hours Essay (see page 4)
- Confirmation Saint Essay (see page 5)
- Service Hours Log (see page 6)

PREP CONFIRMATION INFORMATION SHEET

Full Name (as printed on Baptismal Certificate):

_____

Confirmation Saint Name: _____

NOTE: *This is the saint you will use as your Confirmation Saint; you'll also write your "Saint Report" on this same saint.*

Current Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Your Date of Birth: _____Place of Birth (City/State) _____

Date of Baptism: _____ Church of Baptism: _____

Mother's First Name and Maiden Name:

_____

Father's First and Last Name:

_____

Confirmation Sponsor Name: _____

(sponsor cannot be parent; must be Catholic; at least 16 years of age)

Sponsor's Parish and Location: _____

(You MUST have your sponsor request a verification letter/form from their parish; this is required. You can have this form/letter mailed to us or email it to us. Visit https://www.incarnation-church.org/prep-forms for forms.)

Letter to the Pastor

Before the celebration of Confirmation, the Pastor is required by Canon Law to determine if the Confirmandi have been properly prepared to receive the sacrament, i.e., that you have a desire to know and understand what Confirmation is and how it will change your life. Therefore, you need to write a letter to the pastor addressing all of the following areas:

1. What does the Sacrament of Confirmation mean to you? You should write 1-2 paragraphs explaining your understanding of Confirmation; think about what Confirmation is and how you understand it as a sacrament. What makes confirmation different from other sacraments? Explain your answer completely.

2. Why do you believe you are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Explain your reasons; ask yourself, "What has changed in my life that I believe I am ready to be confirmed? "How have my beliefs changed from when I was younger, such as when I was in 6th grade or 7th grade?" Explain your answer completely.

3. Describe two ways the past two years of study, service hours, readings, and activities have helped you believe you are ready to be confirmed. Why? Explain your answer completely.

4. What gifts of the Holy Spirit are helping you prepare for Confirmation? Think about how these gifts are present in your life, such as when you were completing your service hours or perhaps when you were studying at PREP. The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

   The following information will help you prepare your answer: "**Wisdom** helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives. **Understanding** is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message. **Knowledge** is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us. **Counsel** is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him. **Fortitude** is the courage to do what one knows is right. **Piety** helps us pray to God in true devotion. **Fear of the Lord** is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose*." (From: https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholicfaith/scripture-and-tradition/catholic-basics/catholic-beliefs-and-practices/gifts-of-the-holy-spirit)*

5. Remember: You may decide to celebrate your Confirmation at another time in your life. If you believe you are not ready and want to wait, you can include this information in your letter to the Pastor. He would be happy to discuss this with you in person. Contact the PREP Office for more information.

Service Hours Essay Instructions

Directions: Reflect on your past service hours over the last year or two; think about what you did and why you did it. In no more than 500 words, explain what you learned from completing your service hours. Consider the following questions:

- Why are service hours required?
- What did you learn about serving others?
- What services did you provide? Why did you select those activities?
- How did your services reflect the Spiritual Works of Mercy and Corporal Works of Mercy?

Be specific; explain what you did. For example, how did your actions help you live-out feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, give drink to the thirsty? How might you have counseled the doubtful or comforted the sorrowful?

Remember – don't just list what you did for service hours; explain why you did what you did relating back to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. You can write your essay by hand or use a computer. Be sure your handwriting is legible.

The following websites may be helpful in writing your essay:

Learn more about the Spiritual Works of Mercy:

https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/newevangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-spiritual-works-of-mercy

Learn more about the Corporal Works of Mercy:

https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/newevangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy

Essay on Your Confirmation Saint

Directions: You will need to select a saint for your Confirmation Name. Once you've done some research and learned about your saint, you then need to write an essay of approximately 500 words. This essay needs to include your saint's full name, place and date of birth and death.

You also need to answer and explain at least 3 of the following items:

1) What are at least 1 or 2 miracles attributed to your saint; 2) What specific virtue(s) are associated with your saint? 3) Why are these virtues associated with your saint? 4) What are 2 reasons you selected this saint? 5) How will you try to live your life like your saint? 6) What is a prayer associated with your patron saint?

Explain all your answers completely. Be sure to give your essay a creative title – not just the saint's name. Note: You may use resources, but most of the essay needs to be your own words and not copied from a source; copy and pasting from a web page is not allowed. This is your essay – written by you. All essays will be carefully reviewed and checked; if extensive use of sources is found, you will be asked to rewrite your essay. You can hand-write your essay (make sure your handwriting is legible) or use a computer.

Here are some websites to help you get started with your research; use them to help you learn about saints; do not copy/paste information directly into your essay:

- https://www.catholic.org/saints/
- https://mycatholic.life/saints/

If you have any questions, please contact the PREP office.

Suggested Outline for Essay on your Confirmation Saint

General Saint Information

1. What is the saint's full name?
2. When and where was the saint born and when and where did they die?
3. What was the saint's background (family, upbringing, social context)?
4. When, where and by whom was this saint canonized?
5. What significant events shaped the saint's early life?

Spiritual development and calling

1. How did the saint encounter Jesus or experience a call to faith?
2. How did their life change as a result of their faith?
3. What were the key elements of their spiritual life and practices?
4. What challenges and difficulties did the saint encounter, and how did they overcome them?

Significant contributions and impact

1. What is the saint known for?
2. What were their charitable works, accomplishments, or contributions to society?
3. What virtues did the saint exemplify in their life?
4. Is the saint a patron/patroness of any causes or groups?

Contemporary relevance

1. How is this saint a good role model for people today?
2. What aspects of the saint's life or message are particularly relevant in our current world?
3. Are there any stories or teachings of the saint that can particularly resonate with someone?
4. What lessons can be learned from this saint's life and applied to one's own life?

Church of the Incarnation PREP

Service Hours Log

Student's Name: _____Parent's Name _____

✓Check box if PREP ☐ If not in PREP, which Catholic School? _____

You can review the list of "Pre-Approved Service Hours" here:
https://www.incarnation-church.org/prep-forms
A total of 20 service hours is required.

Date	Project/Activity	Number of Hours	Name and Signature of Supervising Adult
TOTAL HOURS = _____			

To be signed by Confirmandi and PREP Office:

I hereby confirm that I have completed these service hours to the best of my ability on the dates indicated.

_____ _____
Confirmandi (Student) Signature Date

_____ _____
PREP Office Authorization Date

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION - PREP OFFICE

https://www.incarnation-church.org/prep2
240 Main Street
Mantua, New Jersey 08051
Phone: 856-468-1314
Fax: 856-468-4886
Normal business hours are Monday through Friday from 9AM-4PM.
https://www.incarnation-church.org/meet-the-prep-team

Heather Wilkie
PREP- Director of Faith Formation
hwilkie@incarnation-church.org
Office: (856) 468-1314, Ext. 106

Abigail McCrane
PREP - Administrative Assistant
amccrane@incarnation-church.org
Office: (856) 468-7566, Ext. 108

Alicia Melson
PREP - Secretary of Attendance
amelson@incarnation-church.org
Office: (856) 468-7566, Ext. 110

