

CONFIRMANDI

2025-2026

As a member of Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Evergreen Park, I desire to affirm my belief in Jesus and His Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

As I enter into this final phase of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, bless me and give me the willingness to do all that is required of me.

I pledge to the best of my ability to take part in the learning sessions and activities that are a part of the program of preparation.

I accept the responsibility to open my mind and heart to the activities of the Holy Spirit during this time of preparation. I ask this in Christ's name.

Amen



Dear Confirmandi,

Jesus has invited you to follow him, to walk in his footsteps, and to reach out to others as he did, with care, concern, healing, and hope. Confirmation can be a missed opportunity or a highlight, a turning point of your life. It is your choice.

Four areas will be stressed as you prepare for Confirmation:

- Liturgy: regular attendance at Mass and developing a commitment to living out your faith by going to Mass each Sunday
- Prayer: developing a routine and understanding of prayer
- Knowing my faith: knowing our beliefs as stated in the Creed
- Christian service: practicing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Guidelines For Service

Christian love is manifested in service to other people. Jesus came as one who serves. He declared that, at the end of time, he will judge us on how well we have served him through other people. A vital part of the candidates' preparation for living a full Christian life is developing a habit of service.

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service is not new to you. You have given of yourself in many ways and should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life.
- A journal of your service hours is to be kept. Write down your thoughts and feelings about each project after its completion.

Service projects will be listed, and you will have many interesting avenues to choose from. Areas that will be open for service are church and community. Those preparing you for Confirmation can answer any questions about service opportunities.

The performance of service hours and the reflection upon such work are an integral preparation for the life of loving service that adult Christians must embrace. Therefore, the honest completion of these hours is necessary for Confirmation. If this commitment is not fulfilled honestly and in a Christian spirit, it will mean that you are not ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation and will have to wait another year. We thank you for your cooperation in this Spirit-filled endeavor.

The Role Of The Sponsor

Sponsors are those who will help the Confirmation candidate live his or her baptismal promises. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to:

- Help the candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to attend Sunday Mass, to pray, to participate in the sacraments—especially the Eucharist, and to become actively involved in the life of their parish community.
- Help the candidate understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Confirmation and have the right intentions for receiving it.
- Participate in a “Confirmation Interview” in which the Sponsor will share aspects of their own faith with the candidate.
- Assist in the faith sharing component of Confirmation.
- Present the candidate for Confirmation and continue to assist the confirmed person in living a Christian life.

The Role Of The Parents

Parents have a responsibility to create a Christian environment in the home. They should:

- Worship together regularly at Sunday Mass.
- Set a good example and encourage their child to lead a life of active Christian service.
- Serve their family out of love.
- Build an atmosphere of trust and understanding.
- Continue to nurture their child in faith.

Parents have a responsibility to help young people prepare for Confirmation. They should:

- Encourage their child to reflect thoughtfully on the Liturgy each week.
- Assist in the faith sharing component of the sacrament.
- Pray with their child and discuss various aspects of faith and the special meanings of Confirmation.
- Take part in special catechesis for parents to help renew their own faith so they can more effectively guide their child.
- Volunteer to drive for the special service outings their children will be involved in.
- Participate in service hours with their child.

Important Dates for Confirmation 2025-2026

Tuesday September 30th, 2025- Parent/Confirmandi Meeting in church at 6:30

Friday, October 3, 2025-Mandatory Student Confirmation retreat in MHR gym (Briody Hall) from 8:30-2:30

Tuesday, October 28, 2025-Saint report due for MHR students

November 3, 2025-Saint report due for SOR students

Monday, December 1, 2025-Sponsor interviews due for all students

Monday, December 1, 2025-2 first 2 Reflection papers and service projects due for all students

Monday, January 26, 2026-last 2 reflection papers -

Monday, January 26, 2026-All 15 hours of service must be completed with forms and reflection papers turned in to teachers

February-Interviews with Father Hurley and Deacon Phelan begin after school in rectory

Date TBD-Confirmation Reconciliation for both MHR (12:30) and SOR students (6:15) in church

February 25, 2026-Wednesday-6:00 pm-7:00 PM mandatory Confirmation practice in church; students only

February 27, 2026-Confirmation Mass in church 7:00 pm with Bishop Sullivan

Confirmandi, parents, sponsors must be seated in church by 6:40 pm (20 minutes before Mass begins)

Reception with the Bishop in Briody Hall immediately following.

All information and packets can be found at www.mostholyredeemer.org

SERVICE PROJECTS

Through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we are called to Feed the hungry...Give drink to the thirsty...Clothe the naked...Shelter the homeless...Visit the sick...Visit the imprisoned...Bury the dead. Counsel the doubtful...Instruct the ignorant...Admonish the sinner...Comfort the sorrowful...Forgive injuries...Bear wrongs patiently...Pray for the living and the dead.

Students must complete a minimum of 15 hours of service before Monday, January 22, 2026

-Students were given service hour logs to keep track of the service they complete. They are required to fill in the date of service, describe the service, and have it signed by the adult they did the service with or for.

-Students must complete at least 1 service project for each of the following categories. Descriptions of each category follow.

Mandatory group project

Independent service/Hands On

Parish/School Project

-Students must also complete 3 separate Service Reflections for 3 different service activities of their choice. These reflections should be completed in a thoughtful manner.

-Students must complete a Group Service Project. There are 5 dates for students to choose from. They are on a first come first serve basis, so please make sure you sign up as soon as possible otherwise you will have to choose another date. Teachers and catechists gave students a list of dates along with possible service opportunities and information in their service hour packets.

Following are various types of service opportunities/activities for students to participate in. The Group Service Activity is mandatory. All of the other service activities are just suggestions and students/parents can certainly do other types of service that they might think of.

Independent Service/Hands On Service

Students must do service for the community, their school, or a neighbor. This service can include working with the elderly, special needs children, and the poor. Some organizations that provide these types of opportunities and other project ideas are listed below. Students will need to write a A Service Reflection Paper (attached) for one of the activities completed for this service category. Service Reflections should be completed thoughtfully and completely and returned to your catechist or teacher.

Students/parents are responsible for getting transportation for their students to and from these events.

Students are responsible for bringing their service hour logs with them to each of these events. Students fill in the date, time (hours), description of the service, and signature of the adult supervising the service on the service hour log.

Possible Opportunities are listed below. Students can also find service for the community on their own with parental permission.

Offer your services to a neighbor or grandparent in need on a **regular basis** by:

1. Raking leaves
2. Shoveling snow
3. Taking out garbage cans
4. Running small errands
5. Babysitting free of charge
6. Small household tasks

Ronald McDonald House

4410 W. 93rd St.

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

708-423-5285

<https://rmhccni.org/about-us/>

Go to the “Get Involved” tab

Small groups of 10 can volunteer to buy, prepare, and serve meals to families at Ronald McDonald House.

Must register in advance.

One adult volunteer for every 3 students

Evergreen Park Library

9400 S. Troy Avenue

Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Phone: 708-422-8522

Contact: Mary Black

<https://www.evergreenparklibrary.org/>

Evergreen Park Recreation Center

3450 W. 97th St.

Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Phone: 708-229-3373

Email: eprcreation@yahoo.com

The Recreation Department will have service hours opportunities available throughout the year for the larger events they host.

Interested students should contact the Recreation Department via email.

Below are the upcoming events run through the Evergreen Park Recreation Department this coming year.

We would like 8 volunteers for each event.

Interested students in the above events email us at eprcreation@yahoo.com and let us know what event they would like to volunteer for and we will follow up on details.

Making lunches for Su Casa

We are happy to welcome volunteers to Su Casa. The upcoming dates are 9/28, 11/23, 1/25, 3/22, 5/24. We always meet after 8:30 mass in Adamich Hall, so 9:25 to 1040ish.

Please sign up for this event with your classroom teachers.

Making lunches for Pro Labore Dei

Various Saturday mornings at 8:00 to approximately 9:15 in Adamich Hall.

The first date is September 7th. (Future dates to be announced.)

Please sign up for this event with your classroom teachers.

Food drive for Pro Labore Dei

Students are needed to help load food collected onto the truck during the week of **October 7. (exact date to be determined)**

October 7th-11:45 until approximately 12:30.

Student volunteers are needed to move food from the church to the Convent Community room. Meet Mrs. Maxwell in the back of the church to help.

October 9th-right after school until approximately 3:15 or 3:20. Students will meet in the Convent Community Room right after school to help load into the truck for Pro Labore Dei.

Please sign up for this event with your classroom teachers.

Feed My Starving Children

 A World Without Hunger

555 Exchange Court

Aurora, IL 60504

1-630-851-0404

FGSC Mission-Feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit.

The approach-Our process is simple. Donations given by people just like you fund the meal ingredients. Volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved!

Service for Parish/School

Students volunteer to complete service for their school and/or MHR parish.

Students volunteer to complete service for their school and/or parish. Service hours are not to be completed during regular school hours. Following are some current possibilities.

Harvest Sunday

Harvest Sunday is a parish food drive to provide food for the Evergreen Park Food Pantry. Harvest Sunday takes place on Sunday, November 23rd at 9:30 in the church parking lot.

Students will meet Deacon Phalan in the church parking lot to help take food donations out of car trunks, sort, and pack into trucks that will deliver donations to the EP food pantry.

City Lights Orchestra Christmas Concert

Students will meet in Most Holy Redeemer church to help set up and take down for this concert.

The Christmas concert is at 7pm on 12/21.

Students will be responsible for getting their own transportation to and from this project.

Mandatory Group Projects

Each 8th grade student must complete one of the following. Number of students for each event is limited so please sign up as soon as possible.

Please sign up with your classroom teacher for these mandatory group events. Students are responsible for bringing their service hour logs with them to these events.

Students choose 1 of the 5 following dates to attend. A Service Reflection Paper (attached) will need to be completed for each project and returned to your catechist/teacher.

Wednesday, October 8th, 2026

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

January 14, 2026

Blessing Bags for Homeless

Students will meet at 3:30 until approximately 4:30 or 5:00 in the Convent Community Room. Students will assemble donations for blessing bags, decorate bags, and make cards to place in bags.

Wednesday, January 15th

A limited number of students will be needed for this project. Students will be responsible for their own transportation to and from this project.

Making lunches for Pro Labore Dei

Students will meet at 3:30 until approximately 4:30 or 5:00 in the Convent Community Room. Students will make sandwiches, assemble lunch bags, and write notes to include in lunch bags for the homeless. We will ask for donations of bread, cold cuts, American cheese, individually wrapped chips, granola or cereal bars.

Wednesday, November 13th

A limited number of students will be needed for this project. Students will be responsible for their own transportation to and from this project.

Writing notes of thanks to MHR ministries.

Students will meet at 3:30 until approximately 4:30 or 5:00 in the Convent Community Room. Students will write notes of gratitude to members of different MHR ministries. Date to be determined.

A limited number of students will be needed for this project. Students will be responsible for their own transportation to and from this project.

Service Reflection 1

Name of Candidate _____

Name of Organization/Project _____

Date Completed _____

Who did you serve during this project and how did you help them?

What did you learn from this experience?

How did you feel serving this group of people or person? Would you recommend this project to others?

(Must be handed in after service is completed)

Service Reflection 2

Name of Candidate _____

Name of Organization/Project _____

Date Completed _____

Who did you serve during this project and how did you help them?

What did you learn from this experience?

How did you feel serving this group of people or person? Would you recommend this project to others?

(Must be handed in after service is completed)

Service Reflection 3

Name of Candidate _____

Name of Organization/Project _____

Date Completed _____

Who did you serve during this project and how did you help them?

What did you learn from the experience?

How did you feel serving this group of people or person? Would you recommend this project to others?

(Must be handed in after service is completed)

Sponsor Interview

Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor's Full Name and Relationship _____

Please return this form by Monday, December 1, 2025.

Discuss the following questions with your sponsor and write down your answers. Answers should be written from your **sponsor's** perspective.

How has the Catholic faith strengthened and nourished you?

Do you have a favorite place and time to pray? Describe a time when it was challenging to pray and a time when you really felt God's presence.

What is the greatest challenge of being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

Who has been a good role model for you? How has this person taught you or shown you what it means to be Catholic? How has this person deepened your faith?

What advice would you give to me in becoming an adult in the Catholic faith?

Sponsor interviews are due on Monday, December 2, 2025.

They should be completed on loose leaf in pencil.

The candidate's name (your name) goes on the top line.

Your sponsor's first and last name goes on the next line along with their relationship to you (aunt, uncle, grandmother, family friend etc..)

Write each question from the form on the loose leaf along with your sponsor's response. Skip a line between each question and response.

The responses should be written from your sponsor's perspective.

These responses are not just one sentence answers. Each response should be at least 3-4 sentences in length.