St. Mary's Parish

St. Mary Mother of Church - Lee | St. Mary of the Lakes - Otis | St. Joseph's - Stockbridge
40 Academy St. | Lee, MA 01238 | (413)243-0275

Confirmation Information Sheet 2023-2024

Requirements

- **Prayer:** Foundational to your time of preparation is prayer. Personal prayer is your ongoing dialogue with God. Take the time to grow in relationship with him. Talk to him, listen to him, follow his lead. An essential aspect to our prayer life is communal prayer, especially the sacraments. Join in Mass every weekend and holy day. Go to Confession. If you are ill seek out the sacrament of Anointing. God's grace is freely given. Plug into that grace.
- **Service:** Every Catholic, indeed every Christian, is called to be a person of service. Because this is your confirmation year, we ask that you get involved in a parish ministry. During the months of October through December, you are asked to try a ministry each month. We will work with you during class to schedule these trial runs. Turn in this form on January 7 to identify which ministries you've tried and which you plan to continue with for the spring. ***They are due January 7th.***
- **Faith Formation - Classes:** Our Confirmation classes are designed to help you grow in faith as we approach Confirmation. We ask you to attend, and even more importantly participate in, the classes leading up to Confirmation. If you cannot attend a class, you will be required to do the work at home.

Confirmation Name: There is no requirement to choose a new name at Confirmation. But many take this time to do so. It must be a religious name. Some choose the name of a saint or angel (e.g. Francis or Catherine or Michael or Gabriel, etc.). Others choose a virtue (Faith or Charity, etc.). This is a time to ask a saint to watch over you in a special way or to set a path for your spiritual walk. It can also be a time to confirm the name your parent's gave you at Baptism. Whatever name you chose, we want to know why and encourage you to think about it a little more in depth. Look up your patron saint and tell us a little about his/her life. Research the virtue, describe what it is and what it means to you. In the end, God knows us by name and calls us in love to be his ambassadors to the world. ***The Confirmation Name Sheet is due March 3rd.***

Confirmation Sponsor: It is a great honor and a privilege to be a Confirmation Sponsor. It is also an important responsibility. You may choose to confirm one of your godparents as your Confirmation Sponsor or you may want to choose someone new. Make your choice someone who inspires you and will support you in your life of faith. A Confirmation Sponsor must be 1) a Confirmed Catholic at least 18 years old, 2) a registered and active parishioner at their local parish and 3) attending Mass on a regular basis. They cannot be your parents (although if your Confirmation Sponsor cannot attend the liturgy of Confirmation, your parent can act as a proxy). ***The Confirmation Sponsor Sheet is due November 5th.***

Ceremony: SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2023 – 2:00 pm

- **Rehearsal:** Sunday, April 28, 6:00 pm. This is mandatory for all Candidates. Sponsors are requested to attend, but if your Sponsor lives far away please have a parent or sibling stand in for them at the rehearsal (and then fill them in on their role).
- **Dress:** Boys are asked to wear dress shoes and dress pants (solid dark color) with a button down shirt (solid color) and a tie (solid color). Girls are asked to wear a modest dress or dress pants and a blouse. Shoulders and chest should be covered. Dresses should be knee-length or longer. In the interest of processing into the church safely, shoes should be a reasonable height. Undergarments should not be visible. Please no rips, tears, or jagged hems.
- **Arrive** no later than 1:30 pm at the grotto so we can line up.
- **Pictures:** We ask people to be respectful of Mass. Afterwards we will gather for a group photo.
- **Altar Servers:** We encourage siblings or friends to serve the Confirmation.
- **Guests:** We encourage you to invite guests. This promises to be a wonderful occasion.