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Saint Joseph Marello Parish



Confirmation Packet

September 11, 2016

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Dear Parents and Students,

One special moment for you in the upcoming years is the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Since the Confirmation program involves an approach requiring prayer and involvement on your part, it is important that you know about it ahead of time. It is our hope that you will read this letter carefully, discuss its contents as a family, and begin preparation for this Sacrament of Christian Initiation.

**What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are called the Sacraments of Initiation. Through these Sacraments we become members of the Catholic Church, a community of Spirit-filled people who have been saved by Christ and who witness Christ's love in the world.

Confirmation completes the Baptismal graces. It is a Sacrament of Maturity. This is the heart of your *Christian adulthood*. This Sacrament recognizes you as responsible for your faith. In Confirmation, you will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and His gifts preparing you for your ministry and renewed commitment to Christ and His holy Catholic Church.

**The Role of Those to be Confirmed**

Those to be confirmed must be suitably instructed and properly prepared. They must be willing to be involved in the two-year preparation program with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ and His Church.

**The Role of Parents**

As parents, you play a primary role in the sacramental preparation program. You help your son/daughter grow in faith as you prepare him/her for the fruitful reception of the Sacrament. Your attendance at required the parent meetings, and your participation in the Sunday parish celebrations of the Holy Eucharist is vital. There is, and can be, no substitute for your actual presence at such moments. Your interest, involvement and concern make a difference in your son's/daughters perception of what this Sacrament and the Christian life are all about.

I hope this information on the Confirmation program will enable you to devote time to preparing, discussing and praying about the great gift of this Sacrament. Additional information will be provided as the program progresses.

Sincerely In Christ,

Fr. John Shearer, OSJ

Parish Administrator

**Preparation Program for the Sacrament of Confirmation**

**Registration:** Every student must have a new registration form filled out each year with the required fee*. If there is some type of genuine financial hardship, please speak with the Director of Religious Education.*

**Baptismal Certificates:** If your child received the Sacrament of Baptism at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church or St. Rocco’s Church, we have your their records. If your child was baptized in another parish, please make a copy or get a copy of the baptismal certificate to us by September 30th. This very important document is critical for the parish and Diocese of Scranton records. If your child has not been baptized, please inform the Director of Religious Education so we can prepare your child accordingly.

**Rite of Enrollment:** 7th grade (year 1)

**Rite of Acceptance:** 8th grade (year 2)

**Parents Meetings:** Parents are required to attend two parent meetings. They will be held in the Fall of each year.

**Catholic School Students:** Catholic school students will participate daily in the Religious Education classes at their school. Catholic school students are required to attend scheduled parish programs of formation such as: retreats, Masses, reconciliation services, days of reflection, practices and other events. They need to complete all requirements of the program. The parish will send a schedule to the parents of Catholic school children at the beginning of the year, and after that, it is the responsibility of the parents to watch the dates and bring their children for the required events.

**Confirmation Candidate Commitment**

**I**, a member of Saint Joseph Marello Parish in Pittston, Pennsylvania, ask to become a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I ask to enter the program of preparation provided by Saint Joseph Marello Parish, in order to learn about and affirm my belief in Jesus and the Catholic Church. I promise to do my best to fulfill the following expectations of the program:

**I** will attend Mass every Sunday and thereby keep the 3rd Commandment, deepen my relationship with the Lord Jesus and His Church by worthily receiving Holy Communion, and discover and express my union with my local parish community.

**I** will make a true commitment to understand the Faith of the Catholic Church. I will do this by regularly attending Confirmation preparation sessions, by thoughtfully completing all assignments, and by actively participating in discussions and projects in class.

**I** will bring an excuse for when I am absent. I will complete make up assignments for when I was absent in a timely manner. I understand my attendance will be evaluated at the end of the year to determine my eligibility to move on to the next step of the Confirmation process.

**I** will complete all requirements within the scheduled guidelines. The requirements are: attend class and Mass every week, complete the service hours, write a report on my Confirmation Saint, write a report on Saint Joseph Marello, write a letter of intent to the pastor, select a Confirmation sponsor, attend the Confirmation Retreat, complete the pre-Confirmation interview with the pastor, attend the Penance Service and make a good Confession before Confirmation, and attend the Confirmation practice session.

**I** will make a conscious effort to spend time each day in prayer to open my mind and heart to the working of the Holy Spirit.

**I** will spend thirty (30) hours in service, without monetary reward. This is to help me to understand the sacrifice and rewards of living as a Christian.

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Please fill out this form acknowledging that you have read, understand and will fulfill the requirement for receiving Confirmation in 2018 at Saint Joseph Marello Parish.

Student's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Parent/Guardian Commitment**

**I** promise to support my teen in fulfilling his/her Confirmation promise. I understand my example of Faith will be a model for my teen.

**I** will give my teen encouragement and support, and will approach participation in this program with a positive attitude. I will model active participation with my teen by doing my part to attend Mass with my student each week as well as attend all Confirmation preparation sessions required of me. I will facilitate the attendance of my candidate's sponsor when necessary, and attend in the sessions myself in the absence of the sponsor.

**I** will monitor my teen's participation in service projects, and serve alongside of them when appropriate. I will make my life an act of service as well. I understand that I am responsible for verifying service hours recorded by my teen.

**I** recognize that I am the primary teacher of faith for my teen. I will give my time and talents to support my teen's faith development. I will also discuss the catechetical lessons with my teen each week, asking them what they've learned and how they've grown. I will make Confirmation preparation a priority in our life.

**I** will make every effort to make sure my teen attends each preparation session. In the event of an absence, I will give a written excuse and will work with the catechist in order to ensure that my teen is caught up on the material being covered in class by having my child complete the make up assignment. *I understand that missing class because of sports practice is* ***not*** *a viable excuse.*

**I** understand my child's attendance will be evaluated at the end of the year to determine their eligibility to move on to the next step of the Confirmation process. A serious lack of attendance will cause repeat of the first year or postponement of Confirmation for a year.

**I** support the Confirmation process and I will help out whenever I am able.

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Please fill out this form acknowledging that you have read and understand the Confirmation guidelines for Saint Joseph Marello Parish.

Parent/Guardian Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Saint Joseph Marello Parish’s Confirmation Preparation Requirements**

1. Signed Candidate and Parent/Guardian Commitment Promise

2. Attend class and Mass every week

3. A report on Saint Joseph Marello, patron of our parish

 His Life

 His Miracles

 His Feast Days

4. A report on the candidate's chosen Saint's Name

 Why I chose this name?

 What do I admire most about this saint?

 What graces do I hope to obtain from this Saint?

 When is this Saint's Feast Day?

 Will I attend mass on that day?

 Will I pray for my Saint's intercession?

5. Complete Thirty (30) Service Hours

 Ten (10) Home

 Ten (10) Community

 Ten (10) Liturgical

6. Letter of Petition to the Pastor

 Name, Address, grade, church's name

 Why you want to be confirmed.

 Why you are ready to be confirmed

7. Report on choosing your Sponsor.

8. Sponsor Application

Requirements to be a Confirmation Sponsor:

1. Candidate must be at least 16 years of age.

2. An active, practicing Catholic who has already received the Sacraments of

 Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

3. A practicing Catholic who attends Mass weekly and on Holy Days.

4. Accepts and believes in all the teachings of the Catholic Church

5. The sponsor, if married, was married in the Catholic Church.

6. The sponsor is **NOT** the candidate's parent.

9. Interview with the pastor

10. Attend the Student Retreat

 The date and time will be announced once the Bishop sets the Confirmation ***date.***

11. Attend the Penance Service and Confirmation Practices

 The date and time will be announced once the Bishop sets the Confirmation ***date.***

\*Please note that numbers 1-4 will be completed in the first year of Confirmation preparation (7th grade) and numbers 6-11 will be completed during the second year (8th grade). The service hours should be started at the beginning of 7th grade and must be completed by January 31st of the second year.

**Opportunities or ideas for Community Service Hours**

Home

 Clean room

 Wash/Dry Dishes

 Shovel Snow

 Rake leaves

 Cut Grass

 Visit/Call Grandparents

 Visit/Call Neighbor

 Shop for Grandparents/Neighbor

 Babysitting

Liturgical

 Altar Server

 Children's Choir

 Christmas Pageant

 Attend Holy Hour on Tuesdays

 Chrism Mass at Saint Peter's Cathedral (Tuesday of Holy Week)

 Holy Thursday Service

 Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

 Blessing of the Baskets on Holy Saturday

 Saint Joseph Marello's Feast Day

 Corpus Christi Procession

 Attend Saint Ann's Novena

 Volunteer at a Vacation Bible School

 March for Life (January)

 Labor Day Triduum at The Oblates of Saint Joseph

Community

 Parish Bazaar

 Fall Harvest Dinner

 Italian Festival

 School Key Club Volunteer Opportunities

 Volunteer at an animal shelter/community organization

 Help maintain the church grounds by cleaning, pulling weeds, etc..

 Shovel snow before Mass

**Saint Joseph Marello Service Log**

*Due January 31, 2018*

Candidate’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Each student must complete thirty hours of service in order to be confirmed at St. Joseph Marello Parish. These hours are to be spread evenly across the three areas (home, liturgical and community), so as to fully explore the breadth of experiences that are available to serve God and others.

Students may begin documenting hours as of September 1, 2016.

**Home:**

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| **Date** | **Service Activity** | **Hours** | **Signature of Witness** |
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**Liturgical:**

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| **Date** | **Service Activity** | **Hours** | **Signature of Witness** |
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**Community:**

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| **Date** | **Service Activity** | **Hours** | **Signature of Witness** |
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|   |  Total Hours: |   |   |

**Requirement Checklist**

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| **Requirement** | **Date Completed** |
| Signed Candidate Promise |  |
| Signed Parent Promise |  |
| Saint Joseph Marello Report |  |
| Saint Name Report |  |
| Good Attendance Record for 7th Grade |  |
| Letter of Petition to the Pastor |  |
| Sponsor Report |  |
| Sponsor Application |  |
| 30 Service Hours |  |
| Student Retreat |  |
| Interview |  |
| Good Attendance for 8th Grade |  |
| Attended Penance Service |  |
| Attended all Confirmation Practices |  |