RESOURCE BOOK
GRADE 8

CHURCH OF ST. MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

STUDENT NAME: _____

TEACHER NAME: _____

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Portfolio

Representing 3 years of Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

The process of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a three year process, at the Church of St. Mary, beginning in 6th grade. Each candidate for Confirmation will have the responsibility of creating a portfolio containing documentation of specific assignments and activities completed during their preparation for the sacrament. The portfolios will be kept with the catechists.

ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PORTFOLIO

SIXTH GRADE
- "Favorite Person" in the Old Testament Worksheet
- 7 Mass Reflection Sheets

SEVENTH GRADE
- Gift of Service Essay (Parent Interview)
- Luke Essay
- Work of Mercy Online Journaling (Service)
- Sponsor Interview & Information Sheet
- 7 Mass Reflection Sheets

EIGHTH GRADE
- YouCat Assignment
- Confirmation Saint Project: Step 1 ____ Step 2 ____
- Letter to the Bishop
- My Catholic Faith Essay
- Work of Mercy Online Journaling (Service): Parish ___ Community ___
- 7 Mass Reflection Sheets ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

"May the God of hope
fill you with all joy
and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit"
Romans 15:13

Church of St. Mary

Church: 175 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045
Parish Center: 201 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Saturday: 7:30 am
Saturday (Vigil): 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, Noon & 5:00 pm*
**5 pm Sunday Mass during the school year*

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays in the church, 5-7:15 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 8:00 am (or by appointment)

COMMON CATHOLIC PRAYERS

Our Father (or The Lord's Prayer)
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be (Doxology)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Prayer to Your Guardian Angel
Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen (Salve Regina)
Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Angelus (usually prayed at noon)
The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Pray 1 Hail Mary, then:
Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Pray 1 Hail Mary, then:
And the Word was made flesh. And dwelt among us.
Pray 1 Hail Mary, then:
Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts;
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son,
was made known by the message of an angel,
may by his Passion and Cross be brought
to the glory of his Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Day

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, this is how I'm feeling today:

close your eyes for at least 1 minute and tell God what is on your mind in this moment

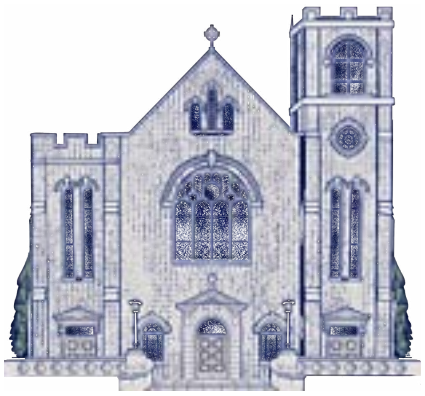
Lord, help me to see You today.
Help me to hear You today.
Help me to love You today.

spend 1 minute in quiet prayer with your eyes closed try to listen to God's voice speaking to your heart

God, I offer up all my prayers to You,
through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as I pray:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



Mass Responses

Greeting

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

*This greeting of the ancient church reminds us that the priest celebrates Mass **"in the person of Christ, Head of the Church."***

Penitential Act

I confess... *continued on the inside front cover of the missalette book in the pews.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **R/ Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **R/ Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **R/ Lord, have mercy.**

*We begin Mass with two honest claims. First: "I am an imperfect sinner." Second, and more importantly: "**God's mercy** is far greater than my shortcomings."*

Gospel Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to _____.

Making the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart:

People: Glory to you, + O Lord.

*We use our right thumb to make the sign of the cross on our head, lips, and heart. This shows that we desire the Gospel (**"Good News"**) to shape our thoughts, words, and actions. In His life, death, and resurrection Jesus embodies the Good News of salvation: **God has conquered death, lives forever, and wants me to live with Him.***

After the reading of the Gospel:

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparation of the Gifts

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the *[bread/wine]* we offer you: fruit of the *[earth/vine]* and work of human hands, it will become for us *[the bread of life/our spiritual drink]*

People: Blessed be God, for ever.

*As we begin the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we offer simple gifts of bread and wine, trusting that God can and will transform them. By God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread we offer becomes the **Body of Christ** and the wine we offer wine becomes the **Blood of Christ.***

These prayers come from Jewish table blessings **(berakhah)**. *They evoke Christ's actions at the Last Supper, when He celebrated the feast of Passover and gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of His suffering, death, and resurrection.*

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

People: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

*Mass is not a passive gathering. In the Mass, we all join together to offer one **sacrifice of praise**. Mass is our full, conscious, and active participation in the saving work of Jesus Christ: **glorifying God** and **sanctifying the world**.*

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord.
People: It is right and just.

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of Faith

Priest: The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.
or **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.**
or **Save us, Savior of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.**

Invitation to Communion

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Concluding Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Priest: May almighty God bless you, +
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All make the sign of the cross during the blessing and respond:
People: Amen.
In these or similar words, the priest sends the people forth:
Priest: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Our sacrifice of praise includes not only bread and wine, but also our hearts. Like the gifts of bread and wine, we know that **God wants to transform our hearts** beyond our imagination.*

*Eucharist means **"thanksgiving."** Giving thanks to God is right and just because gratitude makes us less selfish and more like Christ, who emptied Himself for others.*

*The Sanctus references two moments in Scripture where God's presence was revealed. The first half recalls Isaiah's vision of angels praising the Lord in the glory of the temple. The second half echoes the Jerusalem crowds who recognized Jesus as the Anointed One of God on Palm Sunday. In Mass, the Sanctus is meant to shake us awake to the reality that **God is here with us.***

*As the priest elevates the Eucharist, we truly behold the Lamb of God. Christ is the **new Passover Lamb**, whose Precious Blood saves us from death and bestows new life with God in the new and everlasting covenant.*

We respond with the same faith-filled humility of the centurion in the Gospel who believed in Jesus' healing power.

*The word "Mass" comes from the Latin **"missio."** This reminds us that our celebration of the Eucharist is not meant to be confined to the church building. Having received the Body and Blood of Christ, we are sent out to **be the Body of Christ, broken and shared for the life of the world.** As we return to our day-to-day lives, we know that God's peace goes with us. Nourished by the Eucharist, we seek to reveal God's love by the way we live.*

PARTS OF THE MASS

Introductory Rites

We gather with the Sign of the Cross, remembering that we are one community gathered by God. We acknowledge our brokenness, ask God for mercy, and give glory to God for the gift of salvation in which we participate during Mass.

Liturgy of the Word

St. Paul reminds us that "faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). We listen to the proclaimed Scriptures which recall the ways God has worked in salvation history. By engaging in the Word of God at Mass, we become aware that God is also actively at work in our world and in our lives.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

As the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar, we also offer our hearts and lives up to God. As we "lift up our hearts to the Lord," we discover that bread and wine are not the only things that are transformed at Mass. Just as the bread and wine truly become the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus, so do we become the Body of Christ, broken and shared for the life of the world. We "behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" and receive Him in the Eucharist so that we can become what we have received: the Body of Christ.

Concluding Rites

Remembering that "Mass" comes from the Latin words of the dismissal, we keep in mind the importance of being sent forth from the church. After receiving the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood and giving thanks to God, we receive the blessing of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Transformed by God's love, we are sent out to "go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." In each moment of our week, we give witness to God's saving love and mercy.

Rules of Capitalization

The Bible and Sacred Books – Capitalize all names for the Bible, books and versions of the Bible and all other sacred books.
Examples: Bible · Scripture · Good News · Word of God · Holy Bible · Old Testament · New Testament · Gospels · Ten Commandments · Lord's Prayer · Gospels · Gospel of Luke, Matthew, Mark, John · New American Bible

Creeds and Official Church Teaching – Capitalize all names of creeds and Biblical prayers and titles.
Examples: Lord's Supper · Apostles' Creed · Catechism of the Catholic Church · Nicene Creed

God, Jesus, Holy Spirit – Capitalize all names for God.
Examples: Father · Almighty · God · Lord · Holy Spirit · Jesus · Son of Man · Christ · Messiah · Lord of Hosts · Redeemer · Savior · Holy Trinity · Yahweh

Mary and the Saints – Capitalize all names and titles given to Mary and all of the Saints.
Examples: Our Lady · Our Lady Queen of Peace · Holy Mary · Holy Mother of God · Blessed Virgin · St. John the Baptist · St. John of the Cross · St. Teresa of Avila · St. John the Apostle · St. James the Greater

Liturgy and Sacraments – Capitalize church feasts, seasons, holy days, and names of the sacraments.
Examples: Mass · Advent · Christmas · Epiphany · Ash Wednesday · Lent · Holy Thursday · Good Friday · Triduum · Easter · Pentecost · Ordinary Time · All Saints' Day · Immaculate Conception · Ascension · Baptism · Reconciliation · Eucharist · Confirmation · Anointing of the Sick · Holy Orders · Matrimony

Rules of Capitalization Exercise

Please make capitalization corrections on the following by drawing a line through each letter that should be capitalized and writing the capital letter above it.
Example: J C S G S
jesus christ is the son of god and our savior.

1. The bible is a sacred book for all christians.

2. The four gospels were written by matthew, mark, luke, and john.

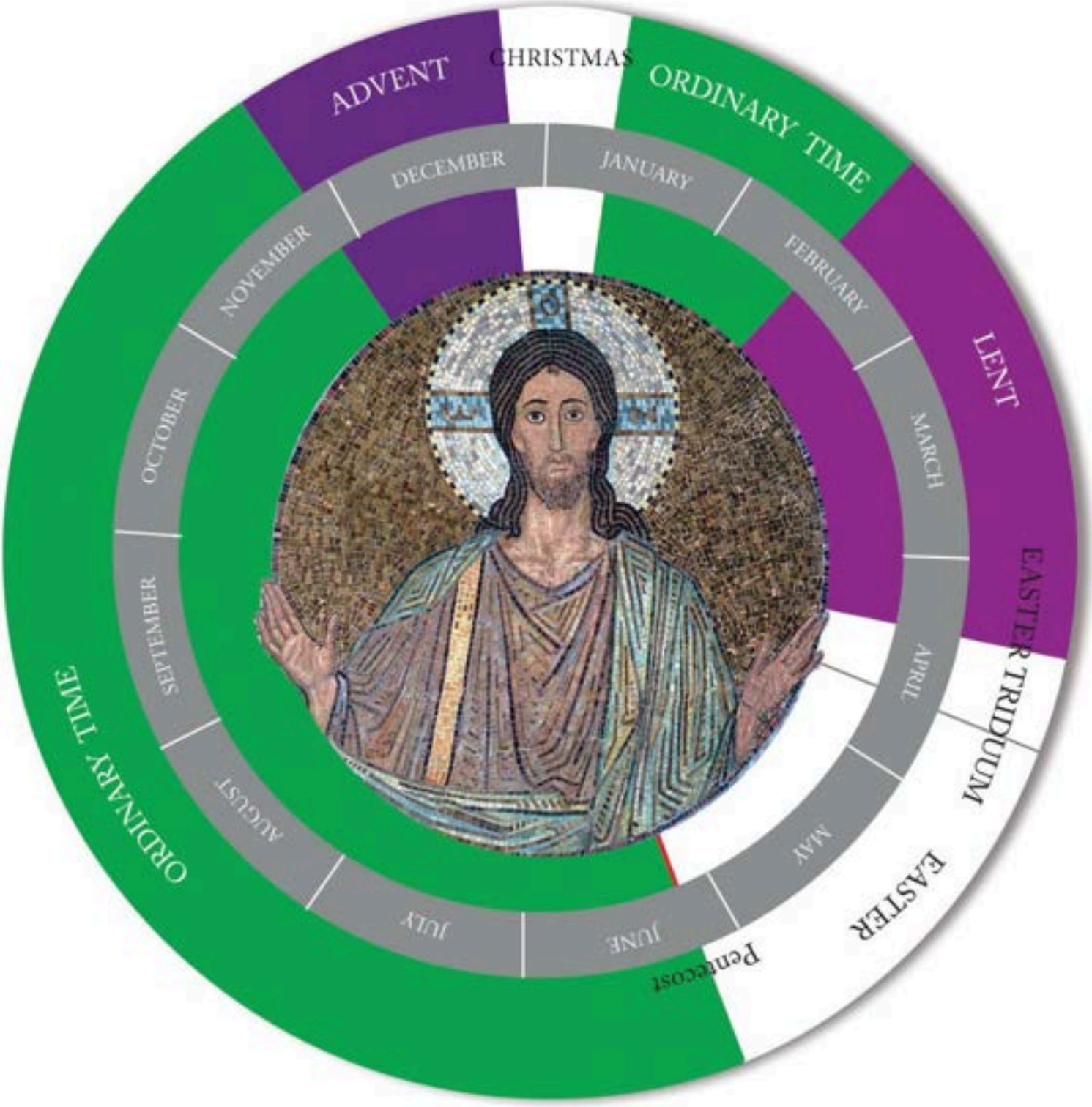
3. The lord's prayer was given to us by jesus.

4. We often refer to the mother of jesus as the blessed virgin, the holy mother of god, and our lady.

5. Jesus was baptized by st. john the baptist.

6. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are baptism, confirmation, and eucharist.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR



The liturgical year begins with the season of _____.

The season of Lent is _____ days long. The season of Easter is _____ days long.

The Easter Triduum - also known as the Sacred Triduum or Paschal Triduum -- has three days, which are known as: _____, _____, and _____.

Books of the Old Testament

The Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical Books

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah

Biblical Novellas

Tobit
Judith
Esther
1 Maccabees
2 Maccabees

Wisdom Books

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Wisdom
Ben Sira
(Ecclesiasticus)

Prophetic Books

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Baruch
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Books of the New Testament

The Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

.....

Acts of the Apostles

.....

New Testament Letters

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews

.....

Catholic Letters

James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Revelation

Who is God?

Read the beginning of the Catechism and underline anything that describes who God is:

"God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created human beings to make them share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to us. He calls us to seek him, to know him, to love him with all our strength. He calls together all people, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church.

To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through him, he invites us to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life"

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1)

God is One

Find: Deuteronomy 4:6 & Isaiah 44:6

God revealed Himself to the People of Israel as the only God. Instead of many gods (polytheism), the Israelites believed in one God (monotheism). This One God is the source of our unity as brothers and sisters in the human race.

Not only is there one God, but God has revealed Himself as a personal God, who created us to be in relationship with Him. God is not distant, God comes close to us and wants to live with us.

God is Three-in-One (The Holy Trinity)

Even though God is one, God also revealed His nature to be Trinitarian. Our God is a **communion of perfect love**: the perfect love between **the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Trinity describes God who is Three Persons, but one God. In other words, **God is love** (1 John 4:8). Love is not just something God *does*... love is who God *is*. Love is God's nature as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is Perfect Relationship: found in the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Holy Trinity is NOT:

- One God acting in different costumes or modes or roles
- Three different gods (polytheism)
- One god with two lesser divine beings

The Holy Trinity IS:

- God is **one in substance** (one in essence; one in nature; "consubstantial")
- God is **three Persons** (there is a distinction between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- God is **communion** (the distinction between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is found in the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)

Personal Reflection

Since I am made in the image and likeness of God, I was not made to be alone. God puts good relationships in our lives to help us know of His presence. ***What are some meaningful relationships in my life?***

What is one relationship in my life I wish was stronger? Can I do anything to make it stronger?

Since I am made in the image and likeness of God, I am called to make my life a reflection of God's goodness, love, and mercy. ***Do my actions reflect the love of God? Do others see God when they see me?***

"To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name." *(Thomas Merton)*

Write down some thoughts that come to mind as you react to this quote. What stands out to you? What challenges you?

finding God in music

"No Filter" by Sarah Kroger

Sometimes when I pray I wonder if I'm talking to the ceiling
Sometimes when I sing I question if this whole thing's just a feeling
Who are you? Who am I?
Questions just keep racing through my mind
If you want me, here I am, no filters
With questions more than answers
You want me, here I am, no hiding
No more playing perfect, 'cause honesty is worth it
You want me, here I am

8 Things You Need to Know About Confirmation

Maybe you have recently been dedicating a lot of time preparing and learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation so that, in the next few months, you can count yourself as one of the thousands of Catholics that receive it every year. If this is the case, congratulations! Read on for some crucial facts that everyone preparing for Confirmation should know.

1.Confirmation is the Completion of Baptism
Baptism marked the start of your relationship with Christ. Your soul changed permanently and you were filled with grace from God. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens these graces, gives you more of them, and seals them all inside you – like a carefully wrapped present! This brings you closer to Christ and better prepares you to face the daily challenges of Christian life.

2. Confirmation Increases the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Want to know more about these graces sealed inside of you? They are called the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis has actually done a homily on each of them: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, piety, counsel, and fear of the Lord. You've had these gifts since your Baptism, but Confirmation deepens and strengthens them since it draws you even closer to Christ and the greater Catholic community. Think about it like a team of basketball players. It's possible to get some good results from a team of players that just met their coach and have only played together a few times, but you'll get great results from a team of close-knit players that have played under the same coach for years. Baptism is like being introduced to the team (the Church) and your coach (Jesus). Confirmation is like the years of practice and team-building that it takes to really bring a team together.

3. A Mission from God: Operation Confirmation
Did you know that when you receive the sacrament of Confirmation you accept a mission from God? In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Later on, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples at Pentecost and they receive the courage to take on the mission Jesus gave them earlier. Confirmation is your own personal Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends upon you and you accept the same challenge given by Jesus to the disciples.

finding God in music

"No Filter" by Sarah Kroger

Sometimes when I pray I wonder if I'm talking to the ceiling
Sometimes when I sing I question if this whole thing's just a feeling
Who are you? Who am I?
Questions just keep racing through my mind
If you want me, here I am, no filters
With questions more than answers
You want me, here I am, no hiding
No more playing perfect, 'cause honesty is worth it
You want me, here I am

4. Chrism is Much More Than a Sweet-Smelling Oil
Chrism, the perfumed oil that the bishops uses to make the sign of the cross on your forehead, signifies a lot more than just a shower in your future. It helps show a connection to your Baptism – the first time you were anointed with oil. It shows healing and cleansing too. Believe it or not, it also signifies preparation to do spiritual battle with the Devil. Why? Oil is slippery and, in ancient times, warriors would cover themselves in it before battle to make it difficult for their enemies to grab them. In other words, Chrism makes it hard for the Devil to grab you!

5. Why My Forehead?
You probably wondered this as it dripped down your face during your Confirmation. St. Thomas Aquinas explained that this is because your forehead is part of your face – the first thing people see when they talk to you. Having the Chrism spread on your forehead proclaims to the world that the first thing people should notice about you is your faith in Christ.

6. What's in a Name?
Many Catholics adopt the name of a biblical figure or saint that they find inspiring at their Confirmation. This shows your intention to copy their dedication to God. It makes you a heavenly friend who will pray and intercede for you on your Christian journey. Other Catholics choose not to select a new name and stick with the one that they were baptized with to show Confirmation's close connection with Baptism!

7. Confirmation is Ancient
Faithful people have been receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation for almost 2,000 years. There are even examples of it recorded in the Bible! In Acts 19, Paul the Apostle lays his hands (just like the bishop does during Confirmation today) on a group of believers and the Holy Spirit descends upon them. So, when you are Confirmed, you are sharing in an ancient and rich tradition that millions of Catholics have participated in throughout history

8. You Aren't Alone
To be Confirmed, you must select a sponsor to help guide you through the process. This person is a great example of what it means to be a Catholic. They pray for you and provide a support system for your faith. Confirmation certainly makes you better equipped to handle life as a Christian, but that doesn't mean things will always be easy. During these more difficult times, don't forget about your sponsor.

Hopefully, these facts will help you on your journey to Confirmation. It might be a lot of work now, but it will all be worth it soon. The whole Church is rooting for you!

Article by LifeTeen, written by Trenton Mattingly

7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Genesis 1:26-31

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

Psalms 139:13-16

Proverbs 22:2

Luke 10:25-37

John 4:1-42

Romans 12: 9-18

1 Corinthians 3:16

Galatians 3:27-28

James 2:1-8

1 John 3: 1-2

1 John 4:7-12

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

Genesis 4:8-15

Leviticus 25:23-43

Jeremiah 7:5-7

Micah 6:6-8

John 15:12-17

Acts 2:43-47

Romans 12:4-8

Hebrews 10:24-25

1 Peter 4:8-11

1 John 3:16-18

1 John 4:19-21

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Leviticus 19:9-10

Ruth 2:2-23

Tobit 4:5-11

Isaiah 1:16-17

Jeremiah 22:13-16

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Matthew 25:31-46

Luke 16:19-31

Acts 4:32-35

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

James 2:14-18

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Exodus 22:20-26

Job 34:20

Proverbs 31:8-9

Sirach 4:1-10

Isaiah 25:4-5

Isaiah 58:5-7

Luke 4:16-21

Luke 6:20-23

1 John 3:17-18

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

Genesis 1:1-31

Deuteronomy 10:14

Daniel 3:56-82

Romans 1:20

Genesis 2:15

Psalm 24:1-2

Matthew 6:25-34

1 Corinthians 10:26

Leviticus 25:1-7

DIGNITY OF WORK AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Genesis 2:1-3

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

Jeremiah 22:13

Luke 3:10-14

Deuteronomy 5:13-15

Sirach 34:20-22

Matthew 20:1-16

Luke 12:13-21

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

Isaiah 58:3-7

Mark 2:27

James 5:1-6

SOLIDARITY

Genesis 12:1-3

Zechariah 8:16

Matthew 5:21-24

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Psalm 72

Matthew 5:9

Romans 13:8-10

Colossians 3:9-17

Psalm 122

TWO FEET OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Charity and justice have been called the two feet of Catholic social teaching. Charity meets the immediate needs of persons and families. It treats the symptoms of social problems. Charity calls forth a generous response from individuals and responds to particular situations. Justice changes social structures that attack human dignity, oppress people, and contribute to poverty. It focuses on the rights of people, addresses underlying social causes, and works for long term social change. Pope Benedict XVI expresses it in this way, "The church cannot neglect the service of charity anymore than she can neglect the sacraments and the word. Charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity.'" (USCCB)

Service Journaling

...through the Lens of The Works of Mercy...

Christian service is a lifelong process. Followers of Jesus are encouraged to follow His example.

Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:43-45)

"Service" is often associated with preparing for Confirmation. There are two reasons for this.

- First, you are older, and you are able to do more things independently.
- Second, living a life of service to others and living out the works of mercy is what the Christian life is about. Because of our love for God we desire to share that love with others, through service.

† As you go through the year you are asked to journal/reflect about how and when you lived out the works of mercy. We would like you to find an opportunity to serve in the **community** and in the **parish**. Minimally, find two ways to be of service to others.

† What we will expect of you during this last year of preparation.

There is not a minimum of what you 'must' do. We will be looking for a few things:

- A sincere effort
- variety and trying to do something new
- A sincere reflection on the experience through your online journal pages
- a reflection on how our life can have an impact on another life

† Why am I completing this online journal?

- When you think of others and act on their behalf, you learn from the experience.
- The journal is a way to reflect on how God may be calling you to live out your discipleship through service.

† What do I need to do?

o We want you to go through your whole life thinking about how you can be of service. Reflect on the Works of Mercy and be aware of things that you can do in many of the 'categories.'

o There are no time requirements to fulfill. Some things will take five minutes; some may take a long term commitment of weeks or month. (For example, tutoring a younger child.)

† We want you to do a variety of things.

You may like or favor one activity, but look through the list and think of ways to do a various things. There are other ways to get involved other than to do direct service. You can give money that you earn, for example. Direct service is important and you should do things that directly help people, but it is not the only avenue for being a disciple.

† What about things like just helping around the neighborhood?
Those count too! For example, if you rake the lawn or shovel the driveway of an elderly neighbor, in a way it is visiting the ill, as well as caring for the earth. Spend time having a conversation with that neighbor as well, sometimes that has a greater impact then the service itself.

† What about larger group experiences for service?
Yes, feel free to participate in large group experiences. Serving as a community strengthens our understanding that we belong to community that needs us to be an active member.

There are a lot of possibilities in our parish and local neighborhoods.
Among them are:

➢ Catholic Charities : Please contact Susan Fowler at Sue Fowler sfowler@catholiccharities.net

➢ Feed My Starving Children . Pack and ship food to kids in areas where there is famine. You can go as a group or as a family. www.fmsc.org. 742 E. Park Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048, 847-984-3846

➢ Faith Adventure Week: A week full of fun in July helping younger children learn about their faith. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org

➢ Sacrament Assistant-help out at 1st Communion and/or Confirmation at the liturgies and receptions. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org

➢ Religious Education Catechist Assistant: During the school year, Sunday mornings at 9:30 or Tuesday afternoons at 4:15. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org

➢ Children's Liturgy of the Word-There is a helper needed to assist the leader for one week a month at the 10:00 AM Mass. Contact the religious education office at: religioused@churchofstmary.org

➢ Parish opportunities: These include regular volunteer opportunities at the Church of St. Mary-*Parish Day of Service, Christmas Sharing Tree, Easter Sharing Tree, Food Pantry, Right to Life Ministry, and more.* See the parish bulletin and/or website for information.

† What if I am still stuck?
o Ask your sponsor for ideas. Ask your family. Ask your teachers. Ask the parish staff.

† How do I fill out the journal? • The link to the service reflection can be found through your Google Classroom or through the Religious Education Website

† We want you to write reflectively about:
o what you did (service)
o how much time you spent
o which work of Mercy was reflected in your service
o what you learned
▪ *Answers like "I learned a lot" or "This was a good experience" are NOT reflective answers. They are short, unthoughtful answers. We expect you to tell us what happened and what it meant to you!*

† The RE Office will receive your reflection after you submit it. You do not need to turn it in to us in any other form.

Need music that radiates **truth, goodness, and beauty?**

Check out these artists!

Maverick City Music	Housefires
United Pursuit	Elevation Worship
The Vigil Project	Village Lights
Hillsong Worship	Bethel Music
Josh Garrels	John Mark McMillan
Chris Renzema	Aly Aleigha
Sarah Kroger	Matt Maher
NEEDTOBREATHE	UPPERROOM
Rend Collective	Taizé
Ike Ndolo	Lauren Daigle

Need content that radiates truth, goodness, and beauty?

Check out these Instagram pages!

Archdiocese of Chicago
@archchicago

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
@usccb

Word on Fire
@wordonfire_catholicministries

Life Teen
@lifeteen

Ascension Catholic
@catholicfaithformation

Grotto Network
@grottonetwork

Hallow App
@hallowapp

The Culture Project
@thecultureprojectintl

Pope Francis
@franciscus

Bishop Robert Barron
@bishopbarron

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal
@cfr_franciscans

Sisters of Life
@sistersoflifefans

SOLT Sisters
@soltsisters

The Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
@wearethejesuits

Servants of Christ Jesus
@servantsofchristjesus

Spirit Juice Studios
@spiritjuice

THE NICENE CREED

Read the Creed slowly, reflecting on the explanations:

"I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

*We believe in one God, who is a communion of Persons: **Father**, **Son**, and **Holy Spirit**. God, who created the entire universe, also calls us to be His adopted children in the sacrament of Baptism.*

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary, and became man.

*God is love. He wants us to know His love and to be close to Him. When we reject God's invitation of friendship, we cut ourselves off from source of our life. When we choose what is destructive to ourselves or others, we choose the way of sin and death over God's way of love and life. But God's love for us is so great that He could not leave us to suffer the consequences of a world broken by sin and death. God sent His Son so we could encounter His nearness. **Jesus** was born of Mary, so He is **fully human**. He is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, so He is **fully divine**.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

*In His humanity, Christ is able to share in our brokenness, even to the point of death. In His divinity, Jesus is able to overcome that brokenness, even to the point of rising again to everlasting life. The **Cross** and **Resurrection** are the heart of our faith: God's love endures even to death and transforms the greatest darkness into the most glorious light. In Jesus we see what God wants for us: union of humanity and divinity. God wants to be with you forever.*

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

*The third Person of the Trinity is the **Holy Spirit**, who breathes new life into us, especially in the sacraments. God sends the Holy Spirit to guide us as we bear witness to God's love. The Spirit speaks to us in our heart and through the Scriptures.*

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen."

*The Church is **one** because God, who is its source, is one. The Church is **holy** because Christ united Himself to the Church. The Church is **catholic** ("universal") because Christ is present in its mission to all people. The Church is **apostolic** because it is founded on Jesus' apostles, whose mission continues in the bishops and the baptized.*

Personal Reflection

"We do not only need bread [to live], we need **love**, **meaning**, and **hope**, a sound foundation, a solid terrain that helps us to live with an authentic meaning even in times of crisis, in darkness, in difficulty, and with our daily problems. **Faith gives us precisely this:** it is a confident entrustment to a **'You,'** who is God..."
(Pope Benedict XVI)

Reflect on one low moment of your life when you felt that you needed love, meaning, or hope. Did your faith in God help you then? Did God feel present or absent?

finding God in music

"Faith!?" by Chris Renzema

'Cause to leap into the unknown
Is to walk by faith not sight
We all get scared of what we don't know
But maybe that's alright

Faith feels like a freefall sometimes
I guess I still freak out sometimes
Faith feels like a freefall sometimes
I guess I still get scared sometimes

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gift	Description	Scripture
WISDOM	...enables us to know the purpose and plan of God. it gives us the desire to love God and be holy like Him.	Matthew 7: 24-27
UNDERSTANDING	...helps us comprehend the teachings and mysteries of God, and allows us to move beyond believing just out of faith.	Colossians 2:2-3
COUNSEL	...enables us to judge rightly and make good decisions, even in difficult situations Counsel is sometimes called right judgement.	Psalm 32: 7-8
FORTITUDE	...ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in doing the good. Fortitude sometimes called strength, courage, or might.	Act 2: 1-11
KNOWLEDGE	...helps us to know God and His Church, and to act on that belief in our lives.	Romans 11:33
PIETY	...leads to devotion to God. Piety connotes an attitude of reverence and respect toward God and all holy things.	2 Timothy 3: 16
FEAR OF THE LORD	...ensures our awe and reverence before God. To show respect because of our love for God.	Proverbs 1: 7

FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Charity (Love)	Charity is the love of God and of neighbor, without any thought of receiving something in return. It is not a "warm and fuzzy" feeling, however; charity is expressed in concrete action toward God and our fellow man.	**Romans 5:5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. **Colossians 3:14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.
Joy	Joy isn't emotional, in the sense that we commonly think of joy; rather, it is the state of being undisturbed by the negative things in life.	**1 Thessalonians 1:6** So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.
Peace	Peace is a tranquility in our soul that comes from relying on God. Rather than getting caught up in anxiety for the future, Christians, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, trust God to provide for them.	**Matthew 5:9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. **Hebrews 12:14** Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.
Patience	Patience is the ability to bear the imperfections of other people, through a knowledge of our own imperfections and our need for God's mercy and forgiveness.	**Romans 8:25** But if we hope for what we do not yet observe, we eagerly wait for it with patience. **1 Corinthians 13:4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
Kindness	Kindness is the willingness to give to others above and beyond what we owe them. Generosity, by definition, is the quality of being kind. When we practice the virtue of generosity, we are able to give even when we don't benefit from that giving, or there is a cost to ourselves.	**Colossians 3:12** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, **Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to each other, sympathetic, forgiving each other as God has forgiven you through Christ.
Goodness	Goodness is the avoidance of evil and the embrace of what's right, even at the expense of one's earthly fame and fortune.	**Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
Faith	Faith, as a fruit of the Holy Spirit, means living our life in accordance with God's will at all times.	**Proverbs 28:20** The faithful man will prosper with blessings, but whoever is in a hurry to get rich will not escape punishment.
Continence (Self-control or Temperance)	Continence is self-control or temperance. It does not mean denying oneself what one needs or even necessarily what one wants (so long as what one wants is something good); rather, it is the exercise of moderation in all things.	**Titus 1:8** Instead he must be hospitable, devoted to what is good, sensible, upright, devout, and self-controlled. **Proverbs 25:28** Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.
Gentleness	Gentle people act calmly and avoid actions that might lead others to anger or resentment.	**Proverbs 15: 1** A mild answer calms wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. **Colossians 4: 5-6** Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how you should respond to each other.
Modesty	We exhibit modesty by being pure in our thoughts, words, and dress.	**James 4:6** But he bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." **1 Corinthians 3: 16** Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
Chastity	We live the virtue of chastity when we use the gift of sexuality wisely, according to God's plan.	**2 Timothy 1: 7** For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. **Romans 12:2** Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Mass Reflection Sheets

Why do I need to go to Mass?

Beyond the 3rd Commandment: You shall keep holy the Lord's day...
To be a Catholic, we are not only obligated to attend Mass regularly, but we *need* to gather with our faith community in prayer, celebration, and to receive Jesus, in the Eucharist, so that we can be renewed and refreshed to live faithfully in the coming week. This is where we are fed by the Word of God and by Jesus himself, through the Eucharist. The Mass is the greatest gift and prayer of the Church!

- Mass helps us to keep holy the sabbath. Not only are we called to go to attend Mass, but we are called to "reset" and rest. Enter into the day, into family time and into true rest and communion with God and one another. **Pray with Exodus 20:8**
- Come to Mass with intention! Both the intention to participate in the Mass and actual prayer intentions - something you would like to offer up to the Lord in prayer while you are at Mass **Pray with 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18**
- Participate! God does not want us to just keep the pew warm, but calls us to full participation by responding, singing, and experiencing all the "Catholic Calisthenics" (sitting, standing, kneeling, etc.) **Pray with Psalm 86: 12**
- Consistency is important to any aspect of life where we desire to be successful and find growth. This is true for our faith! Go as often as you can - whether you "feel like it" or not! Pray with **Deuteronomy 6: 4-9**
- Keep learning about the Mass! Keep asking the questions that help you draw closer to God and experience God's grace! **Pray with John 7: 37-38**

Why do I need to complete Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets?

As a person preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is important to reflect on the readings, liturgical music, homily and other aspects of the Mass. The Reflection Sheet gives you the opportunity to both prepare before you go to Mass and to see how God is calling you to live as a disciple in the coming week.

Can I bring my Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet to Mass with me?

Ask your catechist (teacher) for a copy of the Mass Reflection Sheet. We ask that you submit your reflections online, but feel free to bring a copy of the questions to take notes on during Mass. Jot notes down to help you remember what stood out for you during Mass, but avoid filling out the whole reflection sheet during Mass so that you can fully participate with your faith community in this time of prayer.

How many Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets do I need to submit?

Each year of your Confirmation Preparation you need to submit at least 7 Sunday Mass Reflection Sheets, an average of 1 per month throughout the Religious Education year. You are encouraged to reflect on every Mass you attend, but you need only submit one Reflection Sheet each month. ***Reflections should be submitted from Masses you have attended in person***. Please submit your Mass Reflection Sheets through your Google Classroom.

What if I attend Mass at a different parish than The Church of St. Mary?

You can certainly complete a Sunday Mass Reflection Sheet if you attend Mass at a different Catholic parish.

YouCat Assignment

The YouCat helps us learn about the teachings of our faith, so that we can grow in our relationship with God and understanding of how we are called to live a life of discipleship.

In your YouCat read sections 11 and 12 (pages 18 -20). in the Google Classroom answer the following questions with YOUR thoughts in light of what you just read:

At your Confirmation you will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit so that you can live a life of discipleship - you will receive all the gifts to live a holy life. **What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? How can you help share the gospel, the good news, to help others know Jesus? What will you do this summer to grow as a disciple of Jesus and be a witness of faith?** (5-7 sentences)

"I'd like to send a special word of greeting to all the young people - those of you gathered together today, and many of you who are perhaps watching this greeting through technological means, on the internet. As you grow up together, you may realize, especially having lived through the time of the pandemic - times of isolation, great difficulty, sometimes even difficulties in your families, or in our world today. Sometimes it may be that the context of your life has not given you the opportunity to live the faith, to live as participants in a faith community, and I'd like to take this opportunity to invite each one of you to look into your own hearts, to recognize that God is present and that, perhaps in many different ways, God is reaching out to you, calling you, inviting you to know his Son Jesus Christ, through the Scriptures, perhaps through a friend or a relative... a grandparent, who might be a person of faith. But to discover how important it is for each one of us to pay attention to the presence of God in our own hearts, to that longing for love in our lives, for ... searching, a true searching, for finding the ways that we may be able to do something with our own lives to serve others."
-Pope Leo XIV address to young people in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the whole world, June 14, 2025

finding God in music

"Thy Word" by Ellie Holcomb

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

Inspiration for the Journey

Reflect on the following questions and write your answers and thoughts.

Our Catholic tradition includes a family of faith (both here on earth and in heaven). Who are some Catholic examples of living a life of discipleship? These can be family members, faith community members, saints or Saints you have learned about throughout your life.

There are over 11,000 saints recognized by the Roman Catholic Church-which is different from the number of actual saints. The Church does not make people saints, it simply recognizes people as saints. Why are saints important?

- **Saints, in a sense, are our Spiritual Heroes**
- **Saints are our friends (family) in Heaven, who can intercede on our behalf**
- **Saints teach us how to live our faith**
- **Saints remind us of our own call to be saints today!**

Saints are known to have lived, many times after a conversion, a virtuous life. To live a life of virtues means to choose to live out "good habits" and includes the virtues of faith, hope, charity (love), prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Which virtues would you like to grow in or develop and why?

Research some Saints of the Church. Select three Saints who seem interesting and you would like to learn more about and list them below:

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SAINTS BY CAUSE

A

Accountants: St. Matthew
Actors: St. Genesius
Advertisers: St. Bernardino if Sena
Altar Servers: St. John Berchmans; St. Lorenzo Ruiz
Anesthetists: St. Rene Goupil
Animals: St. Francis of Assisi
Animals, domestic: St. Ambrose; St. Cornelius
Anxiety: St. Dymphna
Archers: St. Sebastian
Architects/builders: St. Barbara ; St. Thomas, ap
Armorers: St. Sebastian
Armories: St. Lawrence
Art: St. Catherine Bologna
Artillerymen: St. Barbara
Artists: St. Luke; St. Michael, aa
Astronomers: St. Dominic
Athletes: St. Sebastian; Bl. Chiara Badano
Authors: St. Francis de Sales; St. Lucy
Aviators: St. Joseph of Cupertino; St. Therese of Lisieux; Our Lady of Loreto

B

Bakers: St. Elizabeth of Hungary; St. Nicholas of Myra; St. Peter, ap
Bald people: St. Hedwig
Bankers: St. Matthew
Barbers: Sts. Cosmas and Damian; St. Louis of France
Barren women: St. Anthony of Padua; St. Felicity
Basket-makers: St. Anthony, ab
Beekeepers: St. Ambrose; St. Bernard of Clairvaux
Beggars: St. Elizabeth of Hungary ; St. Giles ; St. Alexis; St. Martin of Tours
Blacksmiths: St. Dunstan
Blind: St. Dunstan; St. Odilia; St. Raphael, aa ; St. Lucy
Blood banks: St. Januarius
Bodily ills: Our Lady of Lourdes
Bookbinders: St. Peter Celestine
Bookkeepers: St. Matthew
Booksellers: St. John, e
Boy Scouts: St. George
Brewers: St. Boniface; St. Augustine; St. Luke; St. Nicholas of Myra
Bricklayers: St. Stephen
Brides: St. Dorothy; Nicholas of Myra
Builders: St. Vincent Ferrer
Butchers: St. Anthony, ab; St. Adrian ; St. Luke, e; St. Peter, ap

C

Cab drivers: St. Fiacre
Cabinet makers: St. Anne
Cancer patients: St. Peregrine
Canonists: St. Raymond of Penafort
Captives: St. Nicholas of Myra
Carpenters: St. Joseph; St. Thomas
Catechists: St. Viator, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Robert Bellarmine
Catholic action: St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic writers/press: St. Francis de Sales
Cattle: St. Cornelius
Cavalrymen: St. George
Charitable societies: St. Vincent de Paul
Children: St. Nicholas of Myra; St. Pancras
Children's choir: Holy Innocents
Chivalry: St. George
Church universal: St. Joseph
Clerics: St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother
Clock-makers: St. Peter
Cloth workers (fullers): St. Severus
Comedians: St. Vitus
Communication workers: St. Gabriel
Confessors: St. Alphonsus Liguori; St. John Nepomucene
Convulsion in children: St. Scholastica
Cooks: St. Lawrence; St. Martha
Coppersmiths: St. Benedict
Courage: St. Joan of Arc
Crops, protector of: St. Ansovinus

D

Dairy workers: St. Bridget of Sweden
Dance: St. Vitus
Deaf: St. Francis de Sales
Dentists: St. Apollonia
Desperate situations: St. Jude Thaddacus; St. Gregory of Neocaesarea ("the Wonderworker")
Dietitians, hospital: St. Martha
Disabled: St. Giles
Dog bites: St. Vitus
Drapers: St. Ursula
Druggists: Sts. Cosmas and Damian; St. James the Less, ap
Dying: St. Joseph; St. Barbara

E
Ecology: St. Francis of Assisi
Elderly: St. Anthony of Padua
Emigrants: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Engaged couples: St. Agnes
Engineers: St. Joseph; St. Ferdinand III
Epilepsy: St. Vitus; St. Willibrord
Expectant mothers: St. Raymond Nonnatus; St. Gerard Majella
Eye trouble: St. Lucy

F
Falsely accused: St. Raymond Nonnatus
Family: St. Joseph; St. John Paul II
Farmers: St. George; St.Isidore
Fire prevention: St. Catherine of Siena; St. Barbara
Firefighters: St. Florian
First Communicants: St. Tarcisius
Fishermen: St. Andrew
Florists: St. Dorothy; St. Therese of Lisieux
Forest workers: St. John Gualbert
Founders: St. Barbara
Foundlings: St. Holy Innocents
Funeral directors: St. Joseph of Arimathea; St. Dismas
Gardeners: St. Agnes; St. Dorothy; St. Trypho; St. Fiacre

G
Geometricians: St. Thomas, ap
Glass workers: St. Luke
Glaziers (people who fit glass in windows): St. Mark
Goldsmiths: St. Dunstan
Grave diggers and graveyards: St. Anthony, ab,
Grace, those in need: St. Teresa of Avila
Greetings: St. Valentine
Grocers: St. Michael, aa
Guardian angels: St. Raphael, aa
Gunners: St. Barbara

H
Hairdressers: St. Martin de Porres
Happy death: St. Joseph
Hatters: St. James the Less, ap
Haymakers: Sts. Gervase and Protase
Headaches: St. Teresa of Avila
Heart ailments: St. John of God
Homemakers: St. Anne
Hospitality: St. Julian the Hospitaller
Hospital Administrators: St. Basil the Great; St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Hospitals: St. Camillus de Lellis; St. John of God; St. Jude Thaddaeus, ap
Housewives: St. Anne; St. Martha
Hunters: St. Hubert

I
Immigrants: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Innkeepers: St. Martin of Tours
Interior souls: St. Joseph
Internet: Bl. Carlo Acutis
Invalids: St. Roch
Ironmongers: St. Sebastian

J
Jewelers: St. Eligius
Journalists: St. Francis de Sales
Jurists: St. Catherine of Alexandria; St. John of Capistrano

L
Laborers: St. Isidore; St. James
Lacrosse: St. Jean de Brebeuf
Lawyers: St. Ivo of Chartres; St. Genesius
Learning: St. Ambrose; St. Acca
Librarians: St. Jerome
Locksmiths: St. Dunstan
Lost things: St. Anthony, ab
Love: St. Raphael, aa; St. Valentine

M
Maidens: St. Agnes; St. Margaret;St. Ursula
Mail carriers: St. Gabriel
Marble workers: St. Clement I
Mariners: St. Michael, aa; St. Nicholas of Tolentino
Medical technicians: St. Albertus Magnus
Mentally ill: St. Dymphna
Merchants: St. Francis of Assisi; St. Nicholas of Myra
Messengers: St. Gabriel, aa
Metalworkers: St. Eligius
Military chaplains: St. John Capistrano
Millers: St. Victor
Miners: St. Barbara
Missions: St. Francis Xavier; St. Therese of Lisieux,
Missions, Black: St. Peter Claver; St. Benedict the Moor
Missions, home: St. Leonard of Port Maurice
Moral theologians: St. Alphonsus Liguori
Mothers: St. Monica; St. Anne
Motorcyclists: Our Lady of Grace
Motorists: St. Christopher

Mountaineers: St. Bernard of Menthon; Bl. Giorgio Frassati
Musicians: St. Cecilia; St. Gregory the Great;St. Paul,

N
Nature: St. Francis of Assisi
Notaries: St. Mark; St. Luke
Nurses: St. Agatha; St. Alexis; St. Camillus de Lellis; St. Raphael; St. John of God; St. Margaret of Scotland
Nursing and Nursing Services: St. Elizabeth of Hungary; St. Catherine of Siena

O
Orators: St. John Chrysostom
Orphans: St. Jerome Emiliani
Outdoors/Earth: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

P
Painters: St. John the Evangelist; St. Luke
Paratroopers: St. Michael
Patience: St. Monica
Pawnbrokers: St. Nicholas of Myra
Peasants: St. Margaret
Penitents: St. Mary Magdalene
Persecuted Christians: St. Oscar Romero
Pets: St. Francis of Assisi
Pharmacists: Sts. Cosmas and Damian
Philosophers: St. Catherine of Alexandria; St. Justin,
Physicians: Sts. Cosmas and Damian; St. Luke; St. Raphael; St. Gianna Beretta Molla
Pilgrims: St. Alexis; St. James
Pilots: St. Joseph of Cupertino
Plague-stricken: St. Roch
Plasterers: St. Bartholomew
Poets: St. Cecilia
Poisoning: St. Benedict
Policemen: St. Michael
Poor: St. Lawrence; St. Anthony of Padua
Porters: St. Christopher
Possessed: St. Bruno; St. Denis
Postal workers: St. Gabriel
Potters: St. Sebastian
Preachers: St. John Chrysostom
Priests: St. John Vianney; St. Paul
Printers: St. Augustine; St. John the Evangelist; St. Genesius of Aries; John of God
Prisoners: St. Dismas; St. Barbara
Prisons: St. Joseph Cafasso
Protection: St. Michael, aa
Public relations: St. Bernardino of Siena
Publishers: St. John the Evangelist; St. Francis de Sales

R
Radiologists: St. Michael, aa
Radio workers: St. Gabriel
Retreats: St. Ignatius of Loyola
Rheumatism: St. James the Greater

S
Saddlers: Sts. Crispin and Crispinian
Sailors: St. Cuthbert; St. Erasmus; St. Nicholas of Tolentino; St. Brendan; St. Eulalia; St. Christopher; St. Peter Gonzales
Scholars: St. Bridget of Sweden
Schools: St. Thomas Aquinas
School children: St. Benedict; St. Lawrence
Scientists: St. Albert the Great
Sculptors: St. Luke; St. Claude
Secretaries: St. Genesius of Aries
Seminarians: St. Charles Borromeo
Servants, domestic: St. Zita; St. Martha
Shepherds: St. Cuthbert
Shoemakers: Sts. Crispin and Crispinian
Sick: St. Michael; St. John of God; St. Philomena
Silversmiths: St. Andronicus
Singers: St. Gregory; St. Cecilia
Singles: St. Andrew
Skaters: St. Ledwina
Skiers/Snowboarders: St. Bernard of Menthon
Soccer Players: St. Luigi Scrosoppi
Social workers: St. Louise de Marillac
Smiths: St. Eliguis
Snake bites: St. Vitus
Soldiers: St. George; St. Adrian; St. Michael, aa; St. Ignatius of Loyola; St. Sebastian; St. Martin of Tours; St. Joan of Arc
Sore throat: St. Blaise
Speleologists: St. Benedict
Spinsters: St. Catherine of Alexandria
Stenographers: St. Genesius; St. Cassian
Stonecutters: St. Clement
Stonemasons: St. Stephen; St. Barbara
Students: St. Catherine of Alexandria ; St. Jerome; St. Thomas Aquinas; Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati
Surgeons: Sts. Cosmas and Damian
Swineherds: St. Anthony

T
Tailors: St. Boniface; St. Martin of Tours; St. Homobonus
Tanners: Sts. Crispin and Crispinian; St. Lawrence
Tax collectors: St. Matthew
Teachers: St. Catherine of Alexandria; St. Gregory the Great; St. Ursula; St. John Baptist de La Salle
Telegraph/Telephone/Television workers: St. Gabriel, aa; St. Clare
Television: St. Clare
Tentmakers: St. Paul
Tertiaries: St. Louis of France; St. Elizabeth of Hungary,
Theologians: St. Augustine
Therapists: St. Christina the Astonishing; St. Dymphna
Travelers: St. Christopher; St. Julian the Hospitaller ; St. Gertrude; St. Raphael, aa

U
Unity: St. Josaphat
Universities: Blessed Contardo Ferrini

V
Veterans: St. Ignatius of Loyola
Veterinarians: St. Eligius
Victims of Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking: St. Josephine Bakhita
Video Gaming: St. Aloysius Gonzaga; Bl. Carlos Acutis
Vocations: St. Alphonsus
Volunteering: St. Vincent de Paul; St. Teresa of Calcutta

W
Watchmen: St. Peter of Alcantara
Weavers: St. Paul the Hermit; St. Anastasia
Wheelwrights: St. Catherine of Alexandria
Widows: St. Paula
Wine growers: St. Vincent
Wine merchants: St. Amand
Women in labor: St. Anne
Womeds Army Corps: St. Genevieve
Workers: St. Joseph
World Youth Day: St. John Paul II; St. Teresa of Calcutta
Writers: St. Francis de Sales

Y
Yachtsmen: St. Adjutor
Young boys: St. Dominic Savio
Young girls: St. Agnes
Youth: St. Aloysius Gonzaga; St. John Berchmans ; St. Gabriel Possenti

Doctors of the Church

St. Albert the Great
St. Alphonsus Liguori
St. Ambrose
St. Anselm of Canterbury
St. Anthony of Padua
St. Athanasius
St. Augustine
St. Basil the Great
St. Bede the Venerable
St. Bernard of Clairvaux
St. Bonaventure
St. Catherine of Siena
St. Cyril of Alexandria
St. Cyril of Jerusalem
St. Ephrem the Syrian
St. Francis de Sales
St. Gregory of Narek
St. Gregory the Great
St. Gregory of Nazianzus
St. Hilary of Poitiers
St. Hildegard of Bingen
St. Isidore of Seville
St. John Chrysostom
St. John of Ávila
St. John of Damascus
St. John of the Cross
St. Jerome
St. Lawrence of Brindisi
St. Leo I, the Great
St. Peter Chrysologus
St. Peter Damian
St. Peter Canisius
St. Robert Bellarmine
St. Thérèse of Lisieux
St. Teresa of Ávila
St. Thomas Aquinas

check out these websites for even more saints!

Confirmation Saint Name Project

A wonderful Church tradition is the opportunity to choose the name of a saint who you admire or would like to emulate as your Confirmation name. The tradition of taking on a new name reveals a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament/Hebrew Text.

When Abram was called to lead his people to believe in the one God, his name was changed from Abram, meaning "father of many," to Abraham, meaning "father of many nations." Again in the New Testament/Christian Text we find Simon's name changed to Peter, meaning "rock", because he was to become the rock upon which Jesus founded his Church.

There are a couple of reasons for receiving a Confirmation name, but two are most important. First, new names are associated with a change of life in both the Old and New Testaments. Second, the choice of a saint's name usually has special significance to the person. The saint becomes your patron, guide, spiritual friend and role model. Your Confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian. Your name expresses your identity; it tells others who you are.

Take some time to research different saints, studying their lives and making notes for yourself. Choose a saint that you connect with spiritually, not merely one who has a name you like. Read the stories of several saints and look at things you both have in common or things that catch your attention about the saint's life story. This will help narrow down your choice.

- If your baptism name is a saint's name, we encourage you to write your reflection on this saint because it emphasizes the connection between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. However, you may choose a different saint if you wish.
- On the day of your Confirmation, the Bishop may ask you questions about the saint you have chosen. Please make sure you let your sponsor know who your patron saint will be and give him/her a brief story of your saint. We want you to be prepared.
- We have provided for you a list of saints we highly encourage. You can pick another saint who is not on the list but please reach out to your catechist if you are unsure of your selection or have questions.

Step 1: Complete Confirmation Saint Worksheet Part One (Google Classroom)
After discerning and choosing your saint, complete the Confirmation Saint Worksheet.
Submit Step 1 to your teacher/catechist through the Google Classroom.

Step 2: Saint Prayer & Picture (Google Classroom)
Using your Confirmation Saint Worksheet, reflect and write your own personal prayer to/for your saint asking for their intercession as you continue your faith journey. Include in the prayer any special virtues that your saint had or demonstrated during their life, how you could imitate your saint today and perhaps why they are a model for you on your faith journey. Prayer should be at least 8-10 lines long.
Complete your prayer by adding an image of your saint and any symbols commonly used to represent them. You can also draw an image of your saint in place of finding a picture of your saint.
Submit Step 2 to your teacher/catechist through the Google Classroom.

My Catholic Faith Reflection

What does the Church teach?

Twenty-one Ecumenical Councils, guided by the Holy Spirit, have helped to clarify and strengthened the Church. Take a look at the Nicene Creed, which we stand and profess together at every Sunday Liturgy. It is a statement developed over the centuries that testifies to all what Catholics believe.

We now want to consider more deeply the treasure chest of truths revealed to us by God and presented to us by the Catholic Church. Listed below are many important questions about our Faith. **With the help of your YOUCAT, write a 1-2 page paper answering the questions which are most important to you as a young Catholic.**

I.

·What does the Catechism teach you about the purpose of your life? (YOUCAT 1-3)
·What does the Catechism teach you about God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? (YOUCAT 30-40)
·What does it teach about having a real relationship with God? Asking Jesus to lead you in life? (YOUCAT 348, 454, 491)
·What does the Catechism teach you about prayer? (YOUCAT 458-490)

II.

·What does the Catechism teach you about the Church, Her mission, Her being the Body of Christ? (YOUCAT 121-145)
·What does the Catechism teach about the Virgin Mary?(YOUCAT 80-85, 148-149)

III.

·What does the Catechism teach you about sin, forgiveness, and mercy? (YOUCAT 19, 66-70, 105-108, 337, 225-339)
·What does the Catechism teach you about the Mass and Eucharist? (YOUCAT 208-222)

IV.

·What does the Catechism teach you about your call to holiness? Your call to virtue? To love others as Christ has loved you?(YOUCAT 342, 294, 299, 402, 33)

V.

·What does the Catechism teach you about the Saints? (YOUCAT 132, 146, 342, 497)
·What does the Catechism teach you about heaven and hell? (YOUCAT 51- 53, 157- 158, 161-162)

Letter to the Bishop

(A MODEL LETTER TO THE BISHOP)
[Please use your own words and ideas.]

Follow the letter format below including the paragraphs as described.
Type the letter using Times New Roman font size 12 and add your SIGNATURE in pen above your typed name.

(your complete name)
(street address)
(city, state)
(date)

Dear Bishop _____, (← insert the Bishop's last name in the blank)

First paragraph:
(Short paragraph telling why you want to be confirmed.
Emphasize how you live out your faith and witness to Christ in your daily life.)

Second paragraph:
(Tell who your patron saint is, why you chose them, and several things about him/her.)

Third paragraph:
(Tell the name of your sponsor and the reason that he/she was chosen. Also explain which gift(s) of the Holy Spirit you admire in your sponsor and how they demonstrate it.)

Fourth paragraph:
(Describe your service activities/projects from 7th and 8th grade. Explain how your service shows you are living as a Christian.)

Fifth paragraph:
(Share how you will continue to live out your faith and remain involved in the Church)

Closing paragraph:
(End with a thank you, making it genuine.)

Sincerely,

(your signature)

(your typed name)

Consecration to Jesus through Mary

"When Jesus saw His Mother and the disciple there whom He loved, He said to His Mother 'Woman, behold your son.' Then He said to the disciple John, 'Behold your Mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." -John 19: 26-27

What is a consecration?

In simple terms, consecration means making something holy or setting it apart for God's service. After preparing, "going on a spiritual journey with Mary", all participants of Religious Education will have an opportunity to make a formal consecration.

Why are we going through this Spiritual Journey of Consecration this year?

Did you know our parish is celebrating 150th Anniversary in September? We are! As a faith community we are celebrating this special anniversary in various ways, one being an opportunity to be consecrated to Jesus, through Mary (who is our Patron Saint).

What does it mean to go on spiritual journey with Mary?

We will see how Mother Mary invites us to dedicate our life to her son, Jesus, by sharing her examples of faith, learning about other Saints and saints, developing our prayer life, and finally having the opportunity to make a "formal consecration".

Let's get started...

When we were baptized, God planted a seed of faith in our souls. With Mary in our hearts, we can grow in holiness deepening the roots of our Baptism, our first consecration.

Mother Mary:

- helps us grow our seed of Baptism
- grow in holiness, with her intercession and example

Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Godparent(s): _____

BAPTISM
Date:

Place:

Just as the acorn will grow into a grand oak tree, this consecration with Mary in your hearts will help the seed of faith planted at your Baptism grow in your soul making you into a great saint.

Within the crown of the tree (where the leaves are) write habits in your life that help you live a holy life like receiving the Sacraments, going to Mass, praying, loving and thanking God, doing acts of kindness...

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Who is Mary?

"The creature totally filled with love, with God Himself, is the Immaculata, without the slightest stain of sin, the one who never deviated from God's will in anything. She is joined in an ineffable manner with the Holy Spirit because she is His Bride, but she is so in a sense incomparably more perfect than that word can convey in creatures." -St. Maximilian Kolbe

Make a list of things you know about Mother Mary:

At a young age, Mary said "yes" to God when an angel visited her to share that she was to conceive...and bear a son, and she would call him Jesus. Mary replied, "May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1: 26-38)

- Mary is a real person, who was from Nazareth in Israel
- Mary's parents were St. Joachim and St. Anne
- Through tradition we can picture Mary dressed in hand-woven wool or cotton tunics, covered by a shawl and wearing sandals on her feet.
- Mary lived life as we do, listening to her parents, learning, and helping around her home
- The more she knew about God the more she loved God - we can imitate Mary's love for God.
- After Jesus was born, and as Jesus entered into His ministry on earth, Mary always pointed others to her Son, Jesus. "Do whatever He tells you" -John 2:5

What are some titles, that you know, that have been given to Mother Mary? (Example: Mary, Queen of Heaven)

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Virtues of Mary

The bible stories of Mary tell of her many virtues. The virtues of Mary, like the rays of a star, shine a light on our way to being more like Jesus. For this reason, Mary is sometimes referred to as a "Morning Star," guiding us, shining the way to Heaven.

What is a virtue?
A virtue is a good habit and attitude to act with goodness and love. A habit is a pattern of behavior - it shapes who we are. Virtues help us be more like the person God intended us to be. Mary will help us make a habit of choosing goodness in all our actions. Virtues can transform our life!

Here is a list of some of Mary's virtues we can practice and that can help transform our life:

1. **Faith**: trusting and believing in God with a joyful heart.
2. **Charity (Love):** loving others for God, making kind and generous acts.
3. **Obedience:** listening and doing even when you don't understand.
4. **Prudence:** planning to do what is best for the right reason.
5. **Purity:** focusing on the things of Heaven, with pure and good intent.
6. **Temperance:** practicing self-control.
7. **Patience:** waiting calmly, keeping silent in your heart.
8. **Justice:** doing what you know is right, fair, and good, respecting others.
9. **Compassion:** forgiving others and praying for them.
10. **Fortitude:** being courageous in doing good.
11. **Prayer:** being aware that God is always in your heart at every moment.
12. **Wisdom:** seeing the beauty of God in all moments.
13. **Gentleness:** being joyful, kind, and friendly.
14. **Humility:** being happy about being a child of God and trusting Him.

Share how you have practiced a virtue recently in your daily life:

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Prayer Place

A prayer place is a special quiet area you set aside in your room or home where you can go meet God and the Blessed Mother to have a conversation with them. Prayer is talking and listening to God.

What does your prayer space look like? Where is it located?

"The hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your prayers."
-The Angel of Peace to the children of Fatima, 1916

Our faith tradition reminds us that when we pray we unite our prayers with all the saints and angels in Heaven. Our Guardian Angel is praying alongside us! When you pray, you are making a place in your heart for God. The more you pray the bigger the space you make for God to dwell in your heart.

Prayer consists of "speaking" and "listening". The bible is the Word of God and a way that God speaks to us. **What is one of your favorite scripture passages? Share it below:**

God loves you! God has a beautiful plan for you. The Blessed Mother will help you grow in holiness, loving God and His plan for you. Prayer is a gift from God! During your consecration journey, try to spend some time in prayer every day, even if only for 5 minutes.

Write a prayer, in your own words, that comes from your heart. When you are writing this prayer, write as if you were just talking to God. You can ask Mary, your Guardian Angel, or the saints to help you with your prayer.

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

Preparing for the journey with Saint Juan Diego...

Facts about St. Juan Diego

- Born in Cuauhtlatoatz in 1474
- Indigenous Mexican convert to Catholicism
- The Blessed Mother first appeared to him on December 9, 1531 while he was on his way to Mass.
- He was Our Lady's messenger to the Bishop of that area.
- The Bishop wanted "proof" that Mary had appeared to St. Juan Diego, so Mary sent him up a hill to pick flowers (in the winter time), and he listened, collecting the flowers and when he opened his tilma, an image of Mary was impressed on his clothing. You can still see his tilma at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

PRAY WITH ST. JUAN DIEGO:

Our Lady of Guadalupe, our Mother, we wish to be entirely yours. Teach us to love Jesus.

PONDERING WITH MARY

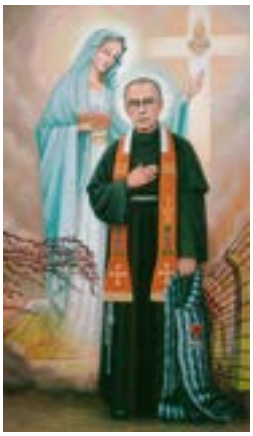
There are five ways to deepen your faith:

1. Pray every day.
2. Go to Mass every Sunday and to Confession often.
3. Learn about what the Catholic Church believes.
4. Read the Bible and the stories of the saints.
5. Entrust your heart to Mary: she will always lead you to Jesus!

"Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?
Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?"
-Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint Maximilian Kolbe



Facts about St. Maximilian Kolbe

- Born in Zdunska Wola, Poland on January 8, 1894
- Felt called to religious life at a young age.
- He was a Conventual Franciscan.
- St. Kolbe travelled to Japan where he served as a missionary.
- St. Kolbe was arrested and sent to Auschwitz concentration camp for hiding Jewish people.
- Volunteered to take the place of a fellow prisoner, saving the life of Franciszek Gajowniczek, a husband and father at the same concentration camp who had been chosen to be tortured and killed. Gajowniczek was in attendance when St. Kolbe was canonized in 1982.

PRAY WITH ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE:

I am yours, my Immaculate Loving Mama. If you will be my guide, I most certainly shall not fall and I will become a saint, a great saint.

PONDERING WITH MARY

St. Kolbe asked for Mother Mary's intercession in all circumstances. When little Raymond (St. Maximilian) got into trouble, he immediately ran to pray and asked Our Lady for help and guidance. She took him by the hand and accompanied him throughout his whole life. Let us learn from him to the same. Think about all the times during your day you can ask Mama Mary in prayer to help you. Write a prayer to Mama Mary in your own words. Just as she was there listening to St. Max, she is listening to you!

"That night, I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me, a Child of Faith. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."
-St. Maximilian Kolbe

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint Catherine Laboure and Saint Bernadette

Facts about St. Catherine Laboure

- Born in France on May 2, 1806
- Had 10 brothers and sisters
- After her own mother passed away, when she was 9, she turned to the Blessed Mother, praying "Now you will be my Mama."
- Belonged to the religious order of the Daughters of Charity
- Mother Mary appeared to St. Catherine and asked her to create the Miraculous Medal that we still use today. The rays from the image of Mary represent the graces which she gives to those who ask for her intercession.

Facts about St. Bernadette

- Born in Lourdes, France on January 7, 1844
- Mother appeared to St. Bernadette in a grotto, dressed in a white gown with a blue sash and a white veil with a golden rose on each foot. Mother Mary asked that St. Bernadette go to that same place everyday for fifteen days, where they would pray the rosary together.
- A clear stream appeared in the place where Mother Mary visited St. Bernadette. This same place is still visited by millions, many seeking her intercession and aid in healing.
- St. Bernadette's body is incorrupt, which means that it is preserved by God from decay!

PRAY WITH ST. CATHERINE AND ST. BERNADETTE

Both St. Catherine and St. Bernadette had a special devotion to the Holy Rosary. Select a mystery of the Rosary to meditate on and pray a decade of the rosary. Challenge yourself to pray the whole rosary on your own.

PONDERING WITH MARY

St. Catherine shared that the time spend with Mother Mary were the sweetest time of her life. Through her conversation with Our Lady, she was brought closer to Jesus, just as we are brought closer to Jesus through Mary with our prayers. Remember the rays of graces that flowed from the Blessed Mother's hands-she wants to share those graces with you. What graces do you need to help you in your day? Maybe you can pray for graces for others you care for and love. Write a prayer in your own words for graces for yourself or someone you love:

"Come to the foot of this altar. There, graces will be poured out on all those who ask for them with confidence and fervor." -Our Lady to St. Catherine Laboure

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint Dominic Savio and St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Facts about St. Dominic Savio

- Born in Riva, Italy on April 2, 1842
- When St. Dominic was 12 he consecrated himself to Mother Mary
- He was known to slip away from the playground, during recess, to visit the Blessed Sacrament
- At the age of 15, right before St. Dominic passed away, he say up in bed and said, "I am seeing the most wonderful things!" It is believed that St. Dominic was given the vision of heaven before dying.

Facts about St. Therese of the Child Jesus

- Born in Alencon, France on January 2, 1873
- St. Therese is the patroness of missions, even though she never went on one herself.
- St. Therese's parents were also canonized, St. Louis and St. Zelie
- St. Therese is considered a "Doctor of the Church" as she is well known for her unique spiritual writings

PRAY WITH ST. Dominic

O Mary, I give you my heart. Grant me to be always yours.

PRAY WITH ST. THERESE

St. Therese, Little Flower, grant that I may follow your Little Way through Mary to Jesus-the way of simplicity, joy, meekness and humility of heart, constant prayer, love, and confidence.

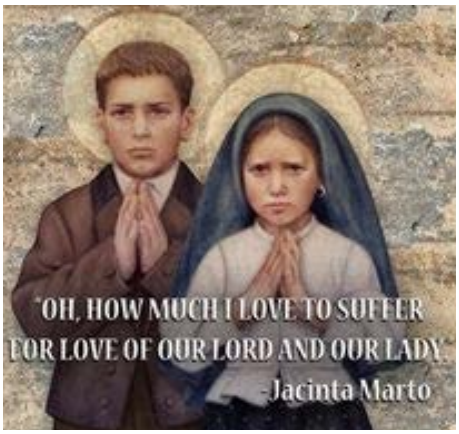
PONDERING WITH MARY

St. Don Bosco wrote about St. Dominic (St. Bosco was actually Fr. Bosco to Dominic) and shared how St. Dominic was always cheerful, doing the best he could to promote kindness with all at school. St. Dominic was courageous and would step in to stop fights-with gentleness. In the same way, St. Therese encouraged others to live and ordinary life doing everything with love for God, just as Mary did! What little acts of love can you do to bring more love into the world, list them below:

"Let us love, since that is what our hears were made for." -St. Therese of Lisieux

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto



Facts about St. Jacinta

- Born near Fatima, Portugal on March 11, 1910
- Sister of St. Francisco and cousin to Lucia
- St. Jacinta loved to dance
- Witnessed the Miracle of the Sun
- During the apparitions at Fatima only Lucia and St. Jacinta could hear the voice of Mary.

Facts about St. Francisco

- Born near Fatima, Portugal on June 11, 1908
- Brother of St. Jacinta and cousin to Lucia
- St. Francisco never heard the Lady's words, although he saw her and felt her presence
- Was courageous, a bit of a jokester, and a peacemaker
- You could often find him praying before the Blessed Sacrament
- When Mother Mary asked St. Francisco to pray more rosaries, he replied, "I'll say as many rosaries as you want!"

PRAY WITH ST. JACINTA & ST. FRANCISCO

Mother Mary shared the Pardon Prayer with St. Jacinta, St. Francisco and their cousin Lucia. Pray the Pardon Prayer: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love you! I beg pardon for those that do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You."

PONDERING WITH MARY

Saints Jacinta and Francisco prayed daily, several times a day, with each other and with their families in their homes. The Angel that appeared to the three little children in Fatima asked them to make sacrifices for God. What sacrifices are you willing to make in order to grow closer to God or to help someone in your life? It can be as simple as a gaze toward Heaven, a silent prayer from your heart, or the sacrifice prayer Mary gave the children.

"O Jesus, it is for the love of You, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and for the conversion of poor sinners [that I do this.]"
-Our Lady of Fatima shared with the Three Children

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Our Heavenly Friends

On the Spiritual Journey with Saint John Paul II and Blessed Carlo Acutis

Facts about St. John Paul II

- Born in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920
- During his pontificate, St. John Paul II increased the number of nations that had diplomatic relations with the Holy See, from 85 countries in 1978 to 174 in 2003
- He created World Youth Day which gathers youth from all over the world. The next WYD will be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2027.
- He had a phenomenal memory, which came in handy as an actor
- He continued skiing until he was 73 years old
- In attempted assassination, he said that it was Mother Mary who protected him from the bullet that should have taken his life

Facts about Blessed Carlo Acutis

- Born in London, England on May 3, 1991 but moved to Milan Italy before his 1st Birthday
- Had a love for the Eucharist and passion for technology. You can still visit the website he created about Eucharistic Miracles of the World
- He is the first millennial saint
- He loved video games, including Super Mario and Pokemon
- Pope Francis had planned to canonize Blessed Carlo on April 27th, but passed away. Pope Leo XIV has announced that Blessed Carlo will be canonized on September 7, 2025.

PRAY WITH ST. JOHN PAUL II

St. John Paul II gave us the Luminous Mysteries. Select one to meditate on and pray a decade of the rosary.

PRAY WITH BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, I present to You, my God, all petitions and I beg You to hear me.

PONDERING WITH MARY

Blessed Carlo had a great understanding and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. After Communion tell Jesus you love Him and thank Him for everything. What are you thankful for?

"Jesus, make Yourself at home! Live within me as if it were Your own dwelling!"
-Blessed Carlo Acutis

Consecration to Jesus through Mary
Consecration Day

Congratulations on having completed your consecration journey!

Over the last few months we have prayed together, learned how Mother Mary continues to point all of us to her son, Jesus and how she continues to encourage us to do whatever Jesus asks of us.

How will I make my consecration to Jesus through Mary?

As a faith community, we will gather together, pray the consecration prayer below, receive a Miraculous Medal and be encouraged to wear it as a reminder that we have asked Mother Mary to watch over us and help us live faithfully for God.

We will ask Mother Mary to be placed under her mantle. What does that mean? A mantle is an article of clothing, similar to a cape or cloak, that was used in biblical times to keep a person warm and protect them from the elements. In the same way we are asking to be "wrapped" in God's authority, or even being graced with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus gave His mother to John, at the foot of the cross, Jesus gives his Mother to all of us-to be wrapped in her mantle", in her care and protection.

- Pray the rosary with your family or on your own before being consecrated
- Go to Confession within the week of your consecration day
- If possible, go to Mass on the day of your consecration and receive Jesus in the Eucharist
- Ask St. Maximilian and Our Lady how to be an example for others, making her and Jesus known and loved through your example, actions, words, and prayer.

CONSECRATION PRAYER

O Immaculata, turn your gaze to me.
I _____(name), want to live my baptismal consecration in a generous Christian life, so I can be a faithful witness to the truth. I know I am weak and I will experience many temptations in my life, so I consecrate myself totally to you.

In your hands, I want to be an obedient instrument of your love. Guide me and protect me and make me fruitful in all I do, pray, and suffer.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, accept this offering from my heart. Listen to my voice that expresses my great love for you. You are the Queen of my life, of my family, of the whole world.

Protect me as you did the Child Jesus. Keep me pure and teach me to love Jesus. Write His name on my heart with your gentle hands.

Mary, be my Mother forever. I love you, Mary. Amen.