

Candidate's Name: _____



Level 8 (Confirmation Year II)
2023-2024 Student Workbook



The Church of St. Peter the Apostle
ISLIP TERRACE, NEW YORK

Keeping Our Eyes Focused on Christ

Then [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered this, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they go into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

--Matthew 14:22-23

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Confirmation Candidate, Parents and Sponsor:

Keeping our eyes focused on Christ is a lifelong endeavor. In the story above as long as St. Peter keeps his eyes on Christ he is doing fine, but the moment he is distracted he begins to sink. The lesson for us is the same today; we too must keep our eyes on Christ at all times.

There are two reasons for not knowing Christ—either we don't have love of God and neighbor as a goal in our life, or we do, but keep allowing distractions to take our focus away from following Christ. Over the next several months you will focus on how the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is active in your life; How faith in his Word, Jesus, will bring you through the rough waters of this life into the safety of your true and eternal home, heaven.

Like Peter and the other disciples, this endeavor of knowing and seeing Christ will take a lot of hard work, prayer, sacrifice, and most of all, courage. Are you ready for this endeavor? I hope you are, because it will change your life and the lives of those around you in ways that are beyond your imagination.

In this workbook you will be asked to keep your eyes on Jesus, aware constantly that the Lord is inviting you to “walk on the water” toward Him. You do this by being conscious of the life of God within your soul. You received that life of God at baptism and you will receive the fullness of that life in confirmation. In your Acts of Service projects you will be acting in the person of Jesus, healing people's hurts by assisting them in their need. In your reflection on Sacred Scripture you will come to know Christ-- the way, the truth, and the life. In choosing a sponsor you will find the likeness of Christ in another person. And, in choosing a Confirmation name you will find what it takes to be a saint, that is, a person who after this life is allowed to see God face to face for all eternity.

Following Christ will take a great deal of courage on your part. While your journey will require courage you will not have to journey alone. Your brothers and sisters will be journeying with you. How will you know this? Because we will meet each week at the Eucharist thanking God and learning how to better love those around us.

The greatest way to pray is to celebrate the Eucharist at Mass. The Mass brings the people of God together around the Word and a common meal. This great event brings the people of God together to thank God in a way we cannot do on our own. This prayer also gives meaning to our every action, therefore when we come to celebrate the Eucharist at Mass we share our life and love with one another. At Mass our eyes are focused on Jesus calling us to, “Come.”

My hope is that candidates, parents, and sponsors will take on this courageous journey of faith. Saint Peter got out of the boat and rose to action at Jesus' command. Will you rise to the command of Jesus now? He is calling; can you see him reaching for you? If not at this time, then hopefully you will as we journey into life together.

God love you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Anthony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Workbook Checklist

Due: November 2023

- Mass Reflection #1 – Ordinary Time (Appendix C)

Due: December 2023

- Confirmation Name / Saint Biography (Page 7 & Appendix F)
- Mass Reflection #2 – Advent (Appendix D)

Due: January 2024

- Confirmation Retreat (Saturday, January 27, 2024)
- Retreat Reflection (Completed at retreat)

Due: February 2024

- Sponsor Form (Page 9)

Due: March 2024

- Mass Reflection #3 – Lent (Appendix E)
- Confirmation Assessment

Due: April 2024

- Completion of 5 Service Hours/Acts of Service Project (Log in Appendix G)
- Acts of Service Reflection (See Page 8)

Some Basics for Completing this Workbook

- Bring the assignment that is due to class and hand it in to your catechist or Ms. Melissa.
- We have designed this Workbook so that projects and forms are submitted in a timely way, thus eliminating last minute problems.
- **Your name should appear at the top of every assignment.**

Mass Reflections

The Sunday Liturgy, or Mass, is the gathering of the faithful to pray and give thanks to God the Father through his Son, Jesus. During the Mass we hear the Word of God proclaimed. The proclamation of Sacred Scripture introduces us to God's plan of salvation for those who believe and live his Word, for Christians that Word is Jesus. (see Jn 1:1)

At the end of Mass we are commanded to go into the world and put that Word into action by loving God and neighbor. To do this we must reflect on the Word we hear in the readings at Mass. In his ministry as teacher, the priest reflects on the readings and speaks to the people gathered helping them to grow in faith, this is called the homily.

Project: Write a reflection on the Gospel and homily for three Eucharistic celebrations: one in Ordinary Time, one in Advent, and one in Lent. Follow suggestions below.

- ❖ Reflections can be handwritten directly on Appendix C, D, and E forms
- ❖ A sample can be found in Appendix B – yours should model this length

Goal: For the candidate to pray and think about what they have heard at Mass and see how the words of Scripture and Mass pertain to his or her life at this time.

Suggestions on How to Write the Mass Reflections

- Read the Gospel before and after Mass by visiting www.usccb.org/bible
- Bring a pad of paper with you to Mass and write down some thoughts or words you hear in the Gospel or homily.
- Discuss what you heard and wrote down on the way home in the car, asking everyone to participate.
- Ask yourself and your family what the Scripture and homily have to do with your life and the life of your family today.
- When you get home, write your reflection in draft form then transfer a final copy to the form found in Appendix C/D/E. Do this while it is fresh in your mind and heart.

Choosing a Confirmation Name/Saint Biography

In the book of Isaiah we read, “I have called you by name: you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). Your name was spoken aloud on the day of your Baptism and it became part of your identity as God’s child and a member of the Catholic Church. A great deal of thought went into your parents’ choice in naming you. You may be named after a relative, a special family friend, or a saint you parents greatly admire. Now that you have decided to become confirmed, you have the opportunity to think in a new way about your name and how it relates to your decision to be confirmed.

You may choose to add a new name at confirmation. This decision indicates your awareness of how Confirmation will help you live as a disciple of Christ. The name you choose must be a Christian name—the name of a saint or one of the great men or women from the Bible who have gone before us in faith. You may also choose the Christian name of your Confirmation sponsor because this individual is an example for you of how to live the Catholic life. Spend time prayerfully reflecting about your choice as this is an important decision.

Project:

Choose a name for Confirmation and write a biography of the saint whose name you will share.

- ❖ **Use outline in Appendix F**
- ❖ **Please note the outline is 2 pages total**
- ❖ **Answer all of the questions if the information for the saint is available**
- ❖ **Please write neatly**

Goal: To better understand the meaning of your chosen name. To know the life of a holy person who has been found worthy of seeing God face to face in heaven. And finally, to take some of what you have learned from the life of a saint and live it in your own life.

Confirmation Assessment

Students will take the Confirmation Assessment during the second class in March. It will be a written assessment consisting of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks and one short answer question.

You will have every opportunity to prepare for the assessment, and will be given the study pack in January.

Please know that this is not a test of your eligibility to receive the sacrament, but an opportunity for students to examine and improve their understanding of their faith. We are here to make sure everyone passes, so please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you prepare.

The assessment will reflect your understanding of the sacraments, church teachings, and will require frequent prayer/practice of the Nicene Creed.

Choose a Sponsor

You should have already chosen a Confirmation Sponsor and interviewed them last year. If you have not done so yet, please let your teacher or Ms. Melissa know.

It is our hope that the person you chose as your Confirmation Sponsor is someone who will be a good listener, a guide, and a confidant; a person who is interested in your growth as a Christian person and is willing to grow in faith with you. Now is the time to foster that relationship. Continue to pray for him or her. Spend time with them when you can, or send notes by mail or email. Make sure you call or message your sponsor to share faith, birthday greetings, or just to say hello. If possible, ask your sponsor to attend Mass with you. The important thing here is to share life together and with God.

The **Sponsor Form** (page 9) should be given to the person you chose to be your sponsor. He or she must fill out the form, sign it, and return it to the Faith Formation office or the rectory.

Acts of Service (Service Project)

*“What I can do, you cannot. What you can do, I cannot. But together we can do something beautiful for God.”
–Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

Service is an integral part of the mission of the Church, which includes Word, worship, and service. We live the mission of the Word by reading Scripture and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. We live the mission of worship as we participate in liturgies and communal prayer. We live the mission of service as we serve one another and the world.

In this work of Catholic action, you will learn about the mission of the Church and the long history of Catholic Social Teaching. You will learn that service is not an extracurricular activity, but **a way of living our faith**. Finally, you will come to understand more fully that all the baptized are called to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the world today. Service is essential to this mission.

Project:

1) Complete 5 volunteer hours in community service or acts of service. Please try to have a variety of different things that you do to serve the community, both within the parish, at home, or within the public community. You should document all of your hours on the Appendix G form.

2) When you have completed the required 5 hours, reflect on your experiences. Write a short reflection telling how you felt after using your gifts with others. Also reflect on how your experiences brought you closer to God.

- ❖ **Reflection must be typed**
- ❖ **12 size font, Times New Roman**
- ❖ **Double spaced**
- ❖ **At least 150 words in length**

Goal: For the candidate to recognize and celebrate the gifts he or she was given in baptism and pray for the day when those gifts will be further blessed by God’s Spirit for the good of the kingdom.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

TESTIMONY OF DESIGNATED SPONSOR

The role of sponsor is an important one for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Today some may see the role as honorary, but the Church sees the sponsor, popularly called a godparent, as a fully-initiated Catholic who actively supports the newly Baptized or Confirmed by good example and instruction in the Christian life.

In order to be admitted to the role of sponsor, the law of the Church directs that a person must be designated specifically by the parents of the infant or the individual who is to be baptized or confirmed. To be a sponsor, a person must be a Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, and have already received the Sacraments of the Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and not be bound by a canonical penalty.

I, _____, declare that I have been chosen to act as a sponsor for _____, who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation on _____ at the Church of _____ in _____.

In assuming this responsibility, I testify that:

- **I am at least sixteen years of age.**
- **I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.**
- **I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals.**

Understanding the role of sponsor as prescribed by the Church and aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this role, I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear that I fulfill all of the requirements to be a sponsor as described above. I attest to the truth of this statement, so help me God.

Date

Designated Sponsor

Home Parish

Pastor/Delegate

Parish Seal:

Appendix A: Sponsor Requirements

THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A SPONSOR IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A SPONSOR — (A Catholic)

The role of sponsor is an important one for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Church sees the sponsor as a fully-initiated Catholic who supports the one receiving the sacrament with example and instruction. Because of the seriousness of this ministry, the Church has the following requirements:

- The sponsor must be a fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church through having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
- The sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
 - A pastor may waive the age requirement in particular cases. However, if this is done, then the Catholic who is younger than 16 must be fully initiated.
- The sponsor must have an active life of practicing the Faith in the Church and be able to provide good example.
 - Someone married outside the Church is not able to receive Communion and is not able to be a sponsor.
 - Also, a Catholic who has left the Church is not able to be a sponsor of a new member into the Church.
 - Therefore, a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor and cannot be a “Christian witness” if they join another Christian communion.
- The sponsor cannot be either parent.
- When there are two sponsors, they are “spiritual parents” and are to be a male (godfather) and a female (godmother).
- There cannot be more than two sponsors.

Christian Witness – (A baptized non-Catholic Christian)

Provided there is one Catholic sponsor, a baptized non-Catholic Christian may serve as a Christian witness for Baptism only. This person is a Christian witness and not a sponsor. The requirements to be a Christian witness are that the person:

- Must be at least sixteen years old.
- Must be a validly baptized Christian.
- Must be living an upright life.
- Cannot be either parent of the person being Baptized or Confirmed.
- Cannot be a Catholic who has left the Church.

A Christian witness may never be a non-baptized person. For example, Jewish or Muslim godparents are not permitted by universal church law.

The notation “Christian witness” is to be placed under the name of the non-Catholic Christian witness in the baptismal register.

Appendix B: Mass Reflection Sample

Mass Date: January 22, 2023 Time: 5:00pm Priest: Fr. Chris

Brief Summary of the Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

Jesus came to Galilee to proclaim the gospel.

Simon, Andrew, James, and John abandoned their possessions and way of life to follow the path of Jesus.

Reflection on what the Gospel means for you. How can you live the Gospel message in your life?

This Gospel means that I should always make time to follow Jesus and sometimes that involves sacrifice. This Gospel tells us that there is so much to be learned by choosing to follow God. Having God as the center of our lives is the most important thing in this world.

I can live this Gospel message in my life by abandoning the bad things, like sin, and choosing to follow God. When I make sacrifices and choose to follow God's ways it can be very rewarding. I should also always make sure that the things that I have are never more important to me than my relationship with God.

NAME: _____

Appendix F: Choosing a Confirmation Name/Saint Biography

Saint's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Feast Day: _____

Patron Saint of: _____

Early life:

Adult life/profession:

How did his or her faith affect this saint's life?

Continue to complete page 2...

NAME: _____

Choosing a Confirmation Name/Saint Biography – Page 2 –

What are his or her most important accomplishments or reasons why he or she is recognized as a saint in the Catholic Church?

Why did you choose this name? What do you admire about this saint?

What are two lessons you learned from this saint's life?

What sources did you use to get your information? Any other important facts?
