

Confirmation Portfolio

(Please submit via e-mail to Suzanne@ssmrcc.org
no later than the stated due dates)

Required

1. A Copy of your Baptismal Certificate – **due October 31, 2010**
2. Sponsor Information Sheet– **due October 31, 2010**
3. Student Workbook - tbd
4. Parent letter of introduction (of candidate) – **due September 15th, 2010**
5. Confirmation Sponsor Reflection – **due October 31, 2010**
 - Sponsor's full name
 - Why you chose the sponsor you did
 - How your sponsor has helped you on your spiritual journey to confirmation
 - How you feel this person will continue to give you spiritual guidance after you are confirmed

6. Confirmation Name (does not need to be a saint's name) – **due March 31, 2011**
 - The name you have chosen and why you chose that name
 - The biography of your saint (if applicable) – this should include your saint's feast day
 - Any other additional information about your saint, ie. Prayers, etc.
 - Parent's signature indicating they are aware of your name choice

7. Personal Reflection – **due April 15, 2011**
 - Why you want to be confirmed
 - How confirming your faith helps you make better decisions/choices and helps you determine right from wrong
 - How confirming your faith can make you a better person, son, or daughter, student and or friend
 - What you anticipate the next five years will be like and how having faith in God will help you make better, well informed choices
 - Include a short reflection on decisions you made this past year
 - Include any other reflections, thoughts about confirmation or your Catholic Faith that you might have
 - How is your sponsor a model of Jesus Christ for you? Why did you choose this person to walk the journey of Confirmation with you?

8. Retreat Reflection – **at retreat**
 - Describe the retreat, where, activities and when it was held
 - Discuss how this retreat changed you
 - What did you learn from this retreat?

Uniqueness and Identity – due December 31, 2010

(choose any 2 items of the numbered options below to include in your portfolio)

1. List the Beatitudes and explain which Beatitude you like the most and why.
2. What is it about the Catholic Church that makes me want to be Catholic?
3. Write your own personal creed.
4. Write a copy of your favorite prayer and explain why this prayer is important to you.
5. Write out your favorite bible passage and explain why this passage is important to you.
6. At your baptism, you parents gave you a name. At confirmation you are confirming that baptism and that name.
 - What is your full baptismal name?
 - Who gave you this name and why?
 - Research your name in the history of the church and see who also had your name and what they did.
7. Someone you admire – write about someone (or several people) you either know personally or you admire for great things they have done with his/her life. Include the person's name, the qualities this person possesses that you admire, and how they have been a positive influence in your life.
8. How will I live my faith as an adult catholic? Write important details about how you will practice a life of faith, love, and joy in the values of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit – due January 31, 2011

(choose any 2 items of the numbered options below to include in your portfolio)

1. List the gifts of the Holy Spirit and examples of each gift. Include an image to associate with each gift.
2. Spiritual Gifts
 - Choose two of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (knowledge, wisdom, understanding, courage, right judgment, reverence, wonder/awe) and explain how they are already reflected in your personality.
 - Choose a gift that you pray the Holy Spirit will give you and explain how you could develop this gift and why you would like to receive this gift. Explain how you feel you might better live your Faith if given this gift.

3. Fruits of the Spirit
 - Choose two of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self Control, Chastity) and explain how they are reflected in your personality.
 - Choose a fruit that you pray the Holy Spirit will give you and explain how you could develop this and why you would like to receive it. Explain how you feel you might better live your Faith if given this ability.
4. Choose a current event and discuss how one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit would influence the course of the current event. (Ex. The gulf oil disaster & Knowledge...how would knowledge of the Lord impact the outcome of the disaster?) You may communicate your ideas through whatever medium you would like. (written, visual, spoken, theatrical, anything...you have free reign!)
5. What's the big deal with the Holy Spirit? Why is the Holy Spirit such an important part of Confirmation?

Community – due February 28, 2011

(choose any 2 items of the numbered options below to include in your portfolio)

1. Select 3 ministries in which you would like to participate. List your choices in order of preference and indicate why you chose the ones you chose. *(see last page for list)*
2. How have you been of service to others since July of 2010? What did you do? What did you learn from this/these experiences? Which experience made the greatest impact? Why?
3. What is the mission of St. Stephen Martyr? What would you add to the mission statement? What would you remove from the mission statement? Do you feel that we as a church live this mission? What needs to change?
4. How is the Church the Body of Christ? What is this "body"? What does the body do well? What needs improvement? Why?
5. List the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Which (ones) come naturally to you? Give concrete examples. Which (ones) are not so easy or natural? Why?
6. How are you a disciple?

Sacraments & Confirmation – due March 31, 2011

(choose any 2 items of the numbered options below to include in your portfolio)

1. Why do we say the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life?
2. Do you feel Confirmation is the beginning or ending of your spiritual journey? Why?
3. Scripture References:
Matthew 3:1-12
Matthew 3:13-17
Matthew 28:19
Mark 1:9-11
Luke 3:21-22
John 1:22-34
Acts (of the Apostles) 2:37-41
Pick one of the Scripture references above and explain in your own words what it says to you.
4. Scripture References:
Isaiah 53:1-12
Matthew 8:5-10, 13
Matthew 10:8
Matthew 16:18-19
2 Corinthians 12:9
Galatians 3:27
Pick one of the Scripture references above and explain in your own words what it says to you.
5. Scripture References:
Mark 2:1-12
Luke 15: 11-32
John 8:1-11
Matthew 9:2-8
Matthew 16:19
Matthew 28:18-20
Pick one of the Scripture references above and explain in your own words what it says to you.
6. What is your preferred method of prayer? When do you pray? What does prayer do for you personally? How does prayer enable you to remain close to God?
7. Why is it important for you to worship in your parish on Sunday? Is anything standing in your way of fulfilling this obligation? Do you come to Mass for yourself, for others, or for God?

Ministry Opportunities at St. Stephen Martyr

Middle School Youth Ministry Team

Open to anyone in 10th grade through adulthood. Assists in planning and implementing Middle School Youth Ministry events and activities, such as ice skating, laser quest, rock climbing, Middle School summer camp, youth group evenings. Must enjoy this crazy age and be willing to do equally crazy (but safe!) things with them. We need energetic role models!

Commitment: less than 10 hours per month

High School Youth Ministry Team

Open to anyone who has graduated from HS through adulthood. Assists in planning, implementing, and chaperoning High School Youth Ministry events and activities, such as ice skating, laser quest, rock climbing, camping, Diocesan Youth Conferences, Mission Trips, service opportunities, youth group evenings. Must enjoy this age group and be willing to participate in crazy (but safe!) things with them.

Commitment: less than 10 hours per month

HS Mentors (for MS youth)

HS students active in Youth Ministry can serve as mentors /“HS buddies” to one or more Middle school students. Would attend MS functions on a fairly regular basis with assigned student(s) and serve as a mentor, positive role model, and friend.

Commitment: one year term, at selected events.

Confirmation Retreat Team

Confirmed practicing and active Catholics may serve on the Confirmation Retreat Team. You will assist in the planning and leading of the annual Confirmation retreat. There is a strong possibility that we will offer several retreats next year for both Confirmation I and II classes.

Commitment: attend retreat team meetings, attend subcommittee meetings, and participate in retreat weekend. About 35 total hours excluding retreat weekend(s).

Confirmation Class Team

Confirmed practicing and active Catholics may serve as members of the Confirmation class team. You could serve as a small group facilitator, peer / adult mentor, assist in set up, clean up and/or teaching the Confirmation I & II classes. Attend prep meetings and any subcommittee meetings. Attend the Rite of Welcome (Mass) in November and the Confirmation Mass in April/May for Confirmation II students.

Commitment: approximately 5 hours per month – September through April/May.

Eucharistic Minister

Confirmed practicing Catholics may serve as Eucharistic Ministers. Training and updating are provided periodically.

Commitment: rotating basis about every 4 weeks

Head Minister

This ministry is open to Confirmed practicing Catholics who wish to participate in the Liturgy. The head minister assists the Presider throughout the liturgy. Trainings and updating are provided periodically. Available Head Ministers are called upon for funerals, weddings, baptisms, etc., as needed.

Commitment: rotating basis about every 4-6 weeks

Lector

Confirmed practicing Catholics may minister by proclaiming the Word at Mass and other Liturgical Celebrations. Available lectors may be called upon for funerals. Requirements include a clear speaking voice and a commitment to the written word of God or scripture.

Commitment: once every 2 months

Cross Bearer

This ministry is open to parishioners with the necessary strength and coordination to process with the cross at liturgical celebrations. Minimum age 12.

Commitment: rotating basis about once every 4-6 weeks.

Hospitality Minister

Greet the Community, count parishioners, distribute hymnals, select gift bearers, collect the gifts, maintain orderly movement during Liturgy, distribute the bulletin and respond to any need which arises at Liturgy.

Commitment: 1-2 Liturgies per month

Children's Liturgy of the Word

For children 4 years old through 1st graders. It is held during Sunday masses, September through May, and provides the weekly gospel message on an age appropriate level. The sessions last approximately 30 minutes. One adult leader will be present.

Nursery Volunteer

Nursery services, during Sunday morning liturgies for children age 3 and under.

Commitment: as often as possible

NEW!!! Youth Praise Band (added August 27, 2010)

Perform at youth masses and youth gatherings. Under the direction of Renee Cunningham.

Commitment: attend rehearsals and performances