St. Louise de Marillac

Confirmation Handbook



2019-2020

Revised 8/19/2019

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faithformation@slmschool.org

Welcome St. Louise de Marillac Confirmation Class of 2019-2020

Dear Parents,

Each Candidate must attend Faith Formation classes for two consecutive years and successfully complete the course of study in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. During the upcoming year, significant participation will go into preparing for a participant in the Confirmation Mass to take place on **Wednesday**, **March 18**, **2020** at **6:30 PM** and to become a disciple of Christ. This preparation will involve the confirmands, teachers, sponsors, and most critically, the parents. Your child's faith journey starts with you at home. We are here to direct them into a deeper Spiritual commitment.

At the time we had our children baptized, we, as their parents, made the commitment to raise them in the Catholic faith. This year will be a special year of growth as we closely share our faith more fully and as a result, watch them grow in a deeper understanding of their own faith.

As part of the growth process, one of the requirements for confirmation is to perform acts of Stewardship or Service Projects. All confirmands will be required to complete six service projects totaling fifteen hours that should include the church and the community. We will also arrange some service hour opportunities throughout the year with the Faith Formation office, but most of the hours will need to be obtained individually by each student. It is the program's intention for these initiatives to serve as an example to the students of the many types of ongoing service opportunities that Christians partake in throughout their lifetime.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and we look forward to a wonderful, rewarding year. Please feel free to us if you have questions, concerns or problems. For our Faith Formation students, our primary method of communication with you will be via e-mail with handouts coming home with your child as needed.

Peace,

AnnMarie Mahay
Coordinator, Faith Formation & SLM School Principal

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which baptized persons receive a special grace, which strengthens them for the profession of the **Christian faith**. In the **Latin Rite, Confirmation** is usually conferred by the **Bishop**, who lays his hands on the recipients, making **the Sign of the Cross** with chrism on their foreheads, while he says:

"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit"

The young people of **St. Louise de Marillac Parish** who receive **Confirmation** obtain a special grace to profess the faith. On their souls are imprinted an indelible character, and so **Confirmation** can only be received once. When preparing for this **Sacrament**, the young person typically selects the name of a favorite saint for his **Confirmation name**.

Documentation

So that we can comply with all documentation requirements specified by the Archdiocese of Chicago, we ask that you assist your student with completing his or her documents.

Attendance at Sunday Mass for Confirmation Students

Students: Sunday Mass is an important part of building your faith especially during the preparation period for receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is expected that Confirmation students attend mass every Sunday.

Confirmation Dress Code for Candidates and Sponsors

Each student will be provided with a stole prior to Confirmation that is to be worn over their clothes during the ceremony. Please follow these guidelines so that this event will be sacred and holy.

Dress should be "Sunday best", and age appropriate.

Young Men: Suit, shirt, jacket and tie with dress pants for men. Dress shoes only, no sneakers. No spiked hair, no caps or hats, no visible piercings (tongue, nose or eyebrow).

Young Ladies: Dresses should be knee length. No formal dresses. No backless or strapless dresses and back of dress must be above bra level. The front of dress should not be low cut to reveal cleavage. No visible piercings (tongue, nose or eyebrow). Make-up should not be obvious.

Candidate Requirements for Confirmation

- A sincere desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- A spirit of cooperation and prayerful attitude toward receiving and living out ones'
 Confirmation
- A sufficient knowledge of the basic beliefs of the Catholic Faith as demonstrated through:
 - Active class participation
 - Successful completion of all assignments
 - Written/oral testing
 - Attendance at weekly Mass
 - Reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Confirmation ceremony
- Attendance at the following:
 - All class periods (more than 3 absences each semester will require extra work.
 Irregular attendance and/or poor achievement/cooperation may result in the delay of the sacrament)
 - Prayer and Practice Day
 - Interview
 - Retreat
- Active and regular participation in the meetings and activities of the assigned Parish Community Group
 - Six service projects equaling fifteen hours of service
- Completion of paperwork and forms:
 - Letter to the priest (see sample)
 - o Registration form
 - Sponsor form
 - Saint report
- Completion of the full 7th and 8th grade religion curriculum

Candidate Review Guide

The following topics should already be mastered by anyone entering a Confirmation preparation program. Parents and sponsors should assist candidates with reviewing this material.

The Marks of the Church

- The Church is One
- The Church is Holy

- The Church is Catholic
- The Church is Apostolic

Prayers the Candidates Should Know by Heart

- The Our Father
- The Hail Mary
- The Apostles' Creed

- The Glory Be to the Father
- An Act of Contrition

Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- Wisdom
- Courage
- Reverence
- Understanding

- Knowledge
- Right Judgment
- Wonder & Awe

From the Gifts of the Holy Spirit come the Fruits, which are:

- Charity
- Benignity (kindness)
- Faith (Fidelity)
- Joy
- Goodness
- Modesty

- Peace
- Longanimity (Longsuffering)
- Continence
- Patience
- Mildness
- Chastity

The Ten Commandments

- 1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
- 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
- 4. Honor your father and your mother.
- 5. You shall not kill.
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.
- 7. You shall not steal.
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9. You shall not cover your neighbor's wife.
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Sacraments

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Holy Eucharist
- Reconciliation

- Holy Orders
- Matrimony
- Anointing of the Sick

Beatitudes

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land earth.
- Blessed are they who morn, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Corporal Works of Mercy

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To visit the imprisoned

- To shelter the homeless
- To visit the sick
- To bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- To warn the sinner
- To instruct the ignorant
- To counsel the doubtful
- To comfort the sorrowing

- To bear wrongs patiently
- To forgive all injuries
- To pray for the living and the dead

The Laws of the Church

- To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- To fast and abstain on the days appointed
- To confess our sins at least once a year
- To receive Eucharist during Easter
- To contribute to the support of the church
- To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage
- To contribute to the missionary efforts of the church

Requirement for Choosing a Sponsor

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor is often an overlooked and under-used source for a candidate's preparation and growth. Sponsorship is one very concrete means of sharing in the Church's teaching ministry. Below are the requirements for Sponsor for Confirmation:

- Must be at least 16-years old, unless another age is set by the Bishop of the Diocese or an exception, for just reason, is made by the Pastor.
- Must be a Catholic who has received all three Sacraments of Initiation and leads a life in harmony with the Catholic faith.
- Must not be bound by any penalty of the Church (i.e., irregular Marriage).
- Must not be the parent of the person confirmed.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation, however, it should be a name selected in honor of Jesus or Mary or from the list of recognized saints of the Catholic Church. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life or virtues can be imitated.



St. Louise Confirmation Schedule 2019-2020

Every Weekend Starting Immediately	Students are expected to attend Mass	Church
October 5, 2019	Confirmation Information Meeting 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Colonnade Room
October 15, 2019	Confirmation Contract & Code of Conduct	Teacher
October 27, 2019	Confirmation Recognition Mass during Family Mass	Church
October 31, 2019	Confirmation Sacrament Verification Form Due	Teacher or Online
November 30,2019	Confirmation Sponsor Form Due	Teacher or Online
December 20, 2019	Saint Report must be completed and turned in	Teacher or via Email
December 20, 2019	Confirmation Data Sheet Due	Teacher or Online
January 10, 2020	Palanca Letter Dues	Teacher or via Email
January 12 or 15, 2020	Confirmation Test During Class	Teacher
January 19 or 22, 2020	Confirmation Stole Information Sent Home	Teacher
January 25, 2020	Confirmation Retreat (Mandatory) after 3PM	Time and Location TBD
February 14, 2020	Letter to Father Denis from the Student due	Teacher - Do Not Turn In To Rectory or Email Fr. Denis
February 28, 2020	All Service Project Hours Must be completed	Teacher, Office or Online
March 1 or 4, 2020	Confirmation Interviews during class	Teacher
March 17, 2020	Confirmation Rehearsal 6PM – 7:30 PM	Church
March 18, 2020	Confirmation Mass @ 6:30 PM	Church



Phone: 708.603-6159

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CONFIRMATION CONTRACT AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Students in all of the parish religious education programs are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects favorably on themselves, their families, and their parishes. Students are expected to show consideration and respect to other students in the parish and to the catechetical staff.

I also commit myself to the following:

- I will faithfully and regularly attend, participate in and prepare for Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.
- I will faithfully attend all Faith formation classes and study all materials provided by my teachers.
- I will avail myself to God's mercy by going to sacramental confession at least ONCE a year.
- I will make every effort to pray at least 15-minutes every day.
- I will faithfully fulfill all of my commitments with regards to my Service Project requirements.
- I will do my best to show respect and honor to my parents and teachers as they help me prepare for full initiation into the Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- I will endeavor to be kind, courteous, and forgiving to others and seek to live a life worthy of being a Disciple of Christ.
- I promise to be helpful at home and at school in such a way that Jesus would be proud to call me His Friend.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF CONFIRMATION CONTRACT AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Candidate's Name (please print):	
I have read the Confirmation Contract and Code of Cond program of study outlined in the Confirmation Handboo Sponsor, and our Parish community. I am ready to accep myself to Fr. Denis and to the Parish community as a Car	k with the help and support of my parents, ot my responsibilities and I intend to present
Parent Signature	Date
Student Signature	Date



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SACRAMENT INFORMATION FORM FOR CONFIRMATION

In accordance with the Archdiocese of Chicago, it is required that the information requested below is verified and recorded prior to the Sacrament date. All areas of this form must be completed in full.

Date:	
Please print clearly:	
Child's Full Name:	Date of Birth:
Child's Name on Baptismal Certificate:	
Father's Name on Baptismal Certificate:	
Mother's Name on Baptismal Certificate:	
Date of Baptism (year / month / date):	
Complete Name and Church where you were Baptized:	
Please attach a copy of the baptismal certificate:	
☐ Baptismal Certificate Attached	
☐ Baptized at St. Louise de Marillac	
□ Other	
Church where candidate received 1st Eucharist:	
Date of 1st Eucharist:	

***In accordance with Canon Law, proof of the candidate's reception of the Sacrament of Baptism must be provided.

Please submit a copy of the candidate's Baptismal Certificate. If your child was baptized at St. Louise de Marillac, you need not send a copy of Baptismal Certificate, but you must provide a complete baptismal date so that we can verify it in the parish records.



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CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

A sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation is:

- A Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation;
- A person who participates in the spiritual life of the Catholic Church by weekly attendance at Sunday Mass and regular reception of the sacraments;
- A person who will share, support, and help deepen a Christian relationship with the candidate being Confirmed on their faith journey;
- If married, their marriage is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church;
- A person at least 16 years of age.

Confirmation Sponsor Agreement

Having read and considered the above statements, I belie	ve that they reflect my present situation. Therefore,
I	, (name of sponsor) a parishioner of
	, (name of the parish of the sponsor) accept the privilege
and responsibility of being a Confirmation sponsor for	name of candidate to be Confirmed)
Signature of Sponsor:	, Date:



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CONFIRMATION DATA SHEET – CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION

Please do not submit this form until all fields are completed

Candidates Name:		
Last	First	Middle (no initials)
Candidate's Address:		
Phone Number:		
Date of Birth:	Age:	
Confirmation Name:		
	REQUIRED	
ather's Name:		
Last	First	Middle
Anthor's Namo		
Mother's Name: Last	First	Middle
ponsor's Name:		
Last	First	Middle
ponsor's Address:		
sponsor's Relationship to Candidate: _		

A Portrait of My Patron Saint

MUST BE TYPED

When selecting a confirmation name, designate the specific person (e, g., Thomas the Apostle, Thomas of Aquinas). The use of your baptismal name, if already after a Saint, can serve to further emphasize the three-fold process of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The name chosen must be a Blessed or canonized Christian saint. A canonized Christian Saint is a man or a woman who has displayed heroic virtue and has been recognized by the Church. During Confirmation preparation time, candidates should research their baptismal name or the new Saint's name they have chosen. After you have selected the Saint you would like to be named after (and who will continue to pray for you), type a two-page report about the Saint's life.

Include the following topics in your report:

- Who is the saint? (when and where did he or she live, family life, job, etc.)
- What have you learned about this Saint through your research?
- Why did you select this Saint to represent your faith journey?
- How is this person a good role model for you to follow as a confirmed Catholic?
- Include the resources from which you obtained your information (we site, book, etc.)
- My saint's feast day is?
- Explain why your confirmation name is meaningful to you.

All reports are due in the Faith Formation Office by **December 20, 2019.**



A Letter to Father Denis

Each Confirmation candidate must write a letter to Father Denis. The following information must be included as a part of the letter:

- 1. Why I want to be confirmed.
- 2. The reason why I chose the person that I did to be my Sponsor.
- 3. The reason for my choice of a Confirmation name 0 what is it about the life of the patron saint whose name I chose that I find particularly meaningful to me?

Letters must be TYPED and in proper letter format. Parents and Sponsors are asked to read the letter before it is submitted to Father Denis. The Candidate should print (or type) his or her full name beneath his/her signature. The signature of the parent/guardian must also be on the letter. Please remember to date the letter.



CONFIRMATION STEWARDSHIP (SERVICE) PROJECTS

Confirmation is an important time in your spiritual growth and development. In Baptism, your parents spoke your faith commitment in your name. Now, you are offered an opportunity to speak for yourself of your acceptance of Jesus and his Church.

Requirements for Stewardship Projects

As a way of preparing for Confirmation and showing your Church community that you are willing to take on responsibility in the community and the Church, each student in the Confirmation program is required to perform service. Service projects must be completed by **February 28, 2020**. A total of six (6) projects are required in three areas. Those categories are:

- 1. St. Louise de Marillac Parish 3 Projects
- 2. Community (within your town of residence) 1 Project
- 3. School Community (for the school you attend) 1 Project
- 4. One additional project from any of the above categories

Students are asked to complete your service from the following list. Other projects may be substituted, if approved by Father Denis Condon or Ms. AnnMarie Mahay. The Faith Formation number is 708.603.6159. **Students should make all calls.**

You as a Volunteer

Each time you go out to help someone in need, you bring to others the redemptive love of Jesus Christ. Being a volunteer does not mean having good feelings or being adventuresome; it is a concrete activity in the service of others. It is important that the activity fulfill the need of the person being served, not necessarily the desire of the volunteer. Goals should be realistic. Do not promise more than you can deliver. **IF YOU SIGN UP FOR AN EVENT YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM THAT JOB** – that means that you must be serious about your commitment. The individuals and organizations who depend on this type of service are counting on you to be reliable. Remember to derive as much as possible for each learning experience, to give quality work as well as being efficient and productive (do not rush to finish quickly), and be kind, polite, and attentive. Follow all directions that are furnished to you.

St. Louise de Marillac Service Projects – please choose 3 projects from the following list.

- Altar server Must be in good standing all year.
- Children's Choir Must be a member in good standing all year. Contact Mrs. Miller for more information.
- Cantor For either Sunday or weekday liturgies. Contact Mrs. Miller for more information.
- BINGO Choose 2 dates between May and January. Set-up, clean-up, and kitchen help. Contact Vickie Paradee.
- St. Louise Parish Maintenance Pulling weeds, spreading mulch, planting flowers, raking leaves, shoveling snow. Call the School Office.
- Sorting Music for the Choir in Church. Contact Mr. Jim Harrold
- Distribute Bulletins in Church Saturdays and Sunday after Mass. Must volunteer for 8 Masses. Not just one time. Ushers/Greeters needed at all Masses.
- Other opportunities available during the year. Watch the Weekly Newsletter for more information or contact the Faith Formation Office.

Community Service Projects – please choose 1 project from the following list (1 project = Approximately 6-8 hours of service)

- Nursing Home Visitation visit residents, write letters for the residents, read letters, read books, etc. Please call local nursing home and speak to the Administrator regarding volunteer policies.
- Public Libraries All public libraries have their own policies concerning volunteer help. Call the person in charge of volunteer services regarding programs.
- Local Food Pantries and Chicago Food Depository Check under service organizations in your phone book and find the names of some of the places locally that help with the distribution of food and clothing. They may need help in many different ways. Several of you might organize a food or clothing drive. St. Barbara, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Eulalia have pantries.
- Assist a Neighbor Help a neighbor on a regular basis by cutting the grass, pulling weeds, raking leaves, shoveling snow, taking care of pets, running errands, painting, etc.

School Community Service Projects - please choose 1 project from the following list

- Ice Cream Social
- Halloween Party
- Christmas Party
- Awards Ceremony
- Craft Show
- Fun Nights
- Courtyard of Playground cleanup
- Help in the Office after school
- Patrol corners
- Tutoring
- Help the teacher with a project outside of school hours
- Usher at an event and distribute programs
- Clean under the bleachers
- Help in the school library

Note:

Please note you will not receive credit for Confirmation Service Projects for any mandatory service hours you are performing for credit from another organization, such as Scouts or your school. In other words, **you cannot receive double credit** for one project because you are already required to perform it elsewhere. Parish Projects must be completed for a Catholic Church in the Chicago Archdiocese.



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Please read the Confirmation Handbook, sign and return this page to the Faith Formation Office by October 15, 2019.

We have read the handbook and fully understand that our Confirmation Candidate <u>must perform</u> service between now and February 28, 2018. **Six projects** are required to be completed as a component of our Confirmation Program. **The <u>minimum</u> total of hours completed from all six projects must be at least 15 hours.** Our signatures appear below to acknowledge receipt of the Service Project Packet and acceptance of this responsibility in learning discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Notes: Submit Reflection Sheets as soon as each project is complete.

All information must be completed, including the authorized signatures of your event

Supervisor. Please *answer all questions* on the Reflection Sheets and make sure that your **First and Last Names are written on each sheet.**

Your red binder and religion textbooks should be brought with you to class each week. Please keep your binder and books in a very professional and neat condition-just as you received them-no doodling, drawings or stickers, please. A second packet will be given to you in the fall with additional forms and requirements. These papers are to be kept in this red binder during the school year along with the Service packet.

Regular Mass attendance is expected on a weekly basis. Start considering possible choices for a Sponsor and remember that your Sponsor must be a baptized, confirmed and **practicing Catholic. Please note** that parents cannot be Sponsors for their own children.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE:	STUDENT'S SIGNATURE:
DATE SIGNED:	DATE SIGNED:
CANDIDATE'S NAME:	

Type (Parish, Community, School, Other):
No. of Hours
REFLECTION ON SERVICE PROJECT
(Fill out one for each project you do.)
Directions: Please complete all the items below. Insert this paper in your journal.
1. What was your project?
2. In doing my service, I learned
3. Through my service, I realize that other people
4. I also learned that Christ
5. I was surprised that I
6. I don't want to forget that
7. The hardest part of the job I did was
8. The best part of the job I did was
9. Would I choose this service project again? Explain.
SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE
CANDIDATE'S NAME:

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