

***SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM***

St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in Level 7 beginning in the year 2020. The transition to Level 7 will begin in the 2018-2019 PREP year with Level 6 becoming the first year in a two year Confirmation Preparation Program.

**TWO-YEAR CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**

The criteria for the two year program will follow the doctrinal framework for the sacrament preparation developed by the Archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship and the Office of Catechetical Formation. The framework specifically outlines the doctrinal elements to be included in the sacramental preparation of those who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The curriculum for Year One will be "Called to be Catholic" from Loyola Press and Year Two will be "Confirmed in the Spirit" also from Loyola Press.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

**YEAR ONE (Level 6)**

***(1 ) INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE***  - The purpose is to help the students become more familiar and comforatble with scripture and its importance in the lives of both the Church and of those who are followers of Jesus Christ. It will explain the origin of the New Testament & Old Testament and provide an overview of the elements of both books of the bible enough to assist the student in the use of the bible during the Confirmation preparation process over the two years.

The topics to be covered include:  
   
**Old Testament** (Hebrew Bible)   
1) The Law (Torah) first five books, aka, "Five Books of Moses";   
2) The Prophets- 4 major Prophets, minor Prophets, Lamentations, and Baruch;  
3) The Writings - 11 books covering poetry, temple ritual, private prayer and national tragedy

**New Testamet**- (Christian Bible)  
1) New Testament Books (27)  
2) Origin of the New Testament  
3) Gospel themes  
4) Gospel Authors   
5) St. Paul's Epistles

***(2) CALLED TO BE CATHOLIC*** provides a solid foundation in the teachings of the Catholic Church. It covers the pillars of our Catholic faith including scripture, Jesus, the Trinity, the Church, sacraments, the moral life, social justice and prayer all of which are addressed in the doctrinal framework mentioned previously.

**Called To Be Catholic Website** - www.loyolapress.com/calledtobecatholic.com **Access Code:** CTBC-2014

**CURRICULUM**

* Foundations of our Faith...Scripture and Tradition
* United in Love...The Trinity
* Source of Our Redemption...Jesus
* One Body, One Family...The Church
* Worshiping as a Community...The Sacraments
* Welcome, Strength, and Nourishment...Sacraments of Initiation
* Forgiveness and Discipleship...Sacraments of Healing and Service
* Guided by Grace...The Moral Life
* Our Faith in Action...Serving others
* Thanks and Praise...Prayer

**TEXTBOOKS**

1) Student Text-Called to be Catholic (Loyola Press)   
 2) Student - The Catholic Teen Bible (NAB-St. Jerome Press)   
 3) Catechist Guide-Called to be Catholic (Loyola Press)  
 4) Catechist - The Catholic Teen Bible (NAB-St. Jerome)  
 5) Catechist Catechism of the Catholic Church (Image-Doubleday)

***(3) CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY***  
Each student will be required to perform 2 Corporal Works of Mercy and 2 Spiritual Works of Mercy during this first year of preparation as well as writing a two page paper describing the expectation, experience, and results of performing a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy.

The objective of performing the works of mercy is to increase the students' sense of empathy and their involvement in helping others who may need assistance with routine activities or supporting them in a non-tangible spiritual manner. The individuals should become more compassionate, caring and loving to all people as a result of serving others.

Program catechists and assistants have the responsibility of selecting, organizing, and leading the students in performing the Works of Mercy as well as soliciting the assistance of parents and guardians.

Corporal Works of Mercy - the kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their everyday material needs including feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, burying the dead. Practical examples: Give money to buy food, pay bills, work at a food bank and clothing drives, visit retirement and assisted living facilities, perform chores for elderly or disabled neighbors, shop, clean house, cut lawn, shovel snow for the homebound, etc. **NOTE:**  May participate in service projects conducted through out the year by St. Cyril's Youth Ministry Program.

Spiritual Works of Mercy - are acts of compassion that serve people's emotional and spiritual need. They are to instruct, counsel, forgive, admonish, comfort, pray for others, etc. Practical examples: talk with a classmate or friend who may be experiencing bullying, self-doubt, lack of confidence; participate in prayer at an abortion clinic, pray a novena for someone in need, send cards to the sick, establish a Rosary Group (2 or more teens) to pray the rosary weekly for the living and the dead, etc.

**DEVOTIONS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH**By year end each student must be able to perform the following:

1. Describe the Order of Mass, , Name the Four Marks of the Church and their meaning, Name  
 the Church's Liturgical seasons, Name the Holy Days of Obligations, Name the Precepts of the   
 Church  
 2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of Sacred Scriptures, e.g. number of books in the Old   
 Testament and New Testament, name authors of the Gospels and the theme of the Gospels  
 3. Recite traditional prayers of the Church, e.g. Apostles' Creed, Our Father, Hail Holy Queen, etc.

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**YEAR TWO (Level 7)**

***(1) CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT*** - provides a focused and comprehensive preparation program to nurture the Confirmandi in faith and enhance their understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation including relationship to Baptism, the Rite of Confirmation, Role of the Sponsor, Choosing a Confirmation name, the effects of Confirmation e.g. united more fully to Christ, consecrated to the Church, receives an indelible d seal of the Holy Spirit and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, etc. all of which are addressed in the doctrinal framework previously mentioned.

**CURRICULUM**

* Confirmed in the Spirit
* Confirmed in Discipleship
* Confirmed in Faith
* Confirmed in Love
* Confirmed in Holiness
* Confirmed in the Church
* Confirmed in Witness
* Confirmed in Grace

**TEXTBOOKS**

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 4) Catechist - The Catholic Teen Bible (NAB-St. Jerome)  
 5) Catechist - Catechism of the Catholic Church (Image-Doubleday)

**(2) CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**   
Each student will be required to perform 2 Corporal Works of Mercy and 2 Spiritual Works of Mercy during this second year of preparation as well as writing a two page paper describing the expectation, experience, and results of performing a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy.

Program catechists and assistants have the responsibly of selecting, organizing, leading the students for the Works of Mercy as well as soliciting the assistance of parents and guardians.

Corporal Works of Mercy - the kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their everyday material needs including feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, bury the dead. Practical examples: Give money to buy food, pay bills, work at food bank, clothing drives, visit retirement, assisted living facilities, chores for elderly neighbors, shop, clean house, cut lawn, shovel snow for the homebound, etc. **NOTE:** May participate in service projects conducted through out the year by St. Cyirl's Youth Ministry Program.

Spiritual Works of Mercy - are acts of compassion that serve people's emotional and spiritual needs. To instruct, counsel, forgive, admonish, comfort, and pray for others, etc. Practical examples: talk with a classmate or friend who may be experiencing bullying, self-doubt, lack of confidence; participate in prayer at an abortion clinic, pray a novena for someone in need, send cards to the sick, establish a Rosary Group (2 or more teens) to pray the rosary weekly for the living and the dead, etc.

**PROGRAM POLICIES:**

**Class Participation** - students are expected to complete all home work assignments, e.g. reading assignments, writing papers, memorize bible verses or prayers and be able to discuss and actively participate in class discussions.

**Class Preparation -** students are required to be prepared for class and to bring their textbooks and bibles to each class.

**Faith Development** - students are expected to attend Sunday Mass regulary and must be able to demonstrate the basic Catholic beliefs, recite the Traditional Catholic prayers, e.g.Haily Mary, The Lord's Prayer, The Glory Be to the Father, Hail Holy Queen, Act of Contrition, etc.

**Assessments -**

**Periodic** - Catechists will conduct a periodicassessment to ascertainthe students content retention and understanding of the material presented. This may be verbal (but documented) or written.

**End of Year** - Catechists will conduct a final assessment to determine the students' preparedness to advance to Year Two (Level 7). This will be a written assessment.

**CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS TO BE COMPLETED IN YEAR TW0** (submission dates to be determined)

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure the completion, accuracy , and the timely submission of all confirmation requirements.

* **Confirmation Data Form** – *(source of individual’s information to be recorded in official church records)* To be completed by parent – provides pertinent information about the candidate, e.g. baptismal date and parish, candidates chosen confirmation name, sponsor’s information, etc. To obtain this form > Go to [www.saint-cyril.com](http://www.saint-cyril.com), click PREP; on drop down menu click FORMS...
* **Candidate’s Baptismal Certificate** *(not required if baptized at St. Cyril).* Please contact the parish of your child’s baptism and request the baptismal certificate and then submit to the PREP office.
* **Sponsor’s Certificate of Eligibility** – Sponsor must obtain a certificate of eligibility from their current parish which verifies they are a Catholic in good standing *(not required for St. Cyril’s parishioner )*

Sponsors must satisfy the following:

1. Be at least sixteen (16) years of age
2. Be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
3. Is willing to perform the duties of a sponsor and is approved by the parents of the candidate
4. Is not the mother or father of the candidate
5. Is true to Church teachings and doctrines

6. Is free from all impediments of canon law to fulfill the office of sponsor

* **Saints Report** – each candidate must choose a confirmation name, which is usually the name of a saint or the child’s baptismal name. The candidate is required to submit a report identifying the saint, country of origin, personal information, etc. and the reason why they chose this saint, how this person has inspired them, etc. This must be typed on 8 ½ x 11’ white paper, double spaced, and no less than two (2) full pages. The following are a few resources to obtain information regarding saints**;**  [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints) [www.newadvent.org/cathen/ahtm](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/ahtm); [www.theworkofgod/org.saints](http://www.theworkofgod/org.saints) [www.catholicforum.com/saints](http://www.catholicforum.com/saints);
* **Pastor’s Approval Request Letter** **–** it is the right and responsibility of the pastor of a parish to assure that each candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation is eligible to receive the sacrament. As such, each candidate must submit a typed letter addressed to the Pastor stating who they are, explaining why they are eligible to receive the sacrament, what the sacrament means to them, and request the pastor’s approval to be confirmed. *Do not mail, submit with other requirements.*
* **Attend Confirmation Retreat** – Parent and Candidate are required to attend St. Cyril’s Confirmation Retreat , which is typically conducted on a Saturday at 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall
* **Attend Confirmation Practice** - Candidate and Sponsor are required to participate in the Confirmation practice on the evening before the scheduled Confirmation **at 7:00 p.m**. in the church.

August 2018