

# **Supplement to Parent Handbook**

## **Sacrament of Confirmation 2027**



**St. Raymond of Peñafort**  
**Roman Catholic Church**  
**Springfield, Virginia**

### **Requirements for both 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Candidate must attend and participate in 75% of weekly scheduled Religious Education (CCD) classes. A candidate who misses one-quarter or more of scheduled classes may be required to retake the course work for that year in the following year's Religious Education program.\*
- Candidate must pass the midterm and final exams administered during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade preparation years with a minimum score of 70%. \*
- Candidate is required to perform a total of 20 hours of church, prayer and home service as outlined in this supplement; hours are to be spread out between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Candidate will turn in *Service Hours Record form* and *Service/Prayer Experience forms* in January of 8<sup>th</sup> grade but should be using the forms as they complete service hours. (**see pp. 7-8**).
- **Candidate must document Mass attendance** (October – April) by placing Mass Attendance cards in the collection basket at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Candidate must meet a 75% attendance goal for EACH year - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Candidates will receive attendance cards within the first month of class. If a candidate attends Mass at a Catholic parish other than St. Raymond's, the candidate must turn in a bulletin from that parish with a priest's or deacon's signature. They should turn that bulletin in, **with the candidate's name written on it**, to the Religious Education office.

### **Requirements specific to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Candidate must select a saint's name as a Confirmation name. Candidates are required to write and submit a report on the chosen saint. (**see pp. 5-6**) **Report must be handwritten!**

### **Requirements specific to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Candidate is **required** to participate in the Confirmation Retreat. If a candidate cannot attend the Confirmation Retreat offered by St. Raymond's parish, he/she must find and attend another Confirmation Retreat within the Diocese of Arlington during their eighth grade year and prior to the date of the Confirmation Mass. Verification of attendance from the host of the Retreat must be submitted to the Religious Education Office.
- Candidate will interview their sponsor.
- Candidate must complete *Service Hours Record form* and *Service/Prayer Experience forms*.
- Candidate will complete Gown Order Form.
- Candidate must participate in a Confirmation interview with one of the parish priests. Interview will be scheduled through the Religious Education Office.
- Candidate must turn in signed Pledge and Promise form at time of priest interview.

\* **Catholic School students** are exempt from these requirements.

- **Homeschool students** must meet all the above requirements except attending weekly CCD classes and taking CCD exams. If the homeschool curriculum does not include testing or is not an approved program, the candidate must take the CCD exams.

## Important Dates in Preparation for Confirmation 2027

All forms referenced herein are available through the Religious Education Office.

Date	Description
February 5, 2026	<b>Deadline:</b> Confirmation Registry Form due to Religious Education Office with Baptismal Certificate and Birth Certificate attached
May 1, 2026	<b>Deadline:</b> Saint Report: <i>Interviewing a Saint</i> due to Religious Education Office
September 24, 2026	<b>Deadline:</b> Confirmation Sponsor interview due to Religious Education Office
October 2026	<b>Mandatory:</b> Confirmation Retreat
January 7, 2027	<b>Deadline:</b> Service Hours Record Form and Service & Prayer Experience forms due to Religious Education Office
March 4, 2027	<b>Deadline:</b> Sponsor Eligibility Letter (from sponsor's home parish) due to Religious Education Office.  Statement of Sponsor form due to Religious Education Office
April 8, 2027	<b>Deadline:</b> Confirmation Gown Order Form due to Religious Education Office  Family Priest/ Deacon Attendance form due to Religious Education Office
April 2027	<b>Mandatory:</b> Interview with the priest - turn in Pledge and Promise form
April 25, 2027	<b>Deadline:</b> last Sunday for submission of Mass attendance cards to Religious Education Office
Spring 2027 (Date TBD)	Confirmation Rehearsal (sponsor should attend)  Confirmation

### Guidelines for selecting a Confirmation name

For Confirmation, you receive another name in addition to your Baptismal name to remind you (1) that you are placing yourself under the protection of another patron saint, who is your advocate before God; and (2) that you are to imitate the exemplary life of the new patron. You should make it a habit to pray to this saint as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Good websites that you may find helpful for selecting your Confirmation name are:

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints>

Check here to find a listing of patron saints by subject (e.g. patron saint of athletes):

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>

Note: Students may decide to choose a Confirmation saint with very limited biographical information. In this case, the student may need to select a different saint as the subject for their saint report interview. Please seek guidance from the RE office.

### Guidelines for selecting a Confirmation Sponsor

All candidates for Confirmation are presented to the bishop by a sponsor, who “is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament” (Code of Canon Law, canon 892). This is a lifelong commitment on the part of the sponsor. A sponsor should be actively living the Catholic Faith and serve as a role model for you. **Each candidate will interview his/her sponsor and turn in written responses (see Sponsor Interview Handout).**

The sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age, a practicing Catholic who will help you fulfill the responsibilities of Confirmation, and someone who has already received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. *The sponsor cannot be a parent of the candidate.*

In addition, the sponsor should meet the following qualifications:

- Practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation;
- If married, current marriage is a valid Catholic marriage;
- Is not cohabiting; that is, living together without marriage.
- Be living a life that is not publicly and/or gravely inconsistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**A PARENT MAY NOT BE A SPONSOR**, though they may present their child to the Bishop as a proxy in the event the candidate’s sponsor is unable to be present for Confirmation.

## **Saint Report: Interviewing a Saint**

**Due May 1, 2026**

The saints lived heroic lives of doing acts of service for God and others. They provide us with examples of how we can be people of service, charity, and obedience to God's commandments and people who express the Faith by what we do. Many saints also spread the Catholic faith by their words. They were willing to defend the message of Christ against the attacks of those who defame or distort the truths of God. Armed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the saints were given the strength and courage to defend the Faith, even to the point of physical death (i.e., martyrdom).

Write a newspaper article, in the form of an interview, based on your saint's life. The responses should be written in the first person (that is, use the word *I* as in; *I had a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary from a young age*). Show how the saint spread and/or defended the Faith through action and/or words, using the interview questions provided below. You should consult reference material available in your school, your parish library, from the office of the director of religious education, and online. You must **provide the citation for at least one source** at the end of your report. **Students must provide substantial, handwritten responses to each question.**

Find answers to the following questions so that your "article" will be factual and interesting:

1. What is your special calling in the Church? What kind of work do you do?
2. How have the gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthened you in the sacrament of Confirmation and helped you in your special calling in the Church? (Please make reference to 1-3 specific gifts)
3. Describe an instance where you were rejected or ridiculed by people as a result of living out your special calling in the Church.
4. What role have the corporal and spiritual works of mercy played in your efforts to spread or defend the Catholic faith? (Please make reference to 1-3 specific works of mercy)

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Choose any 1 question from the following list:

- Do any members of your religious community, family, parish, or friends encourage and support you in your good works?
- Have there been times when your work has not gone well?
- Are there occasions when you have thought that your work, in cooperation with God's grace, has gone very well?
- Have you ever thought that God has worked through you to bring others closer to Him?
- Do you ever have the opportunity to explain the Faith to those whom you are helping?

**Ask 1 original question of your own...** one which you come up with based on what you have learned about the saint. The question must be one of substance, dealing with the faith and include a substantial response.

**Prayer to Saint:** Finally, conclude with an **original (you make it up yourself) prayer to your patron saint** requesting their assistance as you prepare for Confirmation.

[Many thanks to Mr. Mike Turk for providing this outline]



**Candidates and Parents should use this checklist to review the report before turning it in to the RE Office.**

<b>Saint Interview Checklist</b>	<b>Self-Check</b>	<b>Parent-Check</b>
Substantial Answers to Questions #1-4		
Substantial Answer to Question of Choice (#5)		
Original Question and substantial answer (#6)		
Original Prayer to patron saint		
Provided <b>information for at least one source</b> used for research; Neatly handwritten and checked for spelling and grammar		

## **GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE/PRAYER HOURS for Confirmation Candidates**

The goal of service hours is to encourage young people to be “Christ-like” in their love for others. Jesus served and prayed for those in need, not to feel good about Himself, but out of love for them and in order to teach us all how to love. Service is not just a job to be done to fulfill a requirement, but something to help the student realize that serving others should be a life-long commitment. Through completion of service hours, the students will hopefully develop a sense of unity with others (solidarity). Also, it is hoped that the hours related to personal prayer will inspire the young people to develop or improve their prayer life. Each candidate for Confirmation must complete a total of 20 service hours\* spread out over the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years in the following categories:

### **1. Church Service Hours (5 hours)**

- Candidates may sign up via the Religious Education Office for service events such as First Communion Retreat, Confirmation reception, volunteering in a CCD classroom, etc.
- Other parish events are available such as Knights of Columbus dinners, the Parish Picnic, or the Senior Luncheons. The Religious Education Office will inform candidates of volunteer opportunities and will have contact information for each event/activity. Parents may also contact the parish offices to ask if service projects are available (folding, shredding, putting signs outside, stuffing bulletins, etc.).

### **2. Prayer Service Hours (10 hours)**

Ten prayer service hours are required to complete the student’s preparation for Confirmation and should be spread out over the two year (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) preparation period. (NOTE: you must participate in at least **3 different** prayer opportunities i.e. you may not complete all 10 hours praying the Rosary)

- a. Praying before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for one hour equals two (2) hours of service. (Parents will sign your service hours log once this requirement is completed).
- b. Praying the Stations of the Cross at St. Raymond’s on Friday evenings during Lent is two (2) hours of service. (Parents will sign your service hours log once this requirement is completed). Students may pray Stations privately in the church at any time for one (1) service hour.
- c. Praying the Most Holy Rosary (5 decades) alone or as a family is one (1) hour of service. (Parents will sign your service hours log once this requirement is completed).

\*The twenty hours are a minimum; students are encouraged to exceed this amount.

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- d. Praying the Novena to the Holy Spirit nine days prior to Pentecost, is (2) hours of service. This novena is traditionally prayed leading up to Pentecost, but a student may also choose to pray it at any time (prior to the service hours deadline). You may request a copy of the prayer from the Religious Education Office or you can find the prayer here: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/novena-to-the-holy-spirit-for-the-seven-gifts-309> (Parents will sign your service hours log once this requirement is completed).
- e. Students may select another novena to pray, such as one to their confirmation saint, one to Mary or St. Joseph, or to prepare for an important feast day. Please **contact the religious education office for pre-approval of the novena**; our office can also provide various novenas to use. (Parents will sign your service hours log once this requirement is completed).

3. Home service hours (5 hours) spread out between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years.

- a. Assist a parent/grandparent/sibling/relative - without being asked - with a **chore you would not normally do** (preparing dinner, washing windows, weeding a garden, cleaning a room other than your own, making sibling(s) lunch for school, etc.)
- b. Assist a neighbor – mowing the lawn, taking out trash, shoveling snow, weeding a garden, washing windows, babysitting, etc.

The parent or neighbor witnessing the service should sign your service hours log.



## **Dress Code for Confirmation Mass**

Confirmation candidates wear robes for the Confirmation Mass, but there is a dress code.

**Girls** should wear modest dresses or a dress blouse and skirt (hemlines need to be knee length or longer and shoulders must be covered) and dress shoes (no athletic shoes, sandals, sneakers, or flip flops). Girls should not wear pants. Halter tops, tank tops, midriff shirts, spaghetti straps, or clothing that may be considered immodest should not be worn.

Jewelry and make-up should be tasteful and kept to a minimum.

**Boys** should wear a dress shirt and tie (sport coat or suit optional - may be cumbersome under the robe), dress pants, and dress shoes (no athletic shoes, sneakers, sandals, or flip flops).

**Sponsors are expected to respect the dress code, also.**

## Personal Checklist

### Date Turned into the RE Office

#### ***1<sup>st</sup> Year (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) Requirements:***

- **Baptismal Certificate** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Birth Certificate** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Confirmation Registry Form** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Saint Report** \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Year (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) Requirements***

- **Sponsor Interview** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Service Hours Record Form** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Prayer Service Experience Form** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Church Service Experience Form** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Sponsor Eligibility Letter** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Statement of Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Confirmation Gown Order Form** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Pledge and Promise Form\*** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Interview with parish priest** \_\_\_\_\_

\*to be turned in at time of interview with priest

