



**MASS JOURNAL:
Preparing for
The Sacrament of Confirmation
Part 1**



Diocese of Peterborough



Name: _____

Parish: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

This Mass Journal is to be submitted at the third catechetical session.



Dear Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

As you prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation, we, your family and parish family are filled with joy and we journey *with* you as you prepare to celebrate this special sacrament. The sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian Initiation. In the sacrament of Confirmation, we are strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be true witnesses of the faith in word and deed.

Catechism 1303:

From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";*
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;*
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;*
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;*
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:*

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which was instituted by Jesus Christ when he conferred this sacrament on his apostles at Pentecost, your bond with Christ and his Church is strengthened.

When you use this Mass Journal to reflect upon your faith, it can be like a compass that guides you and reveals God who is at work in your life as you walk with Christ. I look forward to conferring the Holy Spirit upon you in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

His Excellency Most Reverend Daniel Miehm
Bishop for the Diocese of Peterborough



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the role of your parish?

The whole parish community shares the responsibility for preparing and supporting our young people and their families for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Together, we as community, discover anew what this sacrament means to all of us.

What is the role of the parent?

Parents are the primary educators in the faith. They are spiritual caregivers for their children when they support and participate in all parish liturgies, information sessions, and school initiatives.

What is the role of the catechist?

Catechists are called to assist in the faith formation and instruction as outlined in the program and to support all parish initiatives.

What is the role of the school?

Parish, home and school play vital roles. The school religion curriculum as taught by our teachers assists both the home and parish in the understanding of the sacrament.

Will Candidates for Confirmation have a sponsor?

Yes. The sponsor is a minimum of sixteen years of age, a Catholic who has been Confirmed and received their First Eucharist and is not the candidate's parent.

Are students required to pick a Confirmation name?

The church prefers that the candidate chooses her/his baptismal name. The Confirmation name is the name by which the candidates will be presented to the Bishop at the Sacrament of Confirmation Mass. Candidates may select the name of the saint they researched for their Confirmation Saint Project.

What will the candidates wear on Confirmation day?

All candidates will wear a red robe or gown on Confirmation day as an outward sign of receiving the Holy Spirit.

THE EUCHARIST

For Catholics, the source and summit of our sacramental life is the Eucharist.

- The Eucharist is both thanksgiving table and altar of sacrifice. In the Paschal Mystery, Jesus sacrifices his life on the Cross so that we may one day enter the one eternal banquet in heaven.
- Jesus Christ is present to us at Mass in the Word proclaimed, the Eucharist – Body and Blood of Christ, the Priest who acts in the person of Christ and the Faithful who are gathered as the Body of Christ.
- Catholics have the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. The Holy Days of Obligation in Canada are Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.
- The requirements for the fruitful reception of Holy Communion are unity of life (being in a state of grace), unity of faith (belief, practicing RC) and fasting (food) for one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

The Mass is divided into 4 parts: Introductory Rite, the Liturgy of the Word, the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rite.

Place numbers beside the parts within these sections of the Mass in their proper order.

Opening Rite

- _____ Opening Hymn
- _____ Welcoming everyone to the Liturgy
- _____ The Procession
- _____ Greeting by the Presider
- _____ The Sign of the Cross
- _____ The Gloria
- _____ Penitential Rite (the forgiveness of sins)
- _____ The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

- _____ The Gospel
- _____ The Old Testament Reading
- _____ The Homily
- _____ The Psalm
- _____ The Gospel Acclamation
- _____ The New Testament Reading
- _____ The Petitions

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- _____ The Holy, Holy, Holy
- _____ The Collection
- _____ The Procession with the Gifts
- _____ The first part of the Eucharistic Prayer
- _____ The Epiclesis
- _____ The Words of Institution
- _____ The Our Father
- _____ The Lamb of God
- _____ The second part of the Eucharistic Prayer
- _____ The Communion
- _____ The Sign of Peace
- _____ The Communion Song

Concluding Rites

- _____ Final Procession
- _____ The Concluding Prayer
- _____ The Announcements
- _____ The Final Blessing



MASS JOURNAL REFLECTION #1

Date: _____

Time: _____

Church: _____

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

Who was the main celebrant or presider? (Name of Priest who led the celebration of the Mass)

What in particular do you remember about Mass? (e.g. the vestment colours, readings, songs, or something said during the homily)

What did Jesus say or do in the Gospel that was proclaimed?

How can you take the gospel message and teaching and make the message applicable to your own life?

MASS JOURNAL REFLECTION #2

Date: _____ Time: _____

Church: _____

**...The fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control.**

Galatians 5:22-23

What was today's Gospel reading? (*Cite book, chapter and verses*) How did the Homily relate to today's readings?

During the Eucharistic Prayer we give thanks and praise to God. What are we grateful for as Christians?

How did the music contribute to the Mass?

What was the message of the opening song?

Did you sing? How does singing support praying?

The Church calls us to "active participation." Why?

MASS JOURNAL REFLECTION #3

Date: _____ Time: _____

Church: _____

For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him; therefore, the Amen from us also Goes through him to God for glory. But the one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God; he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22

Other than the priest, who else processed in during the Entrance song?

Did they carry anything? What was it?

Which reading from today, including the Psalm Response, could you relate to most, and why?

How did the Homily relate to things going on in your life? (*At home, at school, with friends, in the world, in your local community, at your church*)

Which song did you enjoy the most? Why?

MASS JOURNAL REFLECTION #4

Date: _____ Time: _____

Church: _____

"Ah, Lord God!" I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord answered me, "Say not, 'I am too young.' To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, "See, I place my words in your mouth!"

Jeremiah 1:6-9

What does the scripture above speak to you in your life?

What was today's Psalm Response? Was it sung or read? How could these words help you during the week?

What was today's First Reading? What was its main message?

Who did the community pray for in the petitions? Were any petitions connected with happenings in the world today?

What was the Recessional or Closing song, and what was its message?

MASS JOURNAL REFLECTION #5

Date: _____ Time: _____
Church: _____

For so the Lord has commanded us, "I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth." The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region.

Acts 13:47-49

What was today's second reading and did any words or phrases stand out for you?

Was there a "Gloria" at today's Mass? If not, why not? If so, how will you glorify God this week?

What was the message of the homily today?

Did you say the creed with the whole faith community? How did it feel to pray together with everyone?

Holy Spirit, Come

Holy Spirit, come and set upon me the fruits of your Spirit, that I may become the hands, the feet, and the voice of Jesus Christ in the present world.

From this moment I open my heart to you that you may fill me with immeasurable love of God.

By this gift, all who meet me, whether they are lost or have not yet found their way to you, shall come to know and love you.

Lord, my God, you have created me uniquely in your own image that I may always know my incomparable worth.

You took great care in giving me special gifts to serve not only you, Lord, but those around me. This seal, this covenant, this promise is for eternity.

This day I say to you, God, "I choose, I believe, and I will honour the truth and live by it." This journey now laid before me may be difficult at times. While I will try my hardest to never lose sight of you I will rely on the Holy Spirit to guide me back should I stray.

My eternal home is with you, Lord, and through the example of Jesus Christ your Son, Mary the great mother of God, all the angels and saints, as well as the faithful members of the Church including my family and friends who have supported me on this journey, I know I will succeed in serving and loving you. I will never be abandoned.

Your love is clear in the passion and achieved in the resurrection of Jesus.

I will go forth today, a young Confirmed Catholic, and not be afraid to set the world aflame with Christ's love.

Amen!

