

St. John Henry Newman Parish

2025 Sacrament of Confirmation Information

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Over the next year, you will be preparing to receive the third Sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation. It is important to discern your readiness and pray for this decision. The desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is a grace that comes from God. It should be received when you are ready.

Your Catholic journey of faith began at Baptism. This is the first Sacrament of Initiation. Here, you were freed from Original Sin and reborn as a child of God. Your parents and godparents promised to raise you in the Catholic Faith.

You received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each time this Sacrament is received, God's grace is restored, and all sins are forgiven. Our Catholic Faith teaches us that we must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a minimum once a year, but we are strongly encouraged to receive this Sacrament much more frequently.

You received the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the second Sacrament of Initiation. As Catholics, we are called to attend Mass every Sunday and on holy days of obligation. We even have the availability to receive this Sacrament daily. Every time you receive Communion, you strengthen your intimate union with Christ.

Now, you are preparing for Confirmation. This is the third Sacrament of Initiation, and with completion of the Baptismal grace. You will be more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with the strength of the Holy Spirit. At Confirmation, you will be sealed as a witness for Christ. You will be called to spread and defend the faith by words and actions. This is your decision.

After Confirmation, learning about the Faith does not end. Now, it is your responsibility to continue to learn about the faith, attend Mass, and receive the sacraments regularly.

May God guide you and bless you always,

Fr. Kenneth Anderson
Pastor
franderson@newmanparish.com

Mr. Shawn Lucas
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
slucas@newmanparish.com

In this packet you will find the following:

- Important dates for Confirmation and forms with specific deadlines. It is your responsibility to keep track of these forms and to pay attention to the indicated deadlines. This includes:
 - Sponsor Information Form
 - Confirmation Information Form
 - Confirmation Name and Reflection Essay
 - Letter of Intention to the Bishop (Bishop Robert Lombardo)
- Guidelines for Service Projects with Reflections and Service Hour Forms

Please fill out a different service hour form for each different type of service

you complete. You are asked to complete a minimum of 25 hours with at least **5 hours in each of the following categories: Family, Church, and Community.**

Prayers, Teachings and Traditions of the Catholic Faith:

You should be able to recite the following:

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Act of Contrition

Apostles Creed and/or Nicene Creed

You should be educated on and aware of:

Holy Days of Obligation

The Seven Sacraments

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Ten Commandments

Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Important Dates on the Journey to Confirmation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
September 15, 2024	St. Athanasius Church	Catechetical Sunday Mass
October 6, 2024	4:30 pm- 8:30 pm – St. A’s	Community Night #1
October 12, 2024	Time TBD – Chicago Marathon	Service Project
December 7, 2024	7:00 am – Mission OLA Pantry	Parish Service Project
December 8, 2024	4:30 pm- 8:30 pm – St. A’s	Community Night #2
January 26, 2025	4:30 pm- 8:30 pm – St. A’s	Community Night #3
February 8, 2025	2:00-8:30 pm – Queen of Angels	Confirmation Retreat
March 9, 2025	4:30 pm- 8:30 pm – St. A’s	Community Night #4
April 5, 2025	7:00-8:00 pm - St. A’s Church	Confirmation Rehearsal
April 6, 2025	11:30 am - St. A’s Church	Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation Attire: Candidates and Sponsors should wear “Sunday Best.”

Males: Suit and tie, or shirt and tie with dress pants, and dress shoes. NO GYM SHOES.

Females: Dress with covered shoulders – knee length, or knee-length skirt and blouse/sweater,
Or dress pants with blouse or sweater. Dress shoes. NO GYM SHOES & NO FLIP-FLOPS

Important Due Dates

August 30, 2024	Sacrament Request Form (online form)
September 6, 2024	Baptismal Certificate (email copy to Mr. Shawn Lucas)
October 4, 2024	Sponsor Information & Confirmation Information Forms
November 1, 2024	Confirmation Name & Reflection (MUST be typed out)
March 21, 2025	Letter of Intention to Bishop Grob
April 3, 2025	Service hours completed with 6 Reflections on Service Projects – Instructions enclosed

****Please write legibly or type your reflections****

Reflections should be turned into your classroom teacher

Community Nights

During the 2023-2024 Confirmation preparation year St. John Henry Newman Parish implemented Community Nights as part of the required formation for our 2nd year Confirmation Students. Community Nights consist of gathering as a full Confirmation Class to celebrate and worship at Mass together, followed by a night of fun activities and formation. For the 2024-2025 Confirmation Class the 4 Community Nights will take place on the St. Athanasius campus starting with 4:30 pm Sunday Mass. A Missionary team of young adults (college aged) from NET Ministry will be leading each of our Community Night sessions which will allow a nice flow of formation, growth, and Catholic witness throughout the school year. The 4 Community Nights are scheduled (see above) for Sunday October 6th, Sunday December 8th, Sunday January 26th, and Sunday March 9th.

Confirmation Day Retreat

A Confirmation retreat is part of the required formation for ALL Confirmation students each year as part of the guidelines and preparations set forth by the Archdiocese of Chicago. Parishes can structure their retreat and formation as they see fit to ensure quality formation is offered for this pivotal time in the Confirmation student's life. The SJHN Confirmation Class for 2025 will have their retreat on Saturday, February 8, 2025. The retreat will be hosted by Queen of Angels Parish in Chicago and led by The Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, a vibrant, young, and growing community of religious sisters based in Humbolt Park, Chicago. Details for the day are still in the works but please plan on a full day of formation, prayer (Mass and Adoration) and Fun!

Service Projects

The office of Lifelong Formation at SJHN Parish is helping to organize optional service projects to help our students and families find ways to volunteer and serve within their busy schedules.

Sunday, October 12, 2024 – Chicago Marathon Aid Station – Details TBD

Saturday, December 7, 2024 – Mission of Our Lady of Angels Food and Clothing Pantry
Depart SJA campus at 7:15 am. Volunteer from 8-11:30am followed by a brief time with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. Return to SJA by 1:00 pm.

Other Potential Service Projects – Feed my Starving Children, Connection to the HomelessParent Volunteers needed to help organize additional service projects. Reach out to the Parish Office to book any facility needs for service projects.

Sponsor

In ancient times, when most new Church members were adult converts, the sponsor played an important and practical role. He or she saw that the convert was properly instructed, often giving the instructions personally. Likewise, the sponsor attended to the convert's spiritual growth in much the capacity of a spiritual director. The sponsor helped the person develop a prayer life and correct moral faults. Equally important, the sponsor introduced the convert to the other members of the community, its fellowship, and its ministry. In this way, the sponsor's role continued after the initiation ceremony so that the new member would not only feel at home but become firmly established within the community. This same practice holds true today in the RCIA (Rite to Christian Initiation for Adults) program.

There is a need to reestablish the more practical and significant role of a sponsor. The sponsor ideally should be chosen because he or she is an exemplary, active member in the local faith community. This sponsor should be equipped to oversee the candidate's catechetical preparation and spiritual development. The sponsor should also be able to guide the newly initiated in assuming an active role in the life and fellowship of the faith community. In a real sense, the sponsor's role becomes just as serious after Confirmation as prior to it.

Ideally, the candidate's Baptismal sponsor (godparent) continues his/her work as a guide by being the Confirmation sponsor as well. However, you do not have to choose a Baptismal sponsor as your Confirmation sponsor. To be practical, remember that the sponsor is to be present to the candidate and with them during preparation. Please remember and see the importance of keeping this communication even after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is not something you receive and forget about but is another beginning in your faith life.

The Church requirements for sponsors are:

- Sponsor must be practicing Catholic (other than a parent) who has sufficient maturity for this role (sponsor should be at least 16 years of age)
- Sponsor must be fully initiated Catholic (has received Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation) who lives a Christian way of life
- Sponsor should be an individual who takes an active interest in the Confirmand's faith

Please remember to pray about this decision. Once you have chosen your sponsor, complete and return the Sponsor Information Form to your teacher/catechist. We ask that you choose your sponsor in the first half of the year so that your sponsor can be involved in the preparation process. It is important to include the name and address of your sponsor on the form, as well as where they were confirmed

Suggestions for Confirmation Sponsors

In short, the sponsor reflects the following actions through his/her lifestyle, while inviting the candidate to reflect these actions as well:

- Being in a relationship with Jesus
- Celebrating that relationship through involvement in our Church family
- Being of service to others and sharing one's gifts and talents with the community

Suggestions for periodically connecting with and affirming your candidate:

- Make it a point, when seeing the candidate casually, simply to converse about his/her experience of the Confirmation program. You might ask about what was discussed in the last class.
- Find an opportunity to describe to the candidate what your own experience of Confirmation was like.
- Attend Mass together and perhaps talk about the Mass, Readings, homily, etc.
- If you find yourself thinking about the candidate during the process, consider the possibility that the Spirit is prompting you to contact him/her.
- If you and the candidate feel comfortable doing so, find opportunities to just enjoy one another's company like movies, dinner, concerts, athletic events, or just hanging out.
- Invite the candidate to participate with you in ministry.
- Talk about your difficulties in your faith journey.
- Pray for the candidate and his/her faith growth.
- Remind the candidate that Confirmation is not an end, but a beginning in the faith journey and the importance to continue growing in faith and remaining involved even after Confirmation.
- Encourage candidate to attend weekly Mass and other parish/youth events, and to make a regular prayer time

Sponsor Information Form

Name of Candidate _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Address:

Sponsor Phone Number: _____

Sponsor Email: _____

Church where Sponsor was confirmed:

Church Name: _____

City/State: _____

Current Parish Sponsor attends/is registered:

Church Name: _____

City/State: _____

**ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN PARISH CONFIRMATION INFORMATION FORM
for Confirmation 2025**

Note: All names must match Baptism Certificates

Date Submitted: _____

BAPTISMAL NAME _____

CONFIRMATION NAME _____

AGE _____ (At Confirmation)

BAPTISM CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

BAPTISMAL DATE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

PARENT NAMES: FATHER (FIRST) _____ (LAST) _____

MOTHER (FIRST) _____ (MAIDEN) _____

SPONSOR NAME _____

SPONSOR - Current Parish (Name & City/State)

Accepting a Confirmation Name

There are several people in the Bible who received a name after being changed in a remarkable way or after receiving a new mission from God. Some examples include:

- Abram when God made a covenant with him, his name changed to Abraham
- Simon after he declared that Jesus was the Messiah, his name changed to Peter
- Saul after his conversion, his name was changed to Paul

When you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, your life will be changed forever, and you will receive a new mission from God (to spread the faith by word and deed). It is at Confirmation that you are making your faith your own. Perhaps God has a new name for you too.

When you accept a new name, it is to be a name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. The saint whose name you receive will serve as a patron and model for you. You will have a special relationship with this saint, and this saint can intercede and pray for you.

You keep your Baptismal name (first or middle name if it is that of a recognized saint) to express the relationship that exists between your Baptism and Confirmation.

Spend time in prayer. Once you accept your Confirmation name, you will need to find out more about the life of that saint and complete the following information. There is much information available on saints in saint books and on the internet. Please type your written response. Due Friday, November 1, 2024.

Your Name

Saint's Name

Name or derivative you will receive to honor this special patron (Ex: Shawn "Stephen" Lucas)

Saint's Feast Day

Information about the saint's family, occupation, life/death

Virtues this saint practiced in life

What attracted you to this saint

How the saint will help you grow in your faith even after Confirmation

Ask your parents how they decided on your name at birth. Briefly share

Letter of Intention to the Bishop

On a separate piece of paper, please type a letter to the Bishop stating why you want to become a fully initiated Catholic through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Letter is the official way to express your desire for the Sacrament. This letter will be mailed to the Bishop. Please take this assignment seriously. Here is the format and outline:

Greeting

Dear Bishop Grob,

Body of Letter

Introduce yourself – tell something about your family, your background, your interests

Request the Sacrament – give several reasons why you want to be Confirmed

Mention the Confirmation name you chose, and why you selected that Saint.

Explain how you have prepared for the Sacrament (prayer life, service, celebration of other Sacraments, etc.)

Explain how you will continue to carry out your life of service (make Confirmation real and alive in the future)

Conclusion

Conclude the letter and sign your full name

Guidelines for Service Projects

Why are you asked to complete service hours for Confirmation?

- Joyfully serving others is one of the ways we show that we are Catholic. Completing service hours is not “just for Confirmation,” but one of the ways we as Christians and as Catholics are called to follow Christ. As a baptized Catholic, you will soon be fully initiated into a Church that expects you to love and serve others.

How many service hours must I complete?

- You are asked to complete at least 25 hours.
- You should not receive payment for your volunteer service.
- Service hours ideally should break down to 10 hours to community, 10 hours to Parish Community, 5 hours to family. What would be some examples of service opportunities in each of the categories?
- **Family Service** – service starts in the family. This is going beyond usual chores. You can do something individually for someone in your family or complete a family service project.
 - Helping with yard work cheerfully
 - Cleaning out the garage without complaining
 - Baby-sitting for free for parents or aunts and uncles
 - Visiting or helping an older relative
- **Community Service** – we are part of the community and can use opportunities to promote the Gospel.
 - Volunteering at a nursing home/hospital
 - Teaching dance lessons
 - Help coach a sports team
 - Work with charitable organizations
 - Help with a soup kitchen
- **Church Service** – we are all part of the Church family, so by volunteering in the Church, you are helping to strengthen the Church, grow in your faith, and help others grow in their faith. You can do this individually, with your family, or with a small group.
 - Singing or playing an instrument in the Church choir
 - Helping with any of the various ministries in the church (ex: soup kitchen)
 - Altar Serving at School Masses and Saturday/Sunday Mass
 - Teaching Children’s Liturgy of the Word on Sunday Mornings (9:00 am or 10:15 am Masses during the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the Month).

In the Service of Others

Signing up for a service event:

- Be sure to sign-up or call to volunteer for a service activity.
- If you have questions about what to wear, what time to show up, where to meet, etc., contact the person in charge of the service opportunity before the day of the event.
- Only sign up for an activity if you are committed to serving. The organizers of the activity are counting on your help.
- You can sign up with a friend, but do not bring a friend unless that friend is signed up to help also.
- If you sign up with a friend, remember you are there for the service of others, so interact with others and put socializing out with your friend as secondary. Be a model of good behavior.
- Remember, you are going there to serve – no one owes you service hours; you are to earn the service hours.

When you arrive:

- Bring a service form with you.
- Introduce yourself to the person in charge and let the person know you are here to help.
- Explain that you are working to earn service hours and will have a form that you would appreciate a signature on when the activity is complete.
- Ask what you can do to help.

While you are at a service site:

- Be polite and treat everyone with kindness and respect.
- Look for things you can do that are helpful.
- When you finish a task, politely ask for another task.
- Follow instructions.
- If you get frustrated or bored, pray. Offer this time of service up to God.

Before you leave:

- Help clean up
- Ask someone to sign your volunteer form
- Say “thank you”

Service Project Reflections

You should complete 6 reflections by April 3, 2025.

Do not wait until the last minute to get started!

As part of your preparation for Confirmation, we ask you to complete Acts of Service and reflect on what you learned from the experience. As followers of Jesus, we are supposed to follow His example. Christian service is a lifelong process. A process that can begin at any age! When we think of others and act on their behalf, we learn from experience. Some Acts of Service will take hours or days (or may even be spread over several months), other acts may only take 5 or 10 minutes. Service is not about counting hours, but learning to live as Christ did, caring for others. Each time you record an Act of Service, you will be reflecting on what the experience taught you.

Each Reflection should be based on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We encourage you to try different Works of Mercy when seeking service opportunities. Our hope is that each student will learn to go through their life thinking about how they can be of service to others just like Jesus came to serve and not be served. Look through the list of Works of Mercy and be aware of things that you can do in many of the 'categories.'

We want you to write reflectively about:

- a) what you did
- b) how much time you spent
- c) what you learned.

Answers like "I learned a lot" or "This was a good experience" are NOT reflective answers. They are short, unthoughtful answers! We expect you to tell us what happened and what it meant to you!

Do not wait until the last moment to work on your reflection. If you try to do all six reflections at once, you will feel burned out and not get much from this assignment. The goal of reflecting on your service experience is to help you build skills that will allow you to continue to grow in your Christian faith beyond Confirmation.

Please submit your reflections to your classroom teacher(s).

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY- caring about the physical needs of others!

1. To feed the hungry.

Everyone needs food for their body. It is an act of love to help others to obtain their bodily nourishment, especially those in greatest need. [Examples: Bringing food to the poor, donating money to buy food for the poor, sharing your food or candy, helping to shop for groceries, helping with the cooking, doing dishes, waiting on company.]

2. To give drink to the thirsty What is said of food also applies to drink. [Examples: Giving someone a drink on a hot day, giving the baby its bottle, pouring drinks at the table, lifting a young child to get a drink at a water fountain.]

3. To clothe the naked.

Everyone needs clothing for warmth, protection, modesty, and dignity. It is an act of love to help others obtain clothing, especially those who need help. [Examples: Bringing clothes to a needy family, sharing outgrown clothes with another family, bringing clothes to a clothing drive, helping a young child get dressed, helping with laundry at home.]

4. To visit the imprisoned.

Those in prison and many other persons and their families suffer hindrances or dangers to freedom. Helping them, visiting them, or protecting them is an act of love. [Examples: fighting for humane treatment for the imprisoned, helping to care for the families of the imprisoned, protecting a little child from a bigger child.]

5. To shelter the homeless.

Everyone needs shelter. Some people live in cardboard homes; some people live in homes made of discarded materials; many people are homeless. To help the homeless obtain shelter or to preserve it is an act of love. [Examples: Bringing others to your home in times of fire, floods, or other disaster. Working at or supporting a homeless shelter. Helping to take care of the house, dusting the furniture, making the beds, cleaning the floor, and cutting the grass.]

6. To visit the sick.

Helping sick people in any way is an act of love. [Examples: Visiting someone in the hospital or nursing home. Visiting someone who is sick at home or the elderly who are shut ins. Running an errand for an elderly or sick person. Reading to the sick or elderly.]

7. To bury the dead.

It is an act of love to show respect for the bodies of the dead, since during life, they were temples of the Holy Spirit and received the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

[Examples: Going to funerals and wakes. Treating cemeteries with respect. Cutting the grass on a grave. Putting flowers on it.]

“I can’t do things like visit people in jails!”

Ah! Here is your chance to think creatively!

For example, you can do some research on prisoners of conscience, held because of their political beliefs. Write a letter to their government asking for their freedom. Find out about why the Catholic church opposes the death penalty. Check with the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty (www.ncadp.org) to see if there are letter writing campaigns to governors on behalf of prisoners awaiting execution. Even if you cannot go to jails, you can be aware of issues of justice and injustice in our world and get involved by making your opinion known. There are other ways to get involved other than to do direct service. You can give money that YOU EARN, for example.

Direct service is important, and you should do things that directly help people, but it is not the only avenue for being a disciple. What about things like just helping around the neighborhood? Those count too! For example, if you rake the lawn of an elderly neighbor, in a way it is visiting the ill. (Or at least letting your youthful strength substitute for old creaky bones!)

“What if I am still stuck about what to do?”

Ask your sponsor for ideas. Ask your family. Ask your teachers. Ask the parish staff.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY- caring for the spiritual and psychological needs of others

1. To admonish the sinner.

It is an act of love to try to make another realize how bad sin is. We can let him know indirectly, especially by our example, that we do not approve of his actions. [Examples: help them understand why something is wrong, suggest they go to Confession or talk to a priest, help them think about the cause and effect of their words or actions]

2. To instruct the ignorant.

It is an act of love to help others in one way or another to learn the truths they need to know to save their souls. [Examples: If you are good at something be willing to teach that skill to others, share what you know about your faith with your friends or younger siblings and cousins, help tutor a classmate or sibling]

3. To counsel the doubtful.

It is an act of love to help others to be certain about what they should do to love and serve God. [Examples: be willing to explain things, pray for people who are making tough decisions, pray for people with suicidal thoughts]

4. To comfort the sorrowful.

It is an act of love to help another person in any kind of sorrow [Examples: visit someone who is sad and spend time with them, pray with someone who is sad, comfort others by baking cookies, making a meal, or sending a card]

5. To bear wrongs patiently.

It is an act of love to accept the consequences of another's thoughtlessness or carelessness and to suffer inconveniences which another should bear. This is the example given to us by Jesus who suffered for us all when he was innocent. [Examples: do not help people expecting to be thanked, be kind and understanding when someone makes a mistake, be patient with others- especially our siblings!]

6. To forgive all injuries.

It is an act of deep love to forgive all those who have injured us in any way, even deliberately and with malice. Christ demands that His followers have great love and forgiveness for one another and even for our enemies in imitation of His own forgiveness of us and of His enemies as He hung on the cross. [Examples: always be willing to forgive others as Christ forgives us, try not to hold grudges, give second chances]

7. To pray for the living and the dead.

Sharing in the communion of saints demands that we pray for everyone. [Examples: pray for people going through tough times, ask your friends how you can pray for them, pray when you drive past a cemetery, pray as a firetruck or ambulance passes by, pray for your deceased family and friends- get Masses offered in their name]

Pope Francis' 8th Work of Mercy

Show Mercy to our Common Home

'As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for " a grateful contemplation of God's world" ...

'As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires "simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness"... - Pope Francis

How do we experience God in Nature?

How do you care for the environment? Your community? Your neighborhood?

How do we show care for all of God's Creation?

St. John Henry Newman Parish- Evanston, IL
SERVICE HOURS LOG- CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Due 1 week prior to Confirmation 2025
with 6 reflections written or typed on separate sheet(s) of paper

Candidate's Name: _____

Minimum of 25 Service Hours with minimum of 5 hours in the following categories:

Parish Community Family

What service did you perform?	Where did you do the service?	Whom were you helping? Parish, Community, or Family	# of Hours	Date of Service	Supervisor Signature

*If needed please use reverse TOTAL HOURS _____