Throughout the coming school year, you will be given a number of details regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be administered in the spring of this school year.

Every student is responsible for completing and submitting the Confirmation Information Sheet by January 15th to the Religious Education Office. Parents and students should read through the following pages in order to determine how to expedite the completion of the material in the timeliest manner. Some matters need to be attended to immediately (Sponsor Eligibility Certificate and Letter Requesting the Sacrament), while other matters require constant attention (service projects).

Please feel free to contact the Religious Education Office if you have any questions regarding this booklet. Good luck to you this year as you begin your formal preparation for this important Sacrament.
CONFIRMATION....WHAT IS IT?

Confirmation is a Sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon his apostles at Pentecost. It is a Sacrament that celebrates God’s special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized. It is the final Sacrament of Initiation to the Catholic faith and may only be received once in a lifetime.

GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These gifts are:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Reverence of God
- Piety

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

- Charity
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Long suffering
- Mildness
- Chastity
- Modesty
- Self restraint
- Faith
Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates:

In the coming months, we will all participate together on a Journey of the Spirit. During this period of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the cooperation of parents and candidates is absolutely essential. We have prepared this booklet to serve as a guide for the candidates and parents.

The challenge ahead is exciting and demanding. In order to strengthen our enthusiasm for the Spirit, a number of basic tasks and a variety of activities are recommended. This will require a forthright commitment from the candidate and ongoing support from the parents.

The duty to guide your children along the sacramental path is a concern to all Catholic parents. To date you have formed and nurtured the spirit of faith through your life example, religious instruction and the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and Holy Eucharist.

Once again, you are being called upon to actively participate in the next step of your faith mission – the preparation of your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Your role now takes on an added dimension because you are called upon to allow your child the right of free choice in the decision to be confirmed. This does not ease your obligation, but rather requires that you share as partners with them as they prepare for this significant event.

On behalf of the Confirmation Team, may God continue to bless you and your family.

Kim Lorentzen
Director of Religious Education
OUTLINE OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION:

Spiritual Journey: As you know, your upcoming Confirmation is related to your Baptism. It gives you a chance to restate what your loving and believing parents shared with you at infancy, a life in the Spirit. Your preparation therefore, must be on many levels.

Readiness for Candidacy: The Rite of Confirmation calls upon the pastor to testify before the Bishop that a candidate is properly disposed to receive the sacrament. Therefore, a good knowledge of the Catholic faith through class attendance and class participation is necessary. Participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and a life style that reflects Gospel values is essential. Weekly Mass participation is a must.

Mass Attendance: All Students are required to attend the assigned class masses Students will sit with their families in the church and may leave once Mass is over. In addition to 3 class masses, each student is required to attend 9 Masses throughout the school year. (September – April Each student will write a few notes based on the Priest/Deacon’s homily which will be signed after Mass by the Priest.

Introduction of Candidates: On Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 10:00 AM Mass, the candidates will present themselves to the parish community of The Church of Epiphany. The candidates will promise to actively participate in their preparation for the sacrament. Parents and the assembled parish community will be invited to pledge their support for the candidates.

The Service Experience: Each candidate is expected to bear witness to the Gospel message by carrying out community service. This should involve service to the Church community and to the broader community. Such an experience is concrete action(s) performed in answer to the Gospel’s challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. It is hoped that such an experience will be the beginning of a lifelong effort on the part of the candidate to be a witness to the Gospel message. Candidates are expected to complete at least twelve (12) hours of service. Please note that six (6) of those hours are already accounted for provided the candidate participates in one bake sale and the Senior Valentine Luncheon. Therefore, the candidate must complete six (6) additional hours on their own.

Interview: Parents and the Candidate will be interviewed at a designated time in April. The interview is designed to determine the readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in a special ceremony in the spring of 2016. Parents and sponsors are encouraged to join the candidate for this grace filled service.

Retreat: As a culmination of the preparation for the sacrament celebration, an evening of prayer, reflection, and pizza is planned for the spring. All Confirmation candidates are required to participate in this Retreat.
**Letter of Application and Intent:** Each candidate is required to write and submit a typewritten formal request to Father Mike in his/her own words. The request should include:

- a description of what he/she is doing to prepare for this Sacrament;
- a statement of what he/she plans to do in the future to live out this commitment;
- a formal request for the sacrament.

The Letter of Application is to be handed into the parish office no later than Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

**Requesting the Sacrament**

You are free to respond to God’s call to live your faith more deeply – to worship, witness, and serve as a confirmed Christian.  If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to your pastor stating your desire.  Follow these guidelines:

**The letter should be typed**

**Address your letter as follows:**

To:  Father Michael Santangelo  
Church of Epiphany  
615 Thiele Road  
Brick, New Jersey 08724

**Greeting:** Begin your letter with the greeting:  Dear Father Mike:

**Body of Letter**

**Paragraph 1:**  
Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, background, interests, etc.

**Paragraph 2:**  
Request the Sacrament:Give several reasons why you want to be confirmed.

**Paragraph 3:**  
Explain how you plan to prepare for the reception of this sacrament, be specific, for example: Liturgy - Mass, your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service for other exercised at home, within the parish, and/or within your community.
Paragraph 4:
Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make you Confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future. How do plan on remaining a practicing Catholic?

Paragraph 5:
Confirmation Name – Briefly explain why you chose your Confirmation name and why it is important to you.

Conclusion: Conclude the letter and write your complete signature below your actual signature

YOUR LETTER MUST BE HANDED INTO THE PARISH OFFICE
NO LATHER THAN, DECEMBER 15, 2016

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March, 2016</td>
<td>7th Confirmation Parent/Candidate Meeting - <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3, 2016 – (9:00 AM)</td>
<td><em>St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive (Service Hours Available)</em> Please check bulletin for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15 &amp; 16, 2016</td>
<td>8th Grade Bake Sale &amp; Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20, 2016 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Presentation of Candidates 10:00 AM Mass - <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3 &amp; 4, 2016</td>
<td>8th Grade Bake Sale &amp; Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15, 2016</td>
<td><strong>Deadline for Letter of Application</strong> to Father Mike. To be submitted to the Parish Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15, 2017</td>
<td><strong>Deadline</strong> for Confirmation Information Sheet, Sponsor Eligibility Certificate, and $50.00 to be submitted to the Religious Ed Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2017</td>
<td>8th Grade Mass: 10:00 AM - <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 2017</td>
<td>Senior Valentine Luncheon in APR – <strong>Service Project.</strong> 10:00 to 3:00 PM (Catechist will arrange schedule)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22, 2017</td>
<td><strong>Confirmation Retreat</strong> 4:30 – 8:00 in APR <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30, 2017</td>
<td>Deadline for Service Hours Log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2, 2017</td>
<td>8th Grade Mass: 8:00 AM – <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17, 2017</td>
<td><strong>Confirmation Gown Measurement.</strong> This will be done in class at VMMS. Please send in a $22.50 check with your child to class, payable to “School Uniform Shop”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2, 2017</td>
<td>Parent Meeting 5:45 -6:30 Required at Church (Kids are in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9, 2017</td>
<td><strong>Candidate Interviews</strong> between 5:00 &amp; 7:00 PM in the Church - <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2017</td>
<td>Penance Service – 5:45 to 7:00 PM <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2017</td>
<td><strong>Practice for Confirmation with Sponsor</strong> 6:30 – 7:30 PM Church - <strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td><strong>Confirmation</strong> - 6:00 PM (Arrive between 5:15 and 5:40)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONFIRMATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Confirmation program is a two-year process. This process begins in 7th grade and will continue right up until the time of Confirmation. Below is an outline of the expectations of our candidates.

- First and foremost, candidates MUST be practicing Catholics who attend Mass and receive Communion on a regular basis. If you are not attending Mass, you put your candidacy at risk.

- Religious Education Classes - Candidates are to attend classes once a week and adhere to the attendance policy already in place.

- Parental supervision – While candidates are primarily responsible for fulfilling the requirements of Confirmation, we ask that parents play an active role in this preparation.

- Introduction of Candidates – The ceremony is held in order to present our 8th graders asking for Confirmation to the parish community. The community and Pastor are then asked to accept these students as candidates for Confirmation. The only students who will be invited to participate in the Investiture Ceremony are 8th graders who prove themselves to be candidate ready. The criteria for determining readiness involves the following:

  1. Regular Mass Attendance
  2. Class behavior, participation
  3. Catechist recommendation
  4. Student request for candidacy

- Picking a sponsor – A sponsor is a person chosen by the candidate who acts as a spiritual guide and support system. This person may not necessarily be a relative. The sponsor should be someone who has a very strong spiritual life and MUST be an active parishioner of his/her church. Please give careful thought to picking a sponsor. The sponsor must do the following:

  1. Apply to his/her home parish for a letter of eligibility to be a sponsor.
  2. Supply the candidate with this letter ASAP and it should be attached to this booklet. Please keep in mind, every church may have different requirements for a person to be considered eligible. Do not delay in asking your sponsor in case they have steps to take in order to be considered eligible by the Pastor of his/her church.

**IF YOUR SPONSOR IS A MEMBER OF EPIPHANY CHURCH, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE (732-458-0220) FOR VERIFICATION OF SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO COME TO THE CHURCH TO PICK UP AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE.**
• Confirmation name – The name chosen as your Confirmation name should be a name that identifies a person as a Christian, as does their Baptismal name. In fact, candidates may retain their Baptismal name rather than pick another name. However, if another name is chosen, this name must be a Saint’s name, and the student is asked to briefly explain why this name was chosen.

• Successful completion of the 7th grade curriculum.

THE ROLE AND ELIGIBILITY OF THE SPONSOR

Individual sponsors must be selected. A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. This selection should be indicated at the beginning of the candidates preparation as it often takes time for a sponsor to receive eligibility papers from his/her own parish.

Sponsor eligibility:

• Must be at least 16 years old

• Must be Catholic and have been initiated in the three Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

• May be either male or female for any candidate

• May not be biological parents but may be Step-parents, God-parents or Grandparents provided they fulfill all other requirements

• Must meet the eligibility requirements of his/her home parish

• Must be in a valid marriage if married. If divorced and remarried and the original marriage took place in a Catholic church, the original marriage must have been dissolved through annulment. Please ask for clarification if needed.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS

As a reflection of the love that Christ had for us, service to others is something we encourage, not only for Confirmation candidates, but for all of us who consider ourselves Christians. In preparation for Confirmation, when one receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we ask that all candidates perform a minimum of 12 hours of service to others prior to the month before Confirmation. The service hours should be noted below and handed in by March 15th.
CONFIRMATION INFORMATION SHEET

RETURN TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Name of Confirmation Candidate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Middle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current mailing address: ______________________________________________________  Street

City  Zip

Confirmation Saint’s Name: ______________________________________

APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Please print clearly

Date of Birth: ___________  Age at Confirmation: ________________

Place of Birth: __________________________________________________________

Date of Baptism: ______________________________ (month/day/year)

Church of Baptism: ________________________________________________

Mailing address for Church of Baptism: ________________________________

(Street # and name)

City  State  Zip Code

God Parents: __________________________________________________________

Father’s Name: _______________________________________________________

Mother’s Maiden Name: ________________________________________________

Date of First Holy Communion: ______________________________ (month/day/year)
Church of First Holy Communion: ____________________________

Mailing address for Church: ______________________________________

(Street # and name)

City  State  Zip Code

Confirmation Sponsor’s Name: _________________________________

Sponsor’s Address: __________________________________________

Sponsor’s Home Parish: _______________________________________

1. PLEASE STAPLE THE “SPONSOR’S CERTIFICATE” TO THIS FORM.

2. CONFIRMATION FEES: The fee for Confirmation is $50.00. Please make your check payable to Church of Epiphany and attach it to this page. This fee covers the cost of textbooks and a retreat fee for Confirmation. (Please note that this fee does not include the cost of the robe which your child will wear on the day of the ceremony.)

ATTACH $50.00 CHECK HERE:

Due: Friday, January 15, 2015

THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT IN ITS ENTIRITY OR IT WILL BE RETURNED.
Student’s Name:_____________________________________________

A log is a record of one’s achievement and self-accountability. It the time and hours you spend in service to others. As a candidate for Confirmation you are required to perform 12 hours of church and/or community service. Service hours must be performed with a supervised organization the log sheet must be signed by the person in charge. Parents and/or relatives are not permitted to sign for service hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization/Project</th>
<th>Supervisor Name, Signature &amp; Phone</th>
<th>Date of Event</th>
<th>Number of Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Bake Sale (includes baked item and attendance at bake sale. *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Valentine’s Day Luncheon on 2/11/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL HOURS:**

* You may attend both bake sales and receive an additional 3 hours. Please note that 1 bake sale and the Valentine’s Luncheon are required community service hours. If you are in need of extra hours, please visit our Religious Ed page on the Church’s website to find other opportunities throughout the year.