

**SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**CONFIRMATION CLASS 2010**  
**REQUIREMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday and Holy Day Mass Attendance**

The Mass and the Eucharist are the very center of our Catholic faith. The obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses and to avoid unnecessary work on those days is a responsibility for all Catholics. We expect all of our Confirmandi to understand and accept the rule, which is based on the Third Commandment. In the United States the Holy Days of Obligation are:

January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
April 12	Easter Sunday
May 21	Ascension of the Lord **
August 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
November 1	Solemnity of All Saints
December 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 25	Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

\*\* The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated on the following Sunday in many dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Washington

Additionally, the Confirmation class will attend Mass together on the third Sunday of the month at the 5:30 Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. The dates are September 19, October 17, November 14, January 16, February 20, March 20 and April 17. All Confirmandi must be in their seats in the center section of the church by 5:15.

**Retreats**

There will be 3 retreats during the year that all Confirmandi must attend (Grace Passes cannot be used for retreats): 1) Parent/Confirmand Retreat on Saturday, September 19 at 2:00pm, 2) Sponsor/Confirmand Retreat on Saturday, November 14 at 4:00pm and 3) Confirmand Retreat on Friday, March 12 from 4:30pm – 11:00pm.

**Parent/Confirmand Retreat and Rite of Enrollment**

There will be a Parent/Confirmand Retreat on Saturday, September 19 at 2:00pm. The retreat will end with us all attending the 5:30 Mass. The retreat will include attending 5:30pm Mass and the Rite of Enrollment for the Confirmandi and Parents. **This retreat is required for all Confirmandi and at least one of their parents.**

Parents and Confirmandi should come to the retreat in comfortable, casual dress but it also must be appropriate for Mass.

The Sandwich Sunday Service Project will follow the 5:30pm Mass

**Sponsor/Confirmand Retreat**

All Confirmandi and their Sponsors are required to attend a retreat on Saturday, November 14 at 4:00pm. The retreat will include attending 5:30pm Mass for the Confirmandi and their Sponsors; parents are also encouraged to join us for Mass. **The retreat is required for all Confirmandi and their Sponsors.**

The Sandwich Sunday Service Project will follow the 5:30pm Mass

**Confirmand Retreat**

All Confirmandi are required to attend our parish's Confirmation Retreat. It will be held on Friday, March 12, 2010 from 4:30pm to 11:00pm. It is a time of activity, reflections, and prayer directed toward the reception of Confirmation. **The retreat is required for all Confirmandi.**

### **Faith Sharing Journey**

Each student must complete a Faith Sharing Journey during the year. Each month they will be asked to reflect on their faith in the areas of Worship, Knowledge and Service. They will be required to write down their reflections by answering specific questions in these areas and hand them in each month. The due dates are September 27, October 25, November 29, December 27, January 31, February 28 and March 28. The completed Faith Sharing should be placed in the envelope on the Confirmation Bulletin Board (located in the CCD hall).

On the schedule each month there is a Tuesday evening "Faith Sharing Help Session" (In November and December it will be on a Wednesday evening). The help session can be used if you need help on that month's Faith Sharing. The help session is also an opportunity to complete the previous months' Faith Sharing. **If the Faith Sharing from the prior month has not been handed in, you will be required to attend the help session. Also, if the Faith Sharing that was handed in was incomplete, you will be notified and required to come to the help session. The specific help session dates are: September 22, October 20, November 18, December 16, January 19, February 16, March 16 and April 6.**

### **Confirmation Interview**

A Confirmation Interview with Father Barry will be required for all Confirmandi. The Confirmand must be accompanied by at least one of his/her parents. This is an opportunity for both the student and his/her parents to understand the requirements of the program and to ask any questions. Each interview will be no longer than 15 minutes.

### **Trip to Monastery and Shrine – October 16, 2009**

Father Barry will be leading a pilgrimage to the Franciscan Monastery and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, October 16. This is a scheduled day off for Prince Georges County Public Schools; therefore all students who attend Prince Georges County Public Schools are required to attend. Students who attend St. Pius X Regional School or other Private Schools are invited to join us. I will provide a letter for those students whose parents would like them to be excused from school to join us on the pilgrimage. Details about the trip and a permission slip are in the red folder. The permission slip must be returned by October 13.

### **Sponsors**

Historically, sponsors were those Christians who presented their friends as candidates for Christian Initiation. When infant Baptism came into practice, it was usually the parents who presented their children to the community, godparents being chosen in case the parents could not fulfill their responsibilities. According to the new Code of Canon Law, Baptismal godparents are preferred as Confirmation Sponsors because of the unity of Baptism and Confirmation. This assumes the godparents are practicing the Catholic Faith. However, other practicing Catholics may be chosen as Confirmation sponsors. The Confirmandi will be required to write a letter to their sponsor detailing why they chose him or her and what will be expected of them as a sponsor during the upcoming year of preparation. **The sponsor letter is due on September 27, 2009.** Confirmation sponsors must be mature in their faith and at least 16 years old; this means that he/she must feel comfortable answering questions the Confirmand might have and sharing his/her faith. The sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. A Parent may not be their child's sponsor. All sponsors must have a form signed by their parish priest stating they are a Practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church; if the sponsor is married, he or she must be in a valid marriage according to the Catholic Church. **The sponsor certificate will be included in the letter to the sponsor and should be sent back to St. Edward's by October 25, 2009.**

### **Confirmation Fee**

Each Confirmand will pay a fee of \$40.00. This fee will cover the cost of Rental Confirmation Gowns and the Confirmation retreats. **The fee is due on September 27, 2009.**

## **Baptismal Certificates**

Baptism is necessary before one can receive any other sacrament. Every Confirmand should know the Church in which they were baptized. All church records are kept at the church of Baptism. **All Confirmandi who were not baptized at St. Edward's must submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate by December 27, 2009.**

## **Parent's Participation**

The participation of the parents in the Confirmation program is vital. It is important for you to set the example for your child as he or she takes on the responsibility of a Confirmed Catholic. The example of the parents' prayer life and attitude toward Jesus Christ and His Church is the best teaching sons and daughters will ever have. **Although it is the Confirmand's responsibility to complete all requirements, it is the parents' responsibility to assist by making sure all assignments are done one time and that his or her child is at each scheduled activity.**

Additionally, we are requesting parent assistance in the following areas:

- Help at the Sandwich Sunday Service Project
- Chaperones and Drivers for the trip to the Monastery and Shrine on October 16
- Help coordinate the food for January 29 Reconciliation Reception
- A parent or parents to help make phone calls to other parents when needed

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

All students are required to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during both the seasons of Advent and Lent. We will be celebrating this sacrament during CCD classes on December 15 and March 9. All CCD students are required to attend on both these dates. Catholic school students must also attend if they have not received the Sacrament of Reconciliation during school hours.

Additionally, it is desired that all Confirmandi and their sponsors be in a state of grace at the time of Confirmation. Therefore, there will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Confirmand/Sponsor rehearsal.

## **Saint Name and Saint Fair (October 27 and October 28)**

A name identifies us and tells others who we are. Confirmandi are asked to check into reasons for their baptismal name if they are not already aware of the reason. They may choose a new name as a sign of growth in faith. One may keep the baptismal name to emphasize the fact that Confirmation is a sealing of the Baptismal Commitment.

**A saint research report will be required of each student. Students who attend Catholic school may submit the saint report they do at school, as long it is on the saint who they have chosen for Confirmation and covers all of our requirements. Students who attend CCD classes must submit their report by Tuesday, October 27, 2009. In addition, all students, including those who attend CCD classes and those who attend St. Pius will participate in the Saint Fairs during the CCD sessions on Tuesday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 28.** The Confirmandi have information on this Saint Fair and what should be included in their Saint Report in their red folders. We have an excellent set of Catholic Encyclopedias as well as books on the lives of the saints in the CCD office, or you may use the Public Library or Internet, using such sites as: [www.catholiconline.org](http://www.catholiconline.org), <http://www.catholic-forum.com/SAINTS/indexsnt.htm>, <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.asp>, <http://www.theworkofgod.org/saints/>

## **Letter to the Bishop**

Confirmandi are required to write a letter to the Bishop indicating a desire to receive, and reasons for wanting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It should be a statement of future commitment to study the faith and to advance the cause of Christ Jesus through His Church. Specific guidelines for the letter will be discussed and the letters will be written on Friday, February 19, 2010.

## Christian Service Projects

- Each Confirmandi is required to give twenty (20) hours of individual service. Ten (10) of these hours must be done at St. Edward's church or by participating in one of St. Edward's ministries; the remaining ten (10) may be done at church or in the community.
- All Confirmandi must participate in a group project. This year our project will again be making sandwiches for Sandwich Sunday on the third Sunday of the month (see schedule for specific dates). **This is required for all Confirmandi. All Confirmandi must meet at 5:15 pm in the church and attend 5:30 mass together as a class. We will make sandwiches following Mass; the sandwiches are delivered to Martha's Table in Washington D.C. These hours will not be counted toward the 20 hours of individual service.**

Please review the attached sheet that details the Service Project program. All Confirmandi and their parent must sign an agreement to complete a Service Project. **Confirmandi must hand in twelve (12) hours by December 27, 2009. The remaining eight (8) hours are due by March 28, 2010. Service hours are not considered complete until they are handed in and recorded by Mrs. Curtis.**

## Lenten and Easter Triduum Requirements

- All Confirmandi will be attending Stations of the Cross together during our meeting on Friday, February 19.
- All Confirmandi must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- All Confirmandi should make every effort to participate in the Easter Triduum, which consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil (April 1- April 3, 2010). This is the holiest time of the year for our Church. The services on these days are rich in the traditions of our faith. We will discuss with the Confirmandi how they can fully participate in the Triduum during the class meeting on February 19.

## Communications

- **Bulletin Board** - There will be a bulletin board in the CCD Hall on which will be posted service hour opportunities, reminders of upcoming events and requirement due dates and other announcements. It is important that you check the bulletin board each week. There will also be a folder for all Confirmandi to submit their service hour documentation and other required paperwork. Put all of your completed work in this envelope; do not hand it to anyone or put it on the desk or anywhere in Mrs. Curtis' office.
- **E-MAIL** - E-mail will be another avenue of communications. Reminders, service hour opportunities and updates will be sent via e-mail. Please send Mrs. Curtis your e-mail address if she doesn't already have it (it should be the parent's e-mail, not the student's). You may also e-mail Mrs. Curtis at any time at **[mcurtis@stedwardbowie.org](mailto:mcurtis@stedwardbowie.org)**.
- **Web-Site** - The schedule, requirements and Faith Sharing are all posted on the St. Edward's web site - **[www.stedwardbowie.org](http://www.stedwardbowie.org)**.

## Grace Passes

All of the above activities are required for all Confirmandi. However, there are times when family or other obligations can prevent a Confirmand from attending a scheduled activity. Therefore, each Confirmand will be given 2 Grace Passes to be used during the year:

- **In order to use this pass, a parent must call Mrs. Curtis prior to the event.** Once a student uses 2 passes, it is expected that he/she will be at every scheduled activity. This includes Sandwich Sunday and Class Meetings.
- **Grace Passes cannot be used for the Parent/Confirmand Retreat in October, the Sponsor/Confirmand Retreat in December, the Student Confirmation Retreat in February or Confirmation Rehearsals in April.**
- A Confirmand does not have to use a Grace Pass if he/she is ill or there is a family emergency. It is expected, however, that a parent call Mrs. Curtis in advance to let her know that the Confirmand will not be at the scheduled activity.

### **Confirmation Date and Rehearsals**

Confirmation will be on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 7:00pm. Bishop Holley will celebrate the Mass and confer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The following are the dates Confirmation rehearsals

- The student only rehearsals are on the following Tuesdays: April 13, April 20 and April 27 from 6:00pm – 7:15pm. These rehearsals are required for all students.
- A Confirmand/Sponsor Rehearsal will be held on Sunday, May 2 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. The Confirmandi and their sponsor or sponsor representative must attend the rehearsal. During the rehearsal, Confirmandi and their sponsors will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Sports and recreational activities are not an excused absence from the rehearsals.**

### **Confirmation Dress Code**

The Confirmandi will be wearing robes. The dress code under their robes is as follows:

Boys Dress Slacks

Dress Shirt/Tie

Dress Shoes

If they have a Sports/Suit Jacket, they should leave it with their parent as it would be too hot under the robe.

Girls Dress or skirt (any color) of an appropriate length for church

Dress Shoes

If nail polish is worn, it should be a subdued or pastel color

**NO SNEAKERS**

The sponsors should also be appropriately dressed, since in their role they are an official representative of the Church. Men should wear Dress Shirt/Tie and Jacket. Women should wear a skirt or dress of appropriate length or a dress pants suit.