

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
Grade 7—Confirmation



2020/2021

TABLE OF CONTENT

	PAGE
Welcome, Mission Statement	2
Program Structure, General Information, Registration, Tuition	3
Sacramental Information, Confirmation Requirements	4
Formational Activities Requirements	5
Expectation of Parents, Expectation and Requirements of Sponsor, Proxy Sponsor	5
Expectation of Students	6
Announcements	7
Parent Acknowledgement Form	8

WELCOME

Welcome to the Parish Sacramental Program. We look forward to working with you, the parents/guardians, in helping your child(ren) appreciate the great gift of Catholic faith and the Sacraments.

What we request from you as parents are support, involvement and encouragement. Our church teaches that parents have the primary right and responsibility for the Religious Education of their child(ren). St. Martin of Tours' program aims at supporting our parents by offering consistent, developmental and formal education in the basic life and worship of the Catholic tradition. We strive to bring children to a deeper and more loving relationship with the Lord Jesus. We cannot do this without your help. You can help your child at home by further developing what we introduce in the classroom. With that kind of teamwork, almost anything's possible!

St. Martin of Tours Sacramental Mission Statement

St. Martin of Tours is committed to equipping young people for a life-long journey of faith. We support and encourage the goals of the candidate to affirm their Baptism and take personal responsibility for their faith going forward. We take seriously our commitment to provide the candidate proper instruction, while preparing the candidate for the opportunity to make that choice. To achieve this goal, we will provide the candidates with opportunities to obtain the knowledge and skills that they can use to achieve wisdom for living their Catholic faith.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The *Confirmation Program* is held during one week in June and during the six Enrichment sessions during the school year.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Please keep this handbook available for future reference.

Director of Religious Education: Mrs. Kathy Ross

1 Riverstone Circle

New Hope, PA 18938

Office Phone: 215-862-5472

Cell Phone: 267-230-1224

email: kross@stmartinoftours.org

Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays- 10:00-5:00 Sundays-8:30-1:30

REGISTRATION:

Students finishing Grade 6 PREP in June should enroll the following February for the Confirmation Class. Dates for the six Enrichment sessions and the Churches and Cheesesteaks field trip will be handed out in June.

TUITION: Please note that registration fees are *non-refundable*.

\$100 per child

CONFIRMATION PREP PROGRAM (Level 7)

ENROLLMENT MASS – 11:00 Sunday Mass in June. The date will be communicated to all families.

CLASS TIMES: Monday- Friday 8:30am-3:00pm, June summer session
Sunday Enrichment time- 9:45-10:45am
Retreat- Saturday, 1:30-6:30, including Mass
Field Trip- Sunday-11:00am Mass then departure at 12:00 to approximately 5:00pm. Exact date to be determined.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION:

Parents are expected to follow St. Martin of Tours Parish policy for sacramental preparation and celebration with their children. This policy will be explained more fully at the parent/ student session held in May.

- Registration in the parish is required, and a baptismal certificate should be presented for verification for all children unless they were baptized at St. Martin of Tours Parish.
- Non-parishioners need to submit to the DRE a letter of permission from their Pastor to receive a sacrament here. Please give it to the DRE.
- Since Catechesis (Religious Education) involves much more than classroom preparation, **THE MOST IMPORTANT PREPARATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH IS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SUNDAY LITURGY. Attend Mass regularly.**

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES

- **SIX YEARS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ARE REQUIRED FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.**
- The candidate must:
 - *be baptized,
 - *have received First Penance and First Communion, and
 - *have completed the sixth level of religious education
 - *complete a Confirmation formation program, attend a retreat, attend the field trip and offer 16 hours of service along with other projects.
- The family must be registered in St. Martin of Tours Parish or have a letter of permission from their pastor. Please submit it to the Parish office.
- Each candidate is required to have a Catholic sponsor who has obtained a Letter of Eligibility.
- **Upon the recommendation of the teacher, the candidate will be presented to the Pastor for approval to receive the sacrament. Parents have the right to postpone their child receiving the sacrament if they do not believe their child is mature enough, or they themselves feel that they cannot fulfill their responsibility. We reserve the right to postpone any candidate who cannot demonstrate a proper disposition and level of knowledge.**
- Transferred students will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

* Parents of children with special education needs are asked to contact Mrs. Ross to discuss their situation.

FORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION

There has been a tradition that Confirmation candidates be involved in service activities as part of their preparation for the reception of this sacrament. Every candidate needs to be aware that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are always given to build up the community and to ensure that all members of the community are cared for according to their needs. As Christians, we must be willing to extend ourselves on behalf of others in obedience to Jesus' teachings: "As often as you did this to the least of my brothers, you did it to me."

As members of the community, Confirmation candidates are expected to site their involvement in community service. Each candidate is called to perform four projects of Christian service; each project has a minimum of 4 hours of service for a total of 16 hours:

1. For their family
2. For a neighbor or their local community
3. For their church community
4. One project with their sponsor

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Parents/Guardians are expected to:

- bring their children to Mass every week
- through their example, challenge their children to lead a Catholic life
- fulfill the goals of good Stewardship (time, talent, & treasure).
- to attend any required meetings regarding sacramental preparation.
- guide the candidate in the selection of a sponsor.
- oversee the candidate's fulfillment of requirements, such as attendance at the sacrament of confessions, participation in the retreat.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE SPONSOR:

The role of the sponsor is to help the candidate throughout his/her life to fulfill his/her baptismal promises. The sponsor should be one whose positive influence on the candidate is permanent and strong; hence it is not just an honorary title, but also a responsibility to set a good Catholic example.

- In conformity with the new Code of Canon Law, parents may not be sponsors.
- The sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- The sponsor must be a Catholic, who has been confirmed, received the Eucharist and practices the Faith. "Practicing," means, in the case of an adult, that they must be registered in a parish, frequenting the Sacraments, regularly attending Mass.
- The sponsor must present to St. Martin of Tours Parish Office a Letter of Eligibility from the pastor of their present parish.

In the case of a sponsor who is unable to attend the celebration of Confirmation, a proxy may be appointed to serve in the role of sponsor. Those who serve as proxies may not include either the father or the mother of the person to be confirmed.

The name of the proxy-sponsor is to be submitted to the office. A proxy-sponsor must satisfy the same requirements as a sponsor including the letter of eligibility.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENTS

***Students are expected to show respect for themselves, their peers, and their teachers. There is a NO TOLERANCE policy with regards to bullying.**

***Cell phones may be used only before or after class. Cell phones must be turned off during class, any prayer services, and during Mass.**

***All paperwork (sponsor eligibility letter, saint project, letter of intention to Father Kindon, and service hours) must be turned in on the due dates. These dates will be listed on the Confirmation class schedule.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EMERGENCIES

Parents should consult the Church Bulletin, weekly for information regarding the Confirmation Program. Any changes in the Confirmation calendar or upcoming special events will be sent to parents via text REMIND message, E-mail and will be on the parish website. Parents who regularly check their child's folder or the church bulletin will be kept abreast of all pertinent information.

Parents should have a current cell number and email address and an emergency cell phone number on file at the parish office.

In cases where classes are canceled, parents will receive an email from the parish, a REMIND text message and the notice will be on the parish website.

For a general family emergency when classes are in session, the emergency number is 215-862-5472 and follow prompts for the emergency line. You may also call Kathy Ross' cell phone at 267-230-1224.

We recognize, acknowledge and express a special "Thank you" for all involved in our Parish Sacramental Education Program. May God reward the time, energy and sacrifices you so generously donate in sharing your faith with others with a deepening of your own personal faith.

Date _____

Dear Father Kindon:

I have read the Sacramental PREP Handbook and have taken the time to explain the policies to my child/children. We understand that we are required, by our registration, to adhere to the policies in the handbook.

Please sign and return this form to the Parish Office by June 1. Keep your handbook in a convenient place for reference

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Home phone _____ **Cell phone** _____

Candidate(s) Name(s) _____