

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Confirmation Preparation
Candidate & Sponsor Shared Activities

For those candidates unable to attend the Candidate & Sponsor Retreat, the following Candidate – Sponsor activities need to be completed and turned in by **January 15th**.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE - SPONSOR

- The Sponsor and Candidate must do the Mandatory Activity below.
- Then the Sponsor & Candidate must select **ONE (1)** of the 4 remaining shared activities (Activities #1 - 4) to complete.
- Once the Mandatory Activity and the chosen shared activity have been completed, the poster and the appropriate worksheet(s) need to be turned in to the Confirmation Coordinator by **January 15th**.

MANDATORY ACTIVITY

1. **Step 1:** The Sponsor is asked to write a letter to the Confirmation Candidate affirming their role as Sponsor and then giving the Candidate some helpful advice or suggestions on choosing/staying on the “right path” as they go through their teenage years. Please include some guidance on how God can be relied on in these often difficult years. The letter should be given to the Confirmation Candidate by (no later than) Christmas.
2. **Step 2:** After reading the letter, the Candidate should make a small poster (min. 11” x 14”) that is designed to reflect the advice that the Sponsor provided in the letter. This should be done using words and artwork. The art may be drawn or pictures may be cut from magazines or books. On the **BACK** of the poster, be sure to write your name and include which night you have **EDGE/ONE EIGHT** - Sunday or Thursday.

SHARED ACTIVITIES

The Candidate and Sponsor must also choose **ONE (1) of the following** shared activities and work on it together, completing and turning in the appropriate worksheet(s) by **January 15th** as well.

Shared Activity #1

Attend Sunday Mass together. After mass, introduce your Sponsor to the Priest that said Mass. Complete worksheet #1 (attached) together and turn it in to your Confirmation Coordinator by January 15th.

Suggestion: This might be a great time for the Sponsor to take the Candidate out to lunch or Starbucks for some one-on-one time to complete the worksheet, share their faith, and talk about any challenges they might have and/or what they are looking forward to doing after Confirmation as they grow in their faith.

Shared Activity #2

Participate in one community service activity together. Complete worksheet #2 (attached) together and turn it in to your Confirmation Coordinator by January 15th.

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Suggestion: Invite your Sponsor to join you on your W.O.M. Service Project or when you are performing service hours at the parish or in the community.

Shared Activity #3

Visit www.sacredspace.ie on **3 separate days** for a Sacred Space Experience. Sacred Space is a website visited regularly by millions of Christians from around the world. It is produced and maintained by Irish Jesuit Priests (that is why the website ends in “.ie”). Follow the guided prayer selection for the dates you visit. Both the Confirmation Candidate and the Sponsor should discuss with each other, the message of “something to think about this week” and the Bible passage together after each visit. After each discussion, the Candidate should be completing the worksheet as you go, based on his/her conversation with their Sponsor. Once the Candidate and Sponsor have finished the website visits and conversations, and the worksheet is complete, turn it in to your Confirmation Coordinator by January 15th.

Suggestion: This would be a good shared activity to do with a Sponsor who lives far away. This activity could be done by conversing with your Sponsor over the phone, with Skype, or perhaps FaceTime.

Shared Activity #4

Both the Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor should make a personal pledge to focus on improving one area of their own life that would be pleasing to God. They should both make a point of working hard at this for 2 weeks. The Candidate and Sponsor should correspond with one another during the 2 weeks (via Email, phone, Skype, or FaceTime) to encourage one another to keep the commitment. Specific personal goals may be kept private if that is desired, but each party can encourage the other and pray for them to reach their goal. After the 2 week period, both the Candidate and Sponsor should **EACH** complete worksheet #4 and turn it in to your Confirmation Coordinator by January 15th.

Suggestion: This would be a good shared activity to do with a Sponsor who lives far away. This activity could be done by conversing with your Sponsor over the phone, with Skype, or perhaps FaceTime.

The corresponding worksheets for the Shared Activities are attached below. Please read the worksheet carefully to determine if the worksheet is to be completed by the Candidate and Sponsor together, or if the Candidate and Sponsor are to print and complete the worksheet separately.

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WORK SHEET #1 - Attending Mass

Name of the Confirmation Candidate: _____

What night do you attend EDGE / ONE EIGHT?: (please circle) **SUNDAY** or **THURSDAY**

Name & Email of the Sponsor: _____

The date we attended Mass together: _____

Parish where Mass was attended together: _____

Name of the Priest who said Mass: _____

Today's Gospel was about:

Today's Homily made these points:

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WORK SHEET #2 - Community Service

Name of the Confirmation Candidate: _____

What night do you attend EDGE / ONE EIGHT?: (please circle) **SUNDAY** or **THURSDAY**

Name & Email of the Sponsor: _____

The Community Service Activity we worked on was:

We performed this service at: _____

On the following date: _____

Candidate's thoughts/observations on this service project:

Sponsor's thoughts/observations on this service project:

If the two of you were to work on another community service project together, would you do this type of service again? Why or Why not?

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WORK SHEET #3 – Sacred Space

This is a 2 Page Worksheet – complete & turn in BOTH pages.

Name of the Confirmation Candidate: _____

What night do you attend EDGE / ONE EIGHT?: (please circle) **SUNDAY** or **THURSDAY**

Name & Email of the Sponsor: _____

1. Print both pages of this worksheet.
2. Go to www.sacredspace.ie - this is done individually if the Candidate & Sponsor live far apart from each other, or together if the Candidate & Sponsor live close and can spend some one-on-one personal time together. If the Candidate & Sponsor live far apart from each other and are doing this activity remotely over the phone, etc., they need to make sure to select the same days to visit Sacred Space so that they can have a conversation on their shared experience.
3. For each Sacred Space visit, choose the daily prayer for the day that you logged on – Go through the guided prayer/reading for the dates you choose and then discuss your Sacred Space experience with your Candidate/Sponsor and complete the information below.
4. The worksheet should be completed by the Candidate AFTER EACH Sacred Space visit and their following conversation with their Sponsor about their shared Sacred Space experience.
5. Be sure to click on “need inspiration” or “prayer guide” at least once per visit.

Dates of visits to www.sacredspace.ie

Sacred Space Visit #1

Based on the discussion between the Candidate and Sponsor regarding this Sacred Space experience, the message of “something to think about this week” was basically saying:

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Sacred Space Visit #2

Reading of the day (Bible passage): _____ [Book chpt:vs]

Based on the discussion between the Candidate and Sponsor regarding this Sacred Space experience and the Bible passage, what was this passage about and how does it relate to you in your lives today?

Sacred Space Visit #3

Based on the discussion between the Candidate and Sponsor regarding this Sacred Space experience, and the previous two Sacred Space visits, what is your overall impression on sharing this prayer experience and faith discussions with your Candidate/Sponsor? Does it help you to explore and grow in your faith with another person? Why or Why not?

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WORK SHEET #4 - Commitment for Personal Improvement

This worksheet is 2 pages - The Candidate and Sponsor should EACH complete their own worksheet. BOTH the Candidate and Sponsor should turn page 1 in to the Confirmation Coordinator, and keep page 2 for themselves.

Name of the Confirmation Candidate: _____

What night do you attend EDGE / ONE EIGHT?: (please circle) **SUNDAY** or **THURSDAY**

Name & Email of the Sponsor: _____

For 2 weeks I have made a personal commitment to improve one area of my life that I know God would like me to improve. I did this at the same time that my Confirmation Candidate or Sponsor worked on their own goal. We have committed to check in regularly with each other during this 2 week period to provide encouragement, support, and prayer for each other.

During this time, I learned this about myself:

During this time, I learned this about that is my Candidate or Sponsor:

In reaching any difficult goal, I believe that God can help me by:

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Candidate/Sponsor KEEP this page of the Worksheet...

Anytime I do anything to grow as a person, improve my relationship with God and the people in my life, I know that I am trying to please God and live as He wants me to live.

General things that might help all people to grow are listed below.

On a scale of 1 - 5, rate the areas according to how the presently are in your life
(1 being you are already doing a good job, and 5 being you really need to work on this)

1. Trying to show appreciation to my family for all of their love and support _____
2. Finding time for God in the busy noisy world _____
3. Being loyal to my friends _____
4. Avoiding habits I know are unhealthy _____
5. Trying to find activities that are helping me to grow as a person _____
6. Praying for myself, my family, and my friends _____
7. Finding time to do things that help the poor _____
8. Telling and showing my family that I love them _____
9. Kicking bad habits and/or setting goals to be more healthy (physically, mentally, and spiritually) _____
10. Taking a little spiritual personal growth time each week by checking out websites like www.sacredspace.ie _____

Post this checklist next to your bed or somewhere you will see it so that it reminds you of things you can work on to be closer in communion with our faith family and our Father in Heaven.