

St. Mark's Church

Religious Education Program



Confirmation Handbook

2021-2022

Rev. Msgr. Sean P. Flynn, Pastor

Mrs. Diana Zuna Nieves, Coordinator of Religious Education

215 Crescent Parkway, Sea Girt, NJ 08750

(732) 449-6364 ext. 105

diana@stmarkseagirt.com

Dear Parents of the Confirmation Candidates,

Welcome to St. Mark's Sacrament of Confirmation Program. I am so delighted to be part of this parish family and I am blessed to be trusted with this preparation program. During this year, we the Church, and your family will journey together to share in the important responsibility for your child's Confirmation preparation phase. The Sacrament of Confirmation is an exciting and intense time for young Catholics.

The Sacrament of Confirmation program will allow your teen to grow closer to Christ and His Church through regular sessions at which your children will be drawn into a deeper faith that will transform their hearts and change their lives not only during their Confirmation preparation phase, but into the rest of their high school and young adult years. Confirmation is not the end of the road; it is not the final step in faith, it is the stepping stone into a mature religious life.

The best preparation that you, as a parent, can give your son or daughter is to practice and live your Catholic faith through word and deed. As you continue ministering to your family, your parish, and your community, we ask you to be especially faithful in attending Sunday liturgy. It is your example that will have the greatest impact on the faith formation of your child. Each of us has been called to witness Christ's love for our children and each other.

During our time together, we will examine what it takes to live your faith day by day and practice those lifelong skills that lead to a richer spiritual life. May these blessings be a continuous faith journey guided by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus Christ.

Thank you for letting me direct your child's path towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. Together, we will all grow deeper in our faith.

Diana Zuna Nieves

Coordinator of Religious Education

What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the strengthening and fullness of the Holy Spirit already received in Baptism. When we were baptized we became children of God. As children of God we share the life of God; the life of three persons in one love. The Spirit is the love between Father and Son. The Spirit acts in us urging us to move beyond our individual selves into making the community on Earth like the community of love that is God. Confirmation calls us to a greater participation in the mission of Jesus and the Church. Through Confirmation our relationship with God is deepened and we are incorporated more completely into the body of Christ. Confirmation obliges us, as true witnesses of Christ, to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

Our Goal is to form disciples by leading teens to:

- Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
 - Experience the power of the Holy Spirit,
 - Awaken a sense of belonging to the Church,
- Encourage a sense of belonging by developing a fellowship among the youth of the parish.

Confirmation Candidate Required Responsibilities

Based on the guidelines published by the Diocese of Trenton, the following requirements must be met by all candidates before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mark's Church.

All Candidates must assume the responsibility of completion of all parts of preparation and program obligations listed below.

- Attend Sunday Mass and pray daily.
- Attend ALL classes, Reconciliation services, and Commitment Mass.
- Provide a copy of the Baptism certificate.
- Know the teachings of the Catholic faith, the Church precepts, and formal prayers.
- Complete at least 20 or more hours of Community Service.
- Complete all assignments, projects, and homework.
- Choose a Confirmation name and submit a Saint Report (500 research paper).
- Choose a Confirmation Sponsor using the guideline and criteria established below.
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat and Confirmation practice.
- Write a letter to Msgr. Flynn indicating your readiness and desire to be confirmed.
- Participate in parish community life by volunteering for chosen parish ministry.
- Participate in at least 3 service projects, sponsored by St. Mark's Church.
- Exhibit appropriate Christian behavior at all times.

Baptismal Certificates

The Religious Education Office MUST be provided with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate. If your child was baptized at St. Mark's Church, you do not need to provide the certificate, it is on record. If you provided us with a copy at the time of registration, please confirm that you handled one in by calling the Religious Education Office (732) 449-6364 ext. 105. After your child is confirmed, we will send a notice to the church where they were baptized so their Confirmation may also be recorded.

Important Dates and Information

Rite of Commitment: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

At this time, the Candidates will present to the community their signed "Candidate Commitment Promise" to pray, study and attend Sunday Mass, as they begin their preparation for the reception of the sacrament. All Candidates and their parents are expected to attend this special rite. Parent meeting and sign up for service opportunities following the rite.

Confirmation Retreat: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 5:00- 8:30 p.m.

All candidates and the Sponsor or (1) parent are required to attend. Failure to attend may result in not being confirmed. Make sure to reserve this date. Please check any conflicts and let us know. We can find an alternative if given enough notice, but it is one of the requirements that the Confirmandi attend a retreat prior to Confirmation. Thank you for your understanding. Please contact the office for more information.

Confirmation Practice: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:00- 8:30 p.m.

All candidates and their sponsor are required to attend.

Confirmation Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph N. Rosie will be officiating. Please arrive by 3:15 p.m.

Class Expectations

- Students are expected to be on time and prepared for every session. Our time together is limited, and we hope to fill every minute to its fullest. Parents are responsible for ensuring students attend the classes on time and the child should be prepared. If for any reason you are unable to attend a class, please contact your catechist as soon as possible.
- Students are expected to contribute to the safe-space environment through their behavior and kind words. Our sessions together should inspire students to share and discuss. Creating a safe and spiritual environment is the key to our success. Should any situations arise, I will contact parents to best decide a plan for success. Creating a safe and welcoming environment is my first priority.
- Attend weekly Mass. Sunday liturgy is the way to experience community, as well as deepen your faith and spirituality. As a candidate in the sacramental preparation program for Confirmation, you are required and expected to attend weekend liturgy.
- Attend Rite to Commitment. To involve the whole parish community in the journey of your Confirmation the Rite of Commitment will be celebrated at a weekend liturgy.

Dress Code for Confirmation Day

Confirmation is a very special and important occasion in our Christian life. Like all occasions which are significant, dressing appropriately enhances, honors and respects the occasion and the people present. Please use the following guidelines when selecting clothing.

GIRLS: Dress or skirt and blouse, and dress shoes. No bare shoulders, no flip flop shoes, or UGGs.

The appropriate length of the skirt or dress should fall between the knee and ankle. Skirts and dresses should be no more than three inches above the knee.

BOYS: Dress pants, shirt and tie. Dress shoes and socks. Sport coats are optional. No cargo pants and no sneakers.

SPONSORS: Please follow the above dress code.

At the Celebration of Confirmation, the dress of the candidates and sponsor should be suitable and modest for the occasion.

Confirmation Service Hours

Works of Mercy (Service Hours)

Each Confirmation candidate is strongly encouraged to perform Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (Service) in the parish and/or community in response to our call to service as Catholics. Through serving others, we learn lessons and put our lives into perspective. The candidates have many talents and time that can be used to benefit those that are less fortunate.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

Providing Works of Mercy to Others

The concept of service is not just a Confirmation project, it is necessary to the life of the Church. During the time of Confirmation preparation, each student will have the opportunity to give some form of Christian witness and service. When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- Your service is not just a job well done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community.

Confirmation candidates at St. Mark's must participate in a minimum of 20 hours of community service.

The giving of service should continue after Confirmation and all through the candidate's life.

Suggested Works of Mercy

The following is a suggested list of projects which would enable you to serve others, free of charge. You may work by yourself, or with others. You may spent the time on several different activities. All service projects must be signed and dated by a supervisor or person in-charge.

- Altar Server
- Assisting with Parish Activities
- Annual Bake Sale (December)
- Catechist Assistant (Help during CCD classes)
- Christmas Sing-a-Long at Sunrise at Brandywine, Belmar, NJ.
- Caring Cooks, Ronald McDonald House, Long Branch, NJ (Prepare, bake and serve a meal)
- Coat Collection, Spanish Ministry (Sort coats for coat drive in November)
- Fulfill, Monmouth & Ocean County, Neptune, NJ (Stacking shelves, sorting food)
- Madonna House Neptune, NJ (organize and clean up)
- Sunnyside Manor Nursing Home, Manasquan, NJ (Activities for seniors)
- Trinity Church Soup Kitchen, Asbury Park, NJ (Set up, prepare and serve meals and clean up afterwards)
- Visiting nursing homes and hospitals
- Collecting food for the poor and delivering it
- Assisting in meal programs for the poor and elderly
- Build a house with Habitat for Humanity.
- Donate blankets to a homeless shelter.
- Teach computer skills at a senior center.
- Volunteer to tutor. Check with your guidance office to see if your school offers peer tutoring.
- Volunteer to coach or referee with a youth team.
- Volunteer to give music lessons to people in your community, or perform at local shelters or senior organizations.
- Volunteer at any school related activities during the summer or school year.

Babysitting, doing chores at home, cleaning, raking leaves, etc. are NOT considered community service and will not be accepted as service projects.

St. Mark's will sponsor some of those projects above

Sponsor Requirements

The sponsor is an invaluable assistant to parents in transmitting faith. The sponsor needs to be able to fulfill several requirements:

The Church requires that the sponsor be an active, practicing Catholic who has already celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Church recognizes that a person cannot transmit what the person does not have.

- It is important that the sponsor be more mature, more informed, and more experienced in the ways of our faith and culture than the candidate is.
- It is recommended that the sponsor be an older person who has some experience with his or her faith and therefore a clearer perspective from which to speak.
- The sponsor needs to be willing to meet with the candidate on a regular basis prior to the celebration of Confirmation and to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration.
- The sponsor is one who is willing to share his or her faith with the candidate.
- The sponsor is an assistant to the parents as the prime transmitters of faith.
- The sponsor is to be a person of strong and committed personal faith.
- The sponsor needs to be an open, honest, caring, committed and encouraging person who will help the candidate grow in his/her understanding of the faith as the young person comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his/her life.

Important information about Sponsors

The candidates in consultation with their parents choose a sponsor. The role of the sponsor is an important one. A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate, who is willing to share his/her own faith, and who can be of help to the candidate on this spiritual journey to Confirmation.

The sponsor must be a companion on the journey of faith. He or she is present as a friend, specifically a Christian friend. Just as friends do things together, share themselves and their resources, support and encourage each other, so do sponsors in the area of Christian and Church life. Sponsors are there when needed: to affirm, teach, advice, console, strengthen, and guide. They personally introduce the candidate to the Church.

Requirements: (According to Church Canon Law and Diocesan mandates)

- Sponsor must be 16 years of age and fully initiated in the Catholic Church.
- Sponsor must belong to the Catholic Church and have received the three sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- Sponsor, if married, it must be in valid Catholic marriage. In all cases, the sponsor's living situation should be in conformity with Catholic morality.
- Sponsor may be the same person the Candidate had as a Godparent for Baptism, or a new sponsor selected specifically for Confirmation.
- Sponsor may be either male or female for any Candidate.
- **Sponsor may not be a parent or stepparent.**

***Please note that no one can be a sponsor without meeting the above requirements.**

If the sponsor is a member of St. Mark's Church, please fill in the sponsor's information on the candidate's information form. In this case, your sponsor does not need to obtain a separate sponsor eligibility form. We will confirm the eligibility requirements in our parish office.

If the sponsor is not a member of St. Mark's Church, your sponsor must obtain a sponsor eligibility certificate from his/her parish and attach it directly to the sponsor eligibility form. Be sure to add the Confirmation candidate's name to the certificate. If time is of the essence, your sponsor may mail this form directly to us at:

St. Mark's Church
Office of Religious Education
215 Crescent Parkway
Sea Girt, NJ 08750

Sponsor Instructions – Love Letter

(Please give/forward to your child's Sponsor)

Dear Sponsor,

We would like to surprise each candidate on Confirmation Day with a **“love letter”** of encouragement from you, their sponsor. As their sponsor, you are a model and inspiration to the child who has chosen you as the sponsor. Your message, if written from the heart, can have a great impact on the life of the candidate.

Here are a few topic suggestions for your letter:

- Your pride in the candidate for his/her preparation for Confirmation – the extra study effort, their service, and attention to prayer.
- How special/unique the candidate is and why. How he/she has brought love and joy to the family and others.
- Encourage the candidate to come to you in times of pain, discouragement, failure. Speak about these times in your own life.
- Encourage the candidate to always strive to grow in his/her relationship with God and to live a moral, responsible life as a fully initiated Catholic.
- Describe how the Holy Spirit has touched *your* life.

Please place your letter in a sealed envelope marked with the **candidate's first and last name**.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE LEFT HAND CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING YOUR “LOVE LETTER.”

The letters from Sponsors should be included as part of the Confirmation packet to be handed in by the candidate you are sponsoring. The packet, (which includes your enclosed “Love Letter”), is due January 9, 2022.

Thank you for your assistance in making your candidate's Confirmation day both a spiritual and memorable experience.

Sincerely,
Diana Zuna Nieves
Coordinator of Religious Education
diana@stmarkseagirt.com
(732) 449-6364 ext. 105

CONFIRMATION SAINT RESEARCH PAPER

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS- RESEARCH PAPERS THAT DO NOT MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS WILL NEED TO BE RE-DONE

Confirmation is a special gift of Christ through the Church, designed to empower us to better live out the Gospel call to each one of us. Part of that calling is to recognize ourselves as members of Christ's Body the Church, and to live that out, as we were created to do. Fundamentally, we were created to be saints! For this reason, the Church has urged that we embrace a Confirmation saint to be a guide and intercessor on our life's journey to heaven.

This saint can be someone whose life and/or teaching you look up to or embrace. Perhaps the saint shares a common interest or passion that you do. Perhaps instead, that saint shares a trait or patronage that you desire for your own life; you may wish to humbly ask their intercession for that particular trait or virtue. Choosing a Confirmation saint is an important aspect of the experience of preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important to understand the life of that particular saint during these preparation months.

Explanation: For Confirmation, each student candidate must choose a Confirmation name. Candidates may use their baptismal name or can choose the name of a canonized saint. The saint should hold personal significance for the student. The student should strive to be more like the saint in his/her qualities or the way the saint followed God.

Research Paper: Find out more about your saint's life, and write **500-600 word research paper** about this Saint whose name you have chosen for your Confirmation name. **Include your first and last name on paper.**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

(12 point font, double space, margins one inch, top, bottom, and sides)

Paragraph 1: 5-10 sentences. Briefly introduce the points you will begin to discuss in your paper (reasons you chose your saint to be your Confirmation Name). You may also include the reason students choose Saints names for Confirmation in this paragraph (We choose saints names so each person has a strong, Catholic example to follow...)

Paragraph 2: 5-10 sentences. Summarize the basic events of your saint's life, from beginning to end. In this paragraph, you may want to include the time period in which the saint lived, basic facts about the saint's life, interesting obstacles or struggles the saint had to overcome, stories about their conversion to Catholicism (if this applies), etc.

Paragraph 3: 5-10 sentences. Summarize the accomplishments of this saint and what the saint is known for (many saints are Patron Saints: For example, St. Gabriel the Archangel is the Patron Saint of Communication, St. Cecilia is the Patron Saint of Music, etc.) You may also include miracles the saints have performed or interesting facts about your saint in this paragraph.

Paragraph 4: 5-10 sentences. Explain the reason you chose this saint to be your inspiration for Confirmation (What qualities about this saint do you admire? What makes you want to be like this saint? Etc.) Explain how you will try to be like this saint as you prepare for Confirmation. Also, explain how you will continue to try to be like this saint after you are confirmed. (For example, Saint Peter showed great obedience to God and he was trusted to lead the Catholic Church. If St. Peter is your saint, you may want to have God trust you with the Faith just as God trusted Peter)

Paragraph 5 5-10 sentences. Sum up your points in your paper and wrap it up! (Conclusion) You may also include in this paragraph personal growth you may have experienced in researching this saint.

Research (at your local library, the church library or on the Internet) may be necessary to be able to fulfill the requirements for your paper. If you choose to use the Internet as a source, please make sure you choose sites that have factual information. Remember that many Internet sites are not reliable; Wikipedia is not a Catholic site. You might want to try AmericanCatholic.org & Catholic.org or other approved Catholic Websites.



Thuan Minh Hoang

Thay Cuong Thai

Confirmation Class

January 27, 2013

Patron Saint Research Essay

Saint Peter Rock

The patron saint I was given is Saint Simon Peter, or commonly known as Peter Rock.

The patron name of Saint Peter was also given to both my father and god-father and so my brother and I both share the same patron saint as well. Like Saint Peter, my name also has its own meaning that was given to me by my mother and father. My Vietnamese name means "peace" or "keep the peace" which was something my parents wanted to have in the family; however I have never done any deed or action like Saint Peter.

Saint Peter was one of the twelve apostles and was originally called as Simon Peter until he was given a new name by Jesus. "Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..." said Jesus and Simon and from then Simon was known as Peter Rock and was regarded as the first pope by the Catholic Church. Peter was the son of John or Jonah and his brother Andrew was also one of the twelve apostles. Originally, Peter was a simple fisherman. He had no education or work experience so normally, he became a fisherman. However Peter's faith was very strong and followed Jesus as soon as he was asked to follow him. Like Peter, his younger brother Andrew was also asked by Jesus to follow him as well. However Andrew did not follow Jesus by faith like Peter did but by will.

Letter to Msgr. Flynn

- Introduce yourself and tell Msgr. Flynn about your family, yourself, and your interests.
- What is your Confirmation name? Why did you choose this name?
- Who is your sponsor? Why did you choose your sponsor? Why do you think your sponsor is worthy to help you before and after you receive the sacrament of Confirmation?
- Which gift of the Holy Spirit is most helpful to you at this time?
- Why should Msgr. Flynn make a recommendation to Bishop O'Connell that you be confirmed?
- How do you plan to remain involved with the church after Confirmation?
- What types of Works of Mercy did you perform *and* a description of how the service affected the candidate?

CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION
FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Please type or print:

Name of Candidate: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Confirmation Name Chosen: _____ Candidate's Height (for gown size) _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

Sponsor's Parish Address: _____

Is Sponsor 16 yrs. of Age or Older? _____

RECORD OF BAPTISM

Church of Baptism: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Baptism _____

Godparents: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Name _____ Maiden Name _____

- If the candidate did not receive the Sacrament of Baptism here at St. Mark's, please attach a copy of the Baptismal Certificate (*not* the original) to this form.
- If the candidate was baptized here at St. Mark's, please complete the following information only:

My child was baptized at St. Mark's on: _____

My child received First Holy Communion at St. Mark's on: _____

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR INFORMATION

CANDIDATE'S NAME: _____

SPONSOR'S NAME _____ Age: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CANDIDATE: _____

SPONSOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

SPONSOR'S CELL PHONE: _____

I HAVE CHOSEN THIS SPONSOR FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY FORM

If Sponsor is registered at St. Mark's, please fill out this top portion of this form.

No parish seal or Msgr. Flynn's signature is required.

I accept the role of Confirmation Sponsor for:

CANDIDATE'S NAME: _____

I understand the responsibility I undertake, both to serve as a model of Christian living and to pray for my candidate. I attest that the information provided on this form is true. I am a practicing Catholic; I believe and accept the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

(Please print information)

SPONSOR'S NAME _____ Age: _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR: _____ Date: _____

If Sponsor is registered in another parish, please ask their parish Priest to sign this form and place parish seal. A sponsorship letter from their parish can replace this form.

THIS FORM CERTIFIES THAT (SPONSOR NAME) _____
IS A REGISTERED MEMBER OF OUR PARISH, AND TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, IS A QUALIFIED
MEMBER TO SERVE AS A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR.

PRIEST'S SIGNATURE _____

PARISH _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to St. Mark's Religious Education Office, 215 Crescent Parkway, Sea Girt, NJ 08750.

PARISH SEAL

Letter to Msgr. Sean P. Flynn

Dear Msgr.

[illegible]

Name: _____ Date: _____

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS OF MERCY (SERVICE HOURS)

I, _____, have completed the following Spiritual and/or Corporal Works of Mercy (Service) in God's name without payment of any kind.

Date	Service	Hours	Name of Supervisor, Phone Number & Signature

TOTAL: _____

PARENT/CANDIDATE CHECK OFF LIST:



First:

- Mark your calendar with all important dates
- Make a copy of all important information for your records

Did you:

- Read the Confirmation Handbook
- Complete the "Confirmation Application Form"
Include all pertinent information – include height of candidate for robe size
- Attach copy of Baptismal Certificate – if candidate was not baptized at St. Mark's Church or if not previously summited.
- Complete the "Sponsor Information Form"
- Attach the "Sponsor Eligibility Form"
- Complete the "Confirmation Saint Research Paper"
- Complete "Letter to Msgr. Flynn"
- Complete "Description of Works of Mercy" - 20 or more hours

**ALL THE INFORMATION ABOVE SHOULD BE ENCLOSED IN AN ENVELOPE
& RETURNED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 9, 2022.**

Religious Education Office
St. Mark's Church
215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt, NJ 08750
Att: Diana Zuna Nieves

You're done!!

ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Spanish Ministry: Setting up and sorting clothes (Sunday 3:30- 4:30 p.m.). If you would like to volunteer, please report downstairs in the parish hall on Sunday afternoons and look for Mrs. Diana Zuna at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105.

Catechist Assistants for CCD: Monday or Tuesday afternoon classes 4:00-5:15 p.m.
Please contact Mrs. Diana Zuna Nieves at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105.

Coat Drive * (Registration is required. Must register at Parent Meeting) *****

Drop coats in Church basement before November 23. Please consider donating gently used coats because we are in need this year. Coats should be in good condition and clean. They will be given to parishioners in our Hispanic Community here at St. Mark's.

Sort Coats for Coat Drive: Tuesday, November 23 at 4:00 p.m. at Fr. Child's Hall.

Contact person: Mrs. Diana Zuna at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105.

Bake Sale, Baskets, and Raffle Sale: St. Mark's Church (All students must participate)

Sunday, December 12 (2 hours for basket & 3 hours for baking & sale)

Bake, basket and raffle sale after all Sunday Masses.

Sign up for the Mass you want: Sunday 8:00 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 12:00 p.m.

All 8th grade classes will put together a basket to be raffle on those dates.

Each student will be responsible for one or two items up to \$15.

Each class is responsible for 1 basket

Baskets are due on December 5th & 6th

Contact person: Mrs. Diana Zuna Nieves at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105.

Here are some suggestions:

1. Gift Cards (Amazon, target, Dunkin donuts, Starbucks, gas cards. Etc....)
2. Chocolates
3. Candles
4. Hand soaps
5. Lotions
6. Accessories (hats, gloves, scarfs)
7. Movie tickets
8. Dunkin Donuts
9. Starbucks
10. Bath & Body Works
11. Coffee
12. Teas
13. Coffee Mug
14. Holiday Mini set gifts
15. Hot chocolate
16. Kitchen towels
17. Christmas ornaments Etc.....

BAKE SALE

Don't forget: All students must participate in the Bake Sale.

Sunday Masses only.

7:45 am

10:00 am

12:00 pm

Bakers: We need a lots of bake goods, please bring your baked goods before Mass.

What you can bake: cakes, breads, cupcakes, muffins, chocolate cover pretzels, Rice Krispie treats, cookies, brownies, hot chocolate or whatever you think people might enjoy! You could package the treats for individuals (ie: baggie w/3 cookies) or for a family to take home (cake, dozen brownies, cupcakes)

Helpers: meet in the church basement, to help set up tables and price the items.

Good Counsel Baby Bottles:

Good Counsel is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader and innovator in creating supportive residential care and community-based services for homeless, expectant, and new mothers and their children in the context of the Catholic social tradition. Pregnant and expectant mothers, with or without other born children, including mothers with mental health or addiction challenges, from any location, are able to receive help in a Good Counsel home. Founded in 1985, and its outreach program continues to this day. Good Counsel now has five homes: four in the New York State counties of the Bronx, Richmond (Staten Island), Westchester and Rockland; and in New Jersey's Burlington County (just outside Camden and very near Philadelphia).

Gain up to 10 hours by fundraising \$100 or more (5 by fundraising money & 5 by shopping for items)

Tell your family and friends about your cause.

Bottles due by: November 14 & 15

After all the money is collected, as a class along with our Catechist we will go shopping for items in their wish list: wipers, diapers, baby clothes, etc.

Maryknoll Coffee Sale: Maryknoll Mission worker house located in the barrio of Guatamala City in Central America has been a lifeline of support for the marginalized people living in the area. This mission has grown into a schoolhouse for young children who receive a breakfast & lunch during school hours. Maryknoll Missioner priest Fr. Joe Groschel started A Fair Trade Project for the coffee growers in the mountain area thereby getting the small growers Fair trade and educating Guatemalan children.

Sell coffee to family and friends.

Cost is \$10 for 16 oz. bag –ground & decaf.

Contact person: Mrs. Diana Zuna at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105.

1 bag sold= 1 hour

Pick up dates: October 26 and 31st and Nov 1

Drop off Money by: November 21 & 22

Sealed envelope with students name and money

Trinity Soup Kitchen* (Registration is required. Must register at Parent Meeting) *****

In response to the poverty afflicting the Asbury Park area, Trinity runs a weekly soup kitchen (Saturday Soup). Initiated in 1990, the soup kitchen now welcomes up to 220 guests each Saturday for a take-out hot lunch from 12:30 to 2 PM. The volunteers arrive at 9:30 AM to set up tables, prepare, box meals, and clean up afterwards. New hands and donations are always welcome! October through March.

Please contact Derek (215) 820-3444 / Office@trinitynj.com or Mrs. Zuna Nieves at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105.

Dates: Saturdays: October 30, November 6 & 13 & December 4 & 11

TIME: 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Donations for Trinity Soup Kitchen

Donate 2 items=1 hour

Drop off at St. Mark's basement: October 24 & 25 and November 14 & 15

Wish List

Plastic forks (in bulk)

9x9 bio degradable "green" containers (most needed)

Food

Dry beans (pinto, black, etc.)

Common Ground Grief Center: * (Registration is required. Must register at Parent Meeting) *****

The mission of Common Ground is to provide support in a safe place where children, teens and their families grieving a death can come together and share their experiences as they begin the journey through the grief process. "Light a Life" A Walk of Remembrance is where people purchase a luminary in memory or honor of a special person. They will include the name of that person on the luminary. Luminaries will be lit and displayed along the streets of downtown Manasquan/Point Pleasant. Stroll the downtown anytime between the hours of 4-8pm. *Volunteers will help with the setup of the luminary bags (open bags, place block and electronic candle inside then place along the street) and clean up (collect bags and disassemble) - you can sign up to work one or both shifts.* Please contact Mrs. Zuna Nieves at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105 for more information.

Date: Friday, November 5, 2021

Rain Date: November 6

Set up 3:00 p.m. & clean up 8:00 p.m.

Location: Stella e Luna

500 Bay Ave, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

Date: Saturday, November 27, 2021

Rain Date: December 4th

Set up 3:00 p.m. & clean up 8:00 p.m.

Location: Manasquan Lighting

126 Main St, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean Counties:

***** (Registration is required. Must register at Parent Meeting) *****

Thursday, January 6, 2022 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

3300 Route 66

Neptune, NJ 07753

732-643-5850

Sorting frozen food. To register please call the Mrs. Zuna at (732)-449-6364 ext. 105.

Limited to 15 students*

Lasagna Love: Kris Forcillo is a Manasquan Food Pantry volunteer and a member of St. Denis. She is also a volunteer with a 501c3 organization called [Lasagna Love](#).

What started as a mother and daughter feeding families in her community has grown into a national movement with over 5000 volunteers across the country all making and delivering home-cooked meals. Our mission is not only to help address the incredible rise in food insecurity among families, but also to provide a simple act of love and kindness during a time full of uncertainty and stress.

Two ways you can help:

A. Sign up to volunteer

If you love to cook and have been looking for a way to help those who are struggling as a result of the pandemic, join our growing group of Lasagna Mamas and Papas (and non-parents!) You may cook your favorite lasagna or any other treats you want to share with another family. A parents must sign up in order to volunteer with child. Students and families can work in small groups by cooking and delivering meals either one time, one a week, every other week or once a month. Whatever you prefer!

Cook & deliver a meal: 3 hours of service <https://www.lasagnalove.org/volunteer-2>

B. Sponsor a lasagna chef

Lasagna Mamas across the country are cooking for families in need in their communities. Help them reach even more families with a monthly sponsorship, or one time donation. Learn more here.

One time donation: 1 hour of service <https://www.lasagnalove.org/donate>

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact Kris Forcillo directly. You can reach her at kforcillo@gmail.com or (732) 547-0380.

Meals on Wheels:

The Senior Nutrition/Meals on Wheels Program is currently serving over 1,100 daily meals to homebound seniors across Monmouth County. St. Mark's would like to offer a sign of love for the holidays.

Write Thanksgiving & Christmas cards for those in need.

5 cards: 1 hour 10 cards: 2 hours 20 cards: 4 hours

Drop off cards by: Thanksgiving Cards: **BY NOVEMBER 15** Christmas Cards: **BY DECEMBER 13**

Thanksgiving Message: Happy Thanksgiving/ Christmas to you and your family. / Sending you wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving/ Sending you my warm wishes from home to home and from heart to heart to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Christmas Message: "Thinking warmly of each of you and wishing your family an extra measure of comfort, joy and hope this Christmas." / "I hope your holiday season is full of good things." / "At Christmas and always, what a blessing you are." / "Praying you have a wonderful Christmas filled with moments you'll always remember."

From: St. Mark's Confirmation Class

Animal Shelter Donations: The mission of the Jersey Shore Animal Center is to rescue, care for and rehome unwanted, abused, abandoned and sick animals. Our goal is to adopt these special animals to caring and loving forever homes they so richly deserve. Donate to help our furry friends!

Drop off by: January 23 & 24 during class

1 item: 1 hour

Please label number of item and include name and last name.

PET FOOD

Purina One Cat Chow

Purina Kitten Chow

Canned KITTEN wet food – pate, non-fish

Canned cat food; non fish flavor

Purina One Cat Chow

Dog biscuits/treats

Purina One Sensitive Systems dry cat food

Science Diet Light dry cat food

Canned dog food, Purina or Pedigree

Big rawhides, larger the 8" (no knot)

*****PLEASE NOTE: We do not accept prescription food*****

PET HEALTH

Sentry Calming Collars for cats and dogs

Disinfectant Sprays

Bleach

Hand Soap/Sanitizer

Laundry detergent Latex exam gloves (S, M, L, XL)

Dish Soap

Flea Preventative (dogs/cats)

Heartgard

Monetary Donations for surgical supplies

Gift Certificates to local vet hospitals for prescription medication and/or food

*****we do not accept prescribed medications, needles, insulin or personal surgical supplies*****

PET SUPPLIES

Blankets (no down, no crocheted), towels, comforters and sheets
Non-clumping clay cat litter
Metal Choke chains (18'-20')
6 ft leashes – 1" wide & 1/2" wide
Martingale Dog Collars – All Sizes
Gift Cards to: Target, Costco, Petsmart, Petco, Shop & Stop
Non-catnip cat toys
Feliway Diffusers and refills for cats
Cardboard scratching boards

PENDING CONFIRMATION

***Project "Christmas Sing-a-Long" with Karaoke: Date and time to be confirmed**

Sunrise at Brandywine 2600 Allaire Rd Belmar, NJ. Call for more information Director at Sunrise:
Debbie (732) 282-3008

*These two services are not sponsored by St. Mark's. Contact the person in charge and explore options on how you can help.

*** Sunnyside Manor Nursing Home. 2500 Ridgewood Rd., Wall, NJ 07719**

Activities for seniors- ongoing!!

Contact person: Christine – Activity Director (732) 528-9311

*** Ronald McDonald House:** Prepare, bake and serve a meal. All meals must be prepared in house, or prepared by a restaurant or grocery store. This mission enables families to come home to our House after a long day, enjoy a meal and connect with other families.

Contact: (732) 222-8755 ext. 5000.

How to Sign Up for a Meal

Visit: www.takethemameal.com

Log in with the following information:

Recipient Last Name: long branch

Password: red shoes

AS MORE OPPORTUNITIES BECOME AVAILABLE, WE WILL INFORM ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS VIA EMAIL. THANK YOU FOR COOPERATION.