

Updated Sacramental Preparation for First Year (7th Grade) Candidates Seeking Confirmation

St. Alphonsus Liguori Confirmation Program previously established a two year Confirmation Preparation Program which is in conjunction with Vicariate 1. St. Alphonsus Liguori's program is consistent with the policy recently established by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The new addition to the Confirmation requirements states that the candidates will now be performing service to the St. Alphonsus Liguori community and the wider community of the Church. Students must perform two Service Opportunities which are measured by the quality of the service and not the hours contributed to the service.

In a letter from Cardinal Blasé J. Cupich dated October 12, 2017, he states the following:

“The Sacrament of Confirmation is a pivotal experience for young Catholics, as they are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit and complete their initiation into the Church. Our goal is to ensure adolescents receive uniform sacramental preparation for Confirmation designed for today's youth. After consultation with the Presbyteral Council and the appropriate departments within the Pastoral Center, I (Cardinal Cupich) have instituted a new policy for Sacramental Preparation for Adolescent Candidates Seeking Confirmation that increases the time for preparation from one year to two years. It is in conformity with our commitment to lifelong faith formation and became effective July 1, 2017. The new policy can be viewed at <https://pvm.archchicago.org//lifelong-formation/confirmation-policy>.”

Having more time allows candidates to go deeper as they fulfill other requirements, such as researching saints to choose a confirmation patron and giving service to the community and church. Additionally, the policy calls on parishes to more fully involve the candidate's families and their wider parish communities.

Effective with the new Sacramental Preparation policy and its increased Confirmation preparation duration to two years, service opportunities are also extended to include the seventh grade students who are preparing for Confirmation in the year 2019. These service opportunities differ from service hours contributed by the Second Year (eighth-grade) Confirmation candidates. The seventh grade (first-year) candidates are experiencing an introduction to service. It's not about checking off hours on a requirement list, the goal is for the candidates to discover what they love to do and how they can use their service talents in life.

It is recommended that seventh grade (first-year) Confirmation candidates perform some of their service opportunities with their parents and family to introduce the candidate to the meaning and significance of performing service to the church and community. First-year candidates should keep a record of the service opportunities and document all service opportunities performed. (See form below)

Mrs. Anne M. Balzanto, M.Ed.
Coordinator of Religious Education / Confirmation

St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish
Religious Education - Confirmation Program
First Year Confirmation Candidates
Seventh Grade Service Opportunity Documentation Form

Student's Name: _____

Catechist / Teacher/ Class: _____

Date of Service: _____

Organization / Location of Service _____

Signature of Supervisor: _____

Participants: _____
Example - Family members, friends, etc.

Activity details: _____
Briefly describe the service opportunity performed.

Thank you and please return your completed Service Opportunity form to:
Mrs. Anne M. Balzanto, Coordinator of Religious Education / Confirmation
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