



THE ACADEMY OF ST. CARLO ACUTIS

DEUS NON EGO

September 2, 2026

Dear Confirmation Candidates and Families,

We are excited that, for the first time, candidates from Spring Valley, DePue, Oglesby, LaSalle, and Peru will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation together at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

The Cathedral has set our date for **Saturday, October 17th at 4:00 p.m.**

Because this is our inaugural year together, and because our time for preparation is relatively short, we have worked to keep the process streamlined. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we bring our communities together for this joyful occasion. Please review the enclosed checklist carefully and return each item by the indicated date.

We especially ask you to reserve **Sunday, October 11**, for the Confirmation Retreat. Candidates will gather at St. Bede Abbey Church at **1:00 p.m.** At **4:00 p.m.**, Sunday Mass will be celebrated for the candidates and their parents and siblings, with dismissal following Mass. We are grateful to St. Bede Abbey and the St. Bede Academy students for their generous hospitality.

We look forward to accompanying our candidates as they prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please keep them in your prayers!

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CONFIRMATION CHECKLIST

We are joyfully preparing for the upcoming Confirmation!

Please take a moment to read through the accompanying packet. We especially ask your attention to the following details as we prepare together. Your student's completed items are marked below.

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CONFIRMATION APPLICATION — This document provides all the information needed to create the sacramental record that will be kept at your home parish and your parish of Baptism.

Due by
SEPT 23RD

☐

PREPARATION FEE — We ask each family to contribute \$20 to help offset the costs of preparing for and celebrating Confirmation, including materials, music, worship aids, and administrative expenses. Please include the fee with the completed application. *If this fee presents a financial hardship, please contact the Academy office or the Religious Education Director.*

Due by
SEPT 23RD

☐

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM — This document certifies that the chosen sponsor is eligible and willing to serve in this important role. The form requires certification by the sponsor's parish priest.

Due by
OCTOBER 7TH

☐

PATRON SAINT PROJECT — Complete and return your reflection on your saint by October 7. See the worksheets for Saint Bio and Saintly Service.

Due by
OCTOBER 7TH

☐

CONFIRMATION RETREAT — Candidates will gather at St. Bede Abbey Church at 1:00 p.m. for the Confirmation Retreat. Students will have time to pray, reflect, and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At 4:00 p.m., the Sunday Mass will be offered for the candidates and their parents. All are dismissed following Mass.

Date
OCTOBER 11TH

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SERVICE PROJECT — Please make sure the service project is completed and submitted to your religion teacher by October 14. See the project guide for more information.

Due by
OCTOBER 14TH



CONFIRMATION APPLICATION

Please return this completed to your religion teacher.

Baptism, the Eucharist, and Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation. Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Through this sacrament, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and called to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. (CCC 1285)

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE

First Name Middle Name Last Name Suffix

Home Address City State Zip Code

Email Main Phone Number ()

Date of Baptism (mm/dd/yyyy) / / Registered Parish

Church of Baptism

All candidates must be of a registered family registered in a Catholic parish. Because sacramental notations are sent to be made on the original baptismal entry, we require the place and date of baptism.

Mailing Address of Baptismal Church City State Zip Code

CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF INTENTION

In presenting myself freely as a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, I affirm my desire to grow in the Catholic faith and to prepare sincerely for this sacrament. During this time of preparation, I commit myself to the following:

- ◆ I will make prayer a regular part of my day.
- ◆ I will participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
- ◆ I will receive the Sacrament of Penance regularly during my preparation for Confirmation.
- ◆ I will cultivate a spiritual relationship with my chosen Confirmation saint through prayer and study.
- ◆ I will receive Holy Communion reverently and worthily.
- ◆ I will participate fully in the Confirmation preparation program, including religion classes, the retreat, and my Christian service project.

I understand that sincere preparation is an important part of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and that failure to complete the preparation program may require my Confirmation to be postponed until I am adequately prepared.

Signature of Candidate

Date

PARENT AND FAMILY INFORMATION

Father's Name

Mother's Name *(please use maiden name for sacramental records)*

SPONSOR INFORMATION

(please review the requirements on the Confirmation Sponsor form before selecting your sponsor)

Sponsor Name

CHOSEN SAINT NAME

(if choosing a common name, e.g. St. Mary or St. Francis, please also include the specific title, such as St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception or St. Francis of Assisi)

Saint Name



CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

Please return this completed form to your religious education teacher.

THE ROLE OF CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Candidates for Confirmation fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. Sponsors “must be firm believers, able and ready to help the confirmed on the road of Christian life. Their task is to be a special friend and guide, sharing responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Confirmation” (CCC 1255).

The sponsor’s role is to help the candidate grow in faith and in a Catholic way of life by word and example. The sponsor encourages the candidate to participate in the life of the Church, to pray, to receive the Sacraments, and to live as a faithful witness of Christ.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that I,

Printed Name of Sponsor

a registered member of

Parish Name, City, and State

accept the invitation to be the sponsor of the Confirmation of

Name of Candidate

In accepting this responsibility, I solemnly affirm the following:

- I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic and have received the Most Holy Eucharist.
- I participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and strive to live a life consistent with the Catholic faith.
- If married, my marriage is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.
- I am not the father or mother of the Confirmation candidate.
- I accept the responsibility of helping this candidate live as a faithful witness of Christ and fulfill the obligations of the Catholic faith.

Sponsor Street Address, City, State, ZIP

Signature of Sponsor

CERTIFICATION OF THE SPONSOR'S PARISH PRIEST

To the best of my knowledge, the above-named person is a practicing Catholic and is qualified to serve as a Confirmation sponsor in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

Signature of Pastor

Date and Parish Seal

Parish Name

CATHEDRAL CONFIRMATION

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, CANDIDATES, AND SPONSORS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Confirmation Mass at 4:00 p.m.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY

607 NE Madison Avenue | Peoria, Illinois

THE AFTERNOON AT A GLANCE

3:00

DOORS OPEN

Candidates, sponsors, and families may enter.

3:15

READY & SEATED

Instructions from the Cathedral masters of ceremonies.

3:30

GROUP PHOTO

Official photograph with the Bishop.

4:00

MASS BEGINS

The celebration of Confirmation.

ARRIVAL AND PARKING

The Cathedral doors will open at 3:00 p.m. Candidates and sponsors should arrive promptly, proceed directly to the assigned parish section, and be seated and ready by 3:15 p.m. Cathedral ushers will help them find their places.

Parking is available in the Cathedral lots at Madison and Hancock Streets and at Monroe and Hancock Streets. Additional marked Cathedral parking is available around the Cathedral. Please do not plan to arrive before 3:00 p.m., as the doors may still be locked or another event may be taking place.

CATHEDRAL CONFIRMATION

IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR THE DAY

CANDIDATE NAMETAGS

The Academy will provide each candidate with a nametag bearing the proper name of the candidate's Confirmation saint. Candidates will receive their nametags when they arrive at the Cathedral.

The nametag should be placed on the left side and positioned so that it is not covered by clothing or hair.

SEATING

Candidates and sponsors will have assigned seating in the parish section near the front of the Cathedral. They must be seated and ready by 3:15 p.m.

All other family members and guests may sit in the general seating areas. Seats are reserved only for candidates and their sponsors.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Young men: Dress shirt, tie, dress pants, and dress shoes. A suit coat or sport coat is encouraged but not required.

Young women: An appropriate dress or other clothing suitable for this important occasion. The clothing need not be formal, but attire approaching business formal is appropriate. A shawl or bolero should be worn when necessary, particularly with a sleeveless dress, spaghetti straps, or a low neckline.

Please avoid: Short skirts, strapless dresses, tennis shoes, very high heels, and flip-flops.

PHOTOGRAPHS

At approximately 3:30 p.m.: A group photograph with the Bishop will be taken. Because time and space are limited, the Academy will designate one or two people to take the official photograph.

During Mass: Flash photography is permitted, but photographers may not block the aisles or interfere with the liturgy.

After Mass: Optional individual photographs with the Bishop will be available. After the closing hymn, please remain seated and listen for instructions. Candidates and sponsors will be called forward by parish and will line up in the east aisle, on the St. Joseph side of the Cathedral. One family member may stand in the center aisle to take the photograph. After all candidates and sponsors have been photographed, families may take an optional family or group photograph with the Bishop.

HOLY COMMUNION AND LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS

Anyone who requires a low-gluten host should inform a Cathedral usher before Mass. If possible, that person should sit on the left side of the nave, near the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. When approaching for Holy Communion, please remind the priest that a low-gluten host is needed.

CELEBRATING AFTERWARD

Families planning to remain in Peoria for dinner or another celebration are encouraged to make reservations well in advance. Restaurants may fill quickly because many families will be celebrating Confirmation that evening.

ALTAR SERVERS

Experienced altar servers who are not themselves being confirmed are warmly welcomed and encouraged to serve at the Confirmation Mass. Serving with the Bishop at the Cathedral is a wonderful opportunity to assist at this important celebration and to experience the beauty of the Cathedral liturgy.

Servers should arrive by 3:15 p.m. and identify themselves to a Pontifical Usher, who will direct them to the sacristy. The Cathedral's servers and masters of ceremonies will help them vest, become familiar with the Cathedral, and understand their responsibilities for the Mass. Servers may bring their own vestments, although vestments will also be available at the Cathedral.

Student Name: _____

Confirmation *Saint Bio*

Saint _____

What is this Saint remembered for?

*Birth and
Death Dates:*

*Locations
Lived:*

Canonized in:

Patron of:

_____ose them as your Saint?
Why did you chose them as your Saint?

Quote by or about your Saint, or a Bible verse that describes them:

Saintly SERVICE

*"As each one has received
a gift, use it to serve one
another as good stewards
of God's varied grace."
~1 Peter 4:10*

Which Corporal Work of Mercy
did your Saint live out:

Which Spiritual Work of Mercy
did your Saint live out:

How did they demonstrate it:

How did they demonstrate it:

Academy of St. Carlo Acutis Confirmation Service Project



Service Rationale

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ... Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith."

—James 2:14–18

Service to others is an essential part of the Christian life. Through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we recognize Christ in those around us and allow Christ to work through us.

The purpose of the Confirmation Service Project is to help candidates explore different ways of serving others in the name of Christ. It should not be approached simply as a requirement or as a certain number of hours to complete. Instead, candidates are invited to treat it as an introduction to a lifelong practice of Christian prayer, mercy, and service.

Some activities directly address physical needs, while others offer prayer, encouragement, companionship, or instruction. Both the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are important expressions of an active Catholic faith.

Service Requirements

Each candidate must complete at least two different service activities and submit two thoughtful worksheets describing each activity.

The activities should represent a variety of experiences. Candidates are welcome and encouraged to complete more than two.

Each activity must be discussed with and verified by a parent or guardian. Service must be performed freely and without payment. Ordinary household chores or responsibilities do not count as service activities.

Candidates should choose activities that are safe

and appropriate for their age. A parent or guardian should help make any necessary arrangements.

Service should be offered generously and joyfully—even when we do not initially feel enthusiastic about the activity. Learning to set aside our own preferences for the good of another person is an important part of Christian maturity.

Suggested Service Activities

Confirmation candidates should complete at least two different activities from the following list. Other appropriate activities may be completed with the prior approval of the candidate's teacher or program coordinator.

Candidates should enter into each activity attentively and prayerfully—not merely as a task to finish, but as an opportunity to encounter Christ and serve another person.

1. **Pray for the dead.** Visit a cemetery and read the names on at least 25 gravestones. Pause at each one and offer a Hail Mary or another prayer for the repose of that person's soul. Remember also that each of us will one day be called from this world.
2. **Encourage someone through a personal letter.** Write and mail an actual letter to a relative, friend, elderly person, or someone who lives far away. Tell the person how you are doing, mention that you are preparing for Confirmation, and ask for his or her prayers.
3. **Spend time in prayer with Mary.** Visit a Marian shrine, grotto, statue, or image at one of our churches. Spend at least five minutes in silence, ask Mary's intercession for a particular person or intention, and pray one decade of the Rosary.
4. **Speak with a godparent.** Call or video chat with one of your godparents. Ask what he or she remembers about your Baptism. Learn the date and place of your Baptism and, if possible,

something about the day on which you first became a child of God through the Sacrament.

5. **Practice gratitude.** Make a list of at least five blessings God has given you during the past year. Thank God for them in prayer and share your list with your family.
6. **Pray with your Confirmation sponsor.** Pray the Rosary with your sponsor in person, by telephone, or through a video call. You may also attend Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, or another time of prayer together.
7. **Write to someone who may be lonely.** Make cards or write letters for residents of a nursing home, assisted-living facility, veterans' home, or another care facility. Arrangements should be made through the facility or an approved organization.
8. **Share the gift of reading.** With the approval of a teacher or responsible adult, read an appropriate children's book for younger students or for children served by a local organization.
9. **Learn about the Eucharist.** Research the Catholic teaching on Eucharistic Adoration and the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Write a brief explanation of what you learned and how this teaching affects the way Catholics approach prayer and the Mass.
10. **Spend time in Eucharistic Adoration.** Visit one of our churches during Eucharistic Adoration and spend at least 15 minutes in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Reflect afterward on the experience of being in the presence of Christ.
11. **Help provide food for others.** Prepare a large grocery bag or box of useful, nonperishable food for a local food pantry. Choose the items thoughtfully, pray for the family that will receive them, and deliver the donation to the designated collection location.
12. **Interview a faithful Catholic.** Speak with someone whom you consider a good example of Catholic Christian life. Ask why the person is Catholic, how faith influences his or her decisions, and what advice the person would give to someone preparing for Confirmation.
13. **Care for parish or school property.** Help with an approved project involving the grounds, gardens, church, school, or another parish facility. As you work, reflect on the beauty of creation and our responsibility to care for the gifts God has entrusted to us.
14. **Assist an elderly, sick, or homebound neighbor.** Rake leaves, shovel snow, perform light yard work, carry groceries, or help with another appropriate task without accepting payment. Give thanks for your health and strength while growing in compassion for those whose physical abilities are limited.
15. **Prepare a care package.** Create and deliver or mail a care package for someone who is homebound, serving in the military, working as a missionary, attending college away from home, or experiencing a difficult time. Reflect on what it would be like to be separated from home, family, or one's familiar way of life.
16. **Spend time with someone who may be lonely.** With a parent's assistance, visit or call an elderly relative, neighbor, nursing-home resident, or homebound parishioner. Listen attentively and allow the person to share his or her memories and experiences.
17. **Help a younger student.** Tutor, read with, encourage, or assist a younger child through an approved school, parish, or community program.
18. **Support a charitable collection.** Participate in an Academy, parish, or community collection of clothing, school supplies, baby items, hygiene products, or other necessities. Help gather, sort, package, or deliver the donated items.
19. **Serve at church.** Assist with an approved parish activity, such as hospitality, a community meal, decorating, cleaning, preparing materials, or helping at a parish event.
20. **Offer an original service project.** With the prior approval of a parent and the candidate's teacher or program coordinator, identify a genuine need and develop another appropriate way to respond to it through Christian service.

Confirmation Service Reflection

Complete one worksheet for each service activity. Write in complete sentences and be specific.

Candidate Name

1. What activity did you complete?

Tell what you did, where and when you did it, and who participated with you.

2. What did you actually do during the activity?

Describe the steps you took, the help you gave, or the prayers you offered.

3. Who was the focus of your service or prayer?

What need were you responding to? How did you offer help, encouragement, companionship, prayer, or care?

4. What was easiest, most difficult, or most surprising?

Give one specific example.

5. What did this activity help you understand?

Explain what you learned about another person, about yourself, or about something people may need.

6. How did this activity put your Catholic faith into action?

Name a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy connected with the activity and explain the connection.

Parent Signature

Confirmation Service Reflection

Complete one worksheet for each service activity. Write in complete sentences and be specific.

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