

Confirmation Preparation Project

The purpose of this three-part Project is for candidates to become more committed and capable disciples of Jesus Christ. This often involves doing some type of good works, but prayer and the study of our faith may also be involved, as these activities help us to become better followers of Jesus in our lives. Confirmation is the beginning of our mission to live a Christian life. Often children participate in school-based service projects. Confirmation service projects are different in that candidates use their gifts in the service of others through a project/activity of their own choosing.

Your project will have three parts that must be completed by January 2024.

1. A one page research project on a saint the candidate chooses.
2. A description (one paragraph to a half a page) of the project/activity
3. Completion of the service log for the project/activity; five hours total.

A description of each Part of the Service project/activity follows.

Part 1: Saint Research Project

Purpose: Candidates will research various saints and choose one as a model of faith to write about. As Fr. Raniero CantaleMESSO, preacher to three popes (St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis) has said, "Imitation of a saint excels devotion to that saint."

There are many place to find information on saints such the internet. Here are a few:

<https://catholicsaints.info>; <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints>;

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>; <https://mycatholic.life/> You can also find information in books from libraries such as the St. Albert Public Library and Holy Family Parish's library. Some bookstores such as Universal Church Supplies in Edmonton also carry information about saints for purchase.

You could choose a saint based on:

- What you already know about a particular saint
- A patron saint associated with something in your life or your interests/talents. Here are some examples:
 - The patron saints of scouts and soldiers is St. George
 - St. Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians
 - St. Joseph is the patron of fathers, carpenters and Canada
 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary is the patron saint of homeless people
- Whose feast day is your birthday, your baptism date
- Who shares one of your names (first or middle) or perhaps a family name

Your **one page** "Saint Project" may be handwritten/printed or be done on computer.

What to include in your one page research project:

- A picture of your saint (not too big 😊 because the research is the most important part). If there is no picture to copy, you could create your own or you could be extra creative and perhaps draw a scene from the saint's life.
- A short description of the saint's life.
- Why you choose this saint a model of faith for you.
- What you can do in your life to imitate the saint.
- Don't forget to put your first and last name in the top right hand corner of the page 😊

Due Date: You are encouraged to complete and hand in the Saint's Research Project by the January class.

Part 2: Service Project

How you choose to serve others is your decision to make with your parent(s). The project requires you to serve others for **five hours total**. The five hours can be done all at once, a half hour at a time, once a week, whatever schedule works for you. You can serve people in your community, parish, or another organization. Helping family members is a normal part of being in a family but is not community service.

Some key things to remember:

- You should not be paid for your service to others. If someone insists on paying you, donate the money to a worthy cause. For example, if you want to shovel snow for a senior citizen who insists on paying you, respect his or her wishes but you can respectfully let him or her know you will be donating the payment.
- The project/service should be something that fills a need. Let's use the snow shoveling example again. It is great to help a neighbour who is elderly or has mobility issues. However, choosing to shovel everyone's sidewalk and driveway on your street so you can complete the project and get it over with as soon as possible really wouldn't fit the description of the service project.
- Your service should **not** be something you already do as part of your household chores.
- It can be a project you do on your own, with your family or with others.
- It should not involve asking other people to give you money, donations. These types of projects are worthwhile but with so many candidates (over 60 at Holy Family Parish), we cannot expect your school mates, parishioners, neighbours to be asked repeatedly to support numerous projects.
- If you are already doing something to serve others, it counts but it has to meet the previous criteria.

Your project can be but does not have to be related to your Saints Project. Some candidates are inspired by their chosen saints and want to do something related to the saints' lives. For example, if you choose St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the environment and animals, you could pick up litter or volunteer at an animal shelter.

As already mentioned, your parent(s) must approve of your service project. It is better to keep your project/activity simple and manageable. Christmastime is a great time of the year for volunteer work. There are so many opportunities with so many charitable organizations.

When you have completed your service project, write a paragraph on a separate sheet of paper and include the following:

- Explain what your service project was.
- Explain why you chose to do this project/activity.
- If your Saint's Research Project inspired your service project, explain. If it is not related to your Saint's Research Project, no problem; leave this part out.
- Explain how you felt when you were doing the project and how you felt once it was done.
- Explain if your project inspired you to continue helping others in the same way or in a different way. It is alright if you choose not to continue on with your project and want to do something else to serve your community.
- Put your first and last name in the top right corner
- Staple or use a paper clip to attach your paragraph to your Saint's Research Project

Due Date: Complete and hand in the Service Project paragraph by the January class with your Saint Research portion.

Part 3: Completion of the Service Log

This is the easy part. 😊 Whenever you complete service time, write the date, description of the work and have the supervisor or your parent initial at the end of the line. Use the attached sheet to record your service time.

Attach the service log with your Saint's Research Project and Service Project paragraph

Due Date: Complete and hand in the Service Log hours by the January class along with Parts I and II.

When you hand in your project, there should be three pages. All three parts should be handed in together.

The project can be done on paper or on computer. If you do it on computer and submit it through email, please make it a PDF first. Do not share Google Slides or Google Docs.

Confirmation Service Project—Log Sheet

First Name _____ Last name _____

Date	Type/Name of Service	Amount of Time	Parent/ Supervisor's Initials

Total: _____ hrs.

