



Grace Church
M A D I S O N , N J

Confirmation Handbook 2022-2023

“Teach me your way, Lord, so that I can walk in your truth. Make my heart focused only on honoring your name. I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify your name forever, because your faithful love toward me is awesome.”

*Psalm 86:11-13a
The Common English Bible*

“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*”

*Collect of the Day, Proper 28,
The Book of Common Prayer, Page 236.*

2022-2023 Confirmation Schedule:

11 September - In Person Orientation Meeting for Parents and Confirmands 5-7PM

25 September - Youth Group Night 6:00-8:00PM (@Christ Church in Short Hills)

02 October - *Saint Francis Mass and Pet Blessings 4-6PM [Optional]*

16 October - *'Sundae @ One' a Diocese Youth Event (St Luke's Montclair) 1PM-3PM [Optional]*

16 October - Zoom Class: Anglican/Episcopal History 5-7PM

30 October - Youth Group Night 5-7PM

01 November - All Saints Evensong 7PM

06 November - All Saints Sunday Mass 10AM

13 November - In Person Class: Anglican/Episcopal Worship & Liturgy 5-7PM

20 November - Youth Group Night 5-7PM

24 November - *Thanksgiving Day Mass 10AM [Optional]*

27 November - First Sunday of Advent

04 December - *Saint Nicholas Mass and Advent Spectacular 4-6PM [Optional]*

11 December - In Person Class: Sacraments (Biography Assignment Presented) 5-7PM

18 December - Youth Group Night 5-7PM

24 December - Christmas Eve Service(s) 3PM, 5PM, or 9PM

25 December - *Feast of the Incarnation 10AM [Optional]*

22 January - Zoom Class: Prayer and Fasting in the Anglican Tradition 5-7PM

05 February - *'Sundae @ One' a Diocese Youth Event (Location TBD) 1-3PM*

05 February - In Person Class: Other Spiritual Practices 5-7PM

19 February - Youth Group Night 5-7PM

22 February - Ash Wednesday Service(s) (Times TBD)

26 February - First Sunday in Lent 10AM

12 March - Zoom Class: Anglican/Episcopal Doctrine 5-7PM

25 March - Diocese of Newark Confirmation Retreat (**Reserve All Day**)

06 April - Maundy Thursday Mass + Youth Group Night 7PM-12Midnight

07 April - Good Friday Service 12Noon

08 April - The Great Vigil of Easter 7PM

09 April - *Easter Sunday Service(s) 8AM or 10AM [Optional]*

23 April - Zoom Class: Abrahamic Faith Traditions 5-7PM

30 April - *'Sundae @ One' a Diocese Youth Event (Location TBD) 1-3PM*

7 May - Youth Group Night 5-7PM

21 May - In Person Class: Remaining Assignments Presented 5-7PM

28 May - Pentecost Sunday 10AM

Confirmation Service - **TBD** - *Usually a Tuesday, Saturday or Sunday in May or June*

Confirmation Class / Youth Night Attendance Requirements:

Attendance at all events/services/classes on the dates listed in this handbook are required/expected, with exceptions of the six marked *optional*.

Each Confirmand may have **ONE (1) excused absence** from an in-person class. Excused absences should only be for true emergencies (illness, death in the family, etc.). **Athletics, dance, theater, family vacations, etc ARE NOT acceptable excuses.** *Note: There will be make-up assignments for the missed class.* Confirmands are also allowed **ONE (1) absence** from a youth night (this does not need to be 'excused'). Missing an in-person class or youth-night for a second time will indicate that the confirmand and their parents have **chosen to withdraw** from the program for this year and will need to begin again in the 2023-2024 program.

As they can be attended virtually, the four **ZOOM CLASSES SHOULD NOT BE MISSED** (other than for funerals, hospitalization, EXTREME illness, etc). Confirmands are required to have their camera on during zoom classes. Confirmands will need to dedicate a quiet space, with minimal distractions for these sessions.

Worship Attendance/Participation Requirements:

- All confirmands should strive to attend a Sunday Mass every week, however **at minimum** two times a month is **required**.
- All confirmands are expected to train and serve as acolytes (there are two options for training October 2nd and 16th). The head acolytes oversee the schedules, but each confirmand is expected to serve about once a month between October and May (*at least 7 times*).
- All confirmands are expected to serve as a lector at least 2 times between January and May 2023. A sign up sheet will be available by October 1st. These are a 'first come, first served' basis. Please sign up by December 1st.
- All confirmands are expected to serve as Intercessor at least 2 times between January and May 2023. A sign up sheet will be available by October 1st. These are is a 'first come, first served' basis. Please sign up by December 1st.
- All confirmands should (self initiated) attend worship at two other faith traditions during this program year (October to May) on dates, times, locations of their choosing. Confirmands should choose one other christian denomination (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Orthodox, etc), and one other non christian faith tradition (Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, etc.).

Assignments:

Four “written assignments”

(instructions will be given 1 month prior to due date):

- 1 - Historical Biography - Due: December 07 2022
- 2 - Theology/Doctrine Reflection and Personal Creed - Due: March 08 2023
- 3 - Spiritual Practices Reflection - Due: April 19 2023
- 4 - Other Faith Tradition Reflection - Due: May 17 2023

Worship Service Reflection Reports (15 total - Using Worksheet):

- 10 Sunday Masses (confirmand's choice)
- 1 Christmas Eve Mass
- 1 Ash Wednesday Mass
- 1 Maundy Thursday Mass
- 1 Good Friday Service
- 1 The Great Vigil of Easter

Memorization Requirements (texts attached):

The Nicene Creed
The General Thanksgiving
The Magnificat
The Jubilate
Deuteronomy 6:3-9
Matthew 22:34-40
John 1:1-18
Romans 12:1-21 (Will be part of a 'Make Up Assignment' for missed class)

Community Service Project (Self Initiated):

All confirmands (with the help of their parents) are required to self select a project that they feel would benefit their community and then participate in it. For example the project can be helping at a food bank, participating in a 5K to raise funds for a nonprofit, collecting shoes for those in need, etc. Whatever project they choose it should not be something they are already doing for school, scouts, etc. The project should not be something which benefits Grace Church, it should be a project that reaches outside our campus. Please submit project proposals by January 2023 and the confirmands participation in the project should be completed by April 2023.

Memorization Texts:

The Nicene Creed (BCP p. 358)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father
he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving (BCP p. 101)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

*The Magnificat (BCP p. 119)**Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

*The Jubilate (BCP p. 82)**Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Deuteronomy 6:3-9 (CEB) [May also use KJV or NRSV]

Listen to them, Israel! Follow them carefully so that things will go well for you and so that you will continue to multiply exactly as the Lord, your ancestors' God, promised you, in a land full of milk and honey.

Israel, listen! The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds.

Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

Matthew 22:34-40 (CEB) [May also use KJV or NRSV]

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

John 1:1-18 (CEB) [May also use KJV or NRSV]

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
The Word was with God in the beginning.
Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.
The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.
The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.
But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,
born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.
The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;
as the Law was given through Moses,
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God.
God the only Son,
who is at the Father's side,
has made God known.

Romans 12:1-21 (CEB) [May also use KJV or NRSV]

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service.

Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature. Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think.

Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us.

If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying.

Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. Instead, If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.

Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

Note: The Romans 12:1-21 text memorization is only required for those who miss a Confirmation Class, this is the only text which must be recited to Father Asa.

Grace Episcopal Church Worship Worksheet

[Note: Please complete this form following the worship service]

Today's Date: ____/____/____

Liturgical Date: _____

What is the Liturgical Color for this Sunday? _____

Presiding: _____ Preaching: _____

Lector: _____ Verger: _____

Scripture Readings and Reflections:

First Lesson:

What 'spoke to you' in this scripture?

Second Lesson:

What 'spoke to you' in this scripture?

Gospel Lesson:

What 'spoke to you' in this scripture?

Psalm / Canticle:

Was this sung or read?

Collect of the Day Reflection:

Look up the Collect for the Day in your BCP, what do you think is the theme of this prayer? What is the prayer asking God to do? What is the prayer suggesting you to do?

Sermon and Music Reflection Questions:

1. In your own words, what do you think was the “main point” of the sermon today?

2. Did the preacher encourage you to “do” anything in response to the sermon?
If so, what?

3. What is one follow up question you would ask the preacher?

4. What Hymn did you enjoy the most today? Why?

5. Did the Hymns today encourage you to “do” anything as a disciple?
If so, what?

6. Was there anything in today’s service that was different than an ‘average’ Sunday?
If so, what?

7. Did anything bring you joy or sorrow in today’s service?

8. What will you pray about this week?

AFTER *you have completed the reflection questions above*, ask another person in your family questions 1-5. Did they have any responses (*drastically*) different from your own? If so, what did they experience/say:

Confirmands: Name: _____

Sunday	Worship	Services	Attended	:		(At Least	Twice	Monthly)
SEP '22	OCT '22	NOV '22	DEC '22	JAN '23	FEB '23	MAR '23	APR '23	MAY '23

Worship Worksheets	Date Completed	Date Submitted
Sunday 1		
Sunday 2		
Sunday 3		
Sunday 4		
Sunday 5		
Sunday 6		
Sunday 7		
Sunday 8		
Sunday 9		
Sunday 10		
Christmas Eve		
Ash Wednesday		
Maundy Thursday		
Good Friday		
The Great Vigil of Easter		

Lector Dates	Intercessor Dates
1	1
2	2

Acolyte	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dates							

Assignment	Historial Bio	Theo/Doctrine	Spiritual Practice	Faith Traditions
Date Submitted				

Memorization Text	Date Completed	Parent/Priest Initials
The Nicene Creed		
The General Thanksgiving		
The Magnificat		
The Jubilate		
Deuteronomy 6: 3-9		
Matthew 22: 34-40		
John 1: 1-18		
Romans 12: 1-21 <i>(Make-Up)</i>		

Self Determined Service Project	
Date Submitted	
Date Completed	

Other Faith Worship Experience	Date Visited
Other Denomination	
Other Tradition	

Reminder:

There are also required classes which will meet on the following dates:

10/16/22, 11/13/22, 12/11/22, 01/22/23, 02/05/23, 03/12/23, 04/23/23, 05/21/23

There are also required "Youth Group Nights" on the following dates:

09/25/22, 10/30/22, 11/20/22, 12/18/22, 02/19/23, 04/06/23, 05/07/23

Confirmation Covenant

I, _____ (print name),
recognize the importance of this special time of preparation for Confirmation, and I understand
that this is a process of discernment in which I will:

Seek a closer relationship with God and with my peers in the group.

Develop a better understanding of the Episcopal Church & the Anglican Communion.

Reach a personal decision as to whether or not I want to confirm my faith at this time.

In order to accomplish this, to the best of my ability and with God's help, I will:

Pray regularly for openness to the Holy Spirit in my life, in the life of my peers seeking
confirmation, in my parents, and in Father Asa.

Complete all of the components of the confirmation preparation process including:

- Attend at least 2 Sunday Worship services per month.
- Turn in 4 "Written Assignments" on or before their due date.
- Complete 15 Worship Experience Worksheets.
- Complete my memorization of Prayers and Scriptures Assignments.
- Lead in worship as an Acolyte on at least 7 Sundays during the program year.
- Lead in worship as a Lector on at least 2 Sundays in 2023.
- Lead in worship as an Intercessor on at least 2 Sundays in 2023.
- Attend Sunday Confirmation Class Sessions.
- Participate in Sunday Youth Group Nights.
- Complete an Individual Self Initiated "Community Service" Project.
- Attend the Diocesan Confirmation Retreat (Location/Date TBD).

Confirmation Candidate

September 11, 2022

Father Asa

September 11, 2022

Parental Confirmation Covenant

As a parent of _____, I recognize the importance of this special time of preparation for Confirmation. I understand that this is a process of discernment in which my child will:

Seek a closer relationship with God and with their peers in the group.

Develop a better understanding of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

Reach a personal decision as to whether or not they want to confirm their faith

I intend to stand with my child throughout this sacred time of discovery in their life. Therefore, to the best of my ability and with God's help I will:

Support and encourage them in their faith journey.

Set an example of committed Christian discipleship and service.

Continue to pray for openness to the Holy Spirit in my life, and in the life of my child.

Attend worship with my child as often as possible.

Ensure that my child completes all of the components of the confirmation program including:

- *Attending at least 2 Sunday Worship Services per month.*
- *Turning in 4 "Written Assignments" on or before their due date.*
- *Completing 15 Worship Experience Worksheets.*
- *Completing their memorization of Prayers and Scriptures Assignments.*
- *Leading in worship as an Acolyte on at least 7 Sundays during the program year.*
- *Leading in worship as a Lector on at least 2 Sundays in 2023.*
- *Leading in worship as an Intercessor on at least 2 Sundays in 2023.*
- *Attending Sunday Confirmation Class Sessions.*
- *Participating in Sunday Youth Group Nights.*
- *Completing an Individual Self Initiated "Community Service" Project.*
- *Attending the Diocesan Confirmation Retreat (Location/Date TBD).*

Parent of Confirmation Candidate

September 11, 2022

Confirmation Candidate

September 11, 2022



“Pentecost” by Mark Wiggin, United Kingdom, 2016

“O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

*Collect for those about to renew their Baptismal Covenant,
The Book of Common Prayer, page 819.*