

Church of Saint Pius X



PORTFOLIO

Reverend Rocky Sibayan, A.M.
Religious Education Coordinator

Mrs. Ellen Aslanian
Religious Education Administrative Assistant

CHURCH OF ST. PIUS X
91 Secor Road; Scarsdale, NY 10583
(914) 472-5594
spxreled@spxny.org
<http://www.spx@spxny.org>



A message from Father Sebastian...

Welcome Confirmation Candidate,

We hope that you will choose to continue your faith journey by preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. While all the Sacraments are signs of God's presence in our lives and confer God's grace, Confirmation is a special Sacrament because it is a **public statement of faith** by you that you are ready, willing and able to take on the rights and responsibilities of a fully initiated adult member of the Catholic Church. In receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you consciously affirm the promises made on your behalf by your Godparents in Baptism. You declare that you will be a witness to the Gospel in your words and deeds.

You cannot be compelled to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is your choice. God is with you always and wants you to have a relationship with Him, but you choose whether to pursue that relationship - only you can decide to make the commitment to lifelong discipleship with Christ.

If you decide to pursue a deeper relationship with God through the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will need to prepare. As with any commitment, the preparation process will require effort, focus and, most of all, inspiration. Without inspiration, you may lose focus and your effort may wane. This Confirmation Portfolio is designed to help you understand the basic tenets of the faith you profess to believe and guide you in practicing your faith. You will practice your faith by attending weekly Sunday Mass, Spirit Masses, the Easter Triduum, Eucharistic Adoration and a spiritual retreat. You will also engage in various community service endeavors but you will not be alone on this journey. You will choose a sponsor, who along with your Parish priests, family, catechists, teachers and fellow parishioners can help you in your faith journey.

Now and throughout your journey, you should ask questions and make sure you understand the faith you are embracing to the best of your ability. You should search your heart and ask yourself over and over again if, in good conscience, you are ready to receive this Sacrament.

If you complete the preparation process and believe you are ready to make a lifelong commitment to Christ, his Excellency Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Ordinary of the Diocese of Camden, will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation upon you in the Spring. In this Sacrament, you will receive God's grace to help you fulfill your lifelong commitment to Him.

We pray that you will find your own way to becoming an adult disciple of Christ.

Respectfully,

Reverend Father Sebastian Bacatan

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Bacatan, Ph.D., AM





A LOOK AHEAD

This year, students will be responsible for the following:

-  **Attending Class**
-  **Attending Mass**
-  **Completing Assignments**
-  **Choosing a Saint**
-  **Service**
-  **Service Reflection Project**
-  **Choosing a Sponsor**
-  **Attending Retreat**
-  **Interview with Father Sebastian**





ATTENDANCE

Class Attendance

The Archdiocese of New York requires Confirmation Candidates attend in-person classes in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Mass Attendance

The Archdiocese of New York requires Confirmation Candidates to regularly attend in-person Sunday Masses in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Mass Attendance Booklets will be handed out in class at the beginning of October. Students will have to bring their Booklets with them to Mass and have it signed by the Priest.

If attending Mass at another Parish, please have it signed by the Priest there.



ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 8 short written assignments along with a

“Saint Report”
“Letter to the Bishop”
“Service Reflection Project”



Written assignments will be discussed in class and students will be given time to work on them after discussions but may need to be completed at home.



The **Saint Report** will be facts about the Saint they have chosen as their Confirmation Name.



Students will write a short **Letter to the Bishop** describing why they want to be Confirmed and what they have done to prepare.



At the end of the year, they will do a **Service Reflection Project** by making a poster showing pictures and descriptions of their service activities for the year and they will be displayed in the Narthex for the Parish to admire.



CHOOSING A SAINT

Confirmation includes a naming ritual. In taking a Confirmation name, you are asking God to change you; to establish your relationship with Him as a mature adult and to give you strength to live your faith more fully. You might wish to keep your Baptismal name because you began your journey with Christ with that name and it expresses the relationship that exists between the two Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Instead, you might choose a new name to remind you that your choice to be a disciple of Christ is a life altering decision. In the Scriptures, there are a number of times when a person changes his name to reflect a change of life. For instance, Jesus told Peter that his new name was Simon when he assumed a role of leadership in the Church (Matthew 16:18), and when God made His first covenant with Abraham, He changed Abraham's name to Abram and Sarah's name to Sara because their new names showed their change in life as God's chosen people (Genesis 17).

You should choose a name only after considerable research about a Saint because you are asking this Saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life. The Saint's life should have special meaning to you and serve as a guide for your own life. Some Saints are associated with special needs or places. For instance, if you love animals, you might choose St. Francis, if you are an athlete, you might choose St. Sebastian, if you have knee problems, St. Roch, or if your family is from South America, you might choose St. Rose of Lima, the patroness of South America. If you decide to keep your Baptismal name, you will need to choose your patron. There are a number of St. Johns and more than one St. Katherine or St. Elizabeth. Who will be the person you will try to imitate as you follow Christ? You need not choose a person of your same gender.

If you are having difficulty choosing a Saint's name, please feel free to see your Catechist or chat with one of the priests. Go to the library to find books and information on Saints or visit websites. Some websites where you can find information on the Saints are listed below:

www.catholicstoriesforchildren.com/saints

www.catholic.org/saints

www.lifeteen.com/saints



SAINT REPORT

Assignment Outline:

*You can use THIS outline to help prepare a written report about your Saint. Your report must be at least 350 words and include citations to the sources used. Please do not copy the biography of a Saint. Any papers that are not original works will need to be resubmitted. Your report must be **typed** and include the following:*

- Saint's Name
- Year of Birth
- Year of Death
- Year of Canonization (If Given)
- What were they the Patron Saint of and why?
- What are some details about your Saint's life?
- Why did you choose this Saint?
- How would you like to imitate this Saint?



LETTER TO THE BISHOP



*Our Bishop has asked that each candidate write a letter to him introducing yourself and request the Sacrament of Confirmation. He would like to know how you prepared for the Sacrament and how you plan to carry out a life of service to God. This letter is to be **TYPED** and signed by the candidate.*

We suggest the following format...

Dear Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan,

(Paragraph One)

Introduce yourself to the Bishop and tell him something about your family, your history, etc.

(Paragraph Two)

Request that the Bishop confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on you and provide reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

(Paragraph Three)

Explain how you have prepared for the Sacrament including your prayer life, celebration of other sacraments and stewardship (service) you have done and/or plan to do.

(Paragraph Four)

Tell the Bishop how you plan on carrying out your life of service to God and others using the power of the Holy Spirit you will receive in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

(Conclusion)

Conclude the letter and sign using your complete signature.

TURN IN SIGNED COPY TO YOUR TEACHER DURING CLASS.



SERVICE

As you prepare to become an adult member of the Catholic Church, realizing the importance of service to your fellow parishioners and others helps prepare your heart for the Holy Spirit.

You **MUST** participate in the **3 MANDATORY Group Service Projects**:

1. Luncheon for Persons with Different Abilities
2. Christmas Bake Sale
3. St. Bartholomew's Soup Kitchen

*** If you are unable to attend one of these events, you must make arrangements to serve at the Hope Soup Kitchen in New Rochelle to make up for the Service.*

You **MUST** complete a minimum of **3 Family Service Projects**:

1. Host the Hospitality Table after 10:30 Mass.
2. Load and deliver goods from the Thanksgiving Food Drive
3. Participate in the Trunk or Treat Event
4. Adopt-a-Family Christmas Outreach
5. Parents may drive and supervise students at St. Bart's Soup Kitchen.

You **MUST** complete a minimum of **3 Individual Service Projects**:

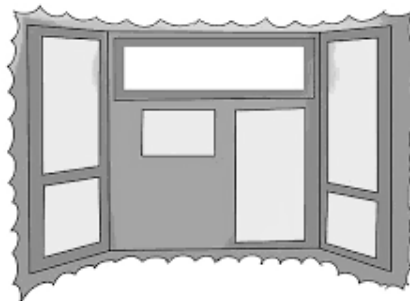
1. Be an Altar Server or Lector (counts as 3 with one-year commitment)
2. Donate goods to the Thanksgiving Food Drive
3. Help with the Brunch with Santa Event
4. Donate gifts to the Angel Giving Tree
5. Pack up gifts from the Angel Giving Tree
6. Donate goods to the Lenten Food Drive
7. Help with the Easter Egg Hunt

Ellen will send emails with sign-up links for service events or see the bulletin for more details.

Service is not limited to our Parish; Students may also participate in other service events in and around the community.



SERVICE REFLECTION PROJECT



As a FINAL assignment this year, each student is asked to prepare a visual representation of the experience they had completing their 6 acts of service.

Show (by photo, clip art or drawing) each service and describe how it felt to serve others or participate and help in our Parish.

This visual representation will be displayed in the Narthex so that your fellow Parishioners can view it. You can use a poster board or a digital poster (1920x1080, 720 dp) using photos and descriptions of all your hard work.



CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Canon #874

of Church law states that a Sponsor must:

- **Not be the parent. (CAN be a sibling).**
- **Be at least 16 years of age.**
- **Be a Catholic who has also been Confirmed.**
- **Be willing to take an active role in the student's faith journey.**

There is no regulation that says men must sponsor boys or women must sponsor girls.

Students have the responsibility of choosing a Sponsor who will take an active role in the Confirmation program and communicate with them about their faith journey on a regular basis.

It is recommended (but not required) that they choose one of their Godparents to act as their Sponsor because Confirmation is the completion of their Baptism.

In Baptism, Godparents acted on their behalf by promising that they would follow Christ. In Confirmation, they consciously make that promise for themselves.



RETREAT

The Archdiocese of New York requires Confirmation Candidates to attend a retreat.

If for some reason they are unable to join the scheduled retreat, they will have to inquire and register in other parishes' Confirmation Retreat before their Confirmation Day.

A Day to Reflect...

One of the final moments of preparation for Confirmation is spending a day with fellow classmates participating in fellowship and spiritual reflection.

By removing themselves from life's concerns, they are able to connect with God in a deeply personal manner which helps prepare their heart for the approaching Sacrament of Confirmation.



INTERVIEW

At the end of the year, each student will sit down with Father Sebastian before Confirmation.

Father will review written assignments and ask questions about some of their thoughts and answers. He will want them to be able to discuss why they have chosen their Saint and will be asked to recite from memory:

The 10 Commandments

The Act of Contrition

The Nicene Creed





INTERVIEW MATERIAL

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy Sabbath Day.
4. Honor thy father and thy mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's spouse.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

Act of Contrition

O My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation. He came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died and was buried. And rose again on the third day 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified. Who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



RETREAT PERMISSION SLIP

Parish Name: **Saint Pius X**
91 Secor Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583
(914) 725-2755

Date: _____

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby give permission for my child, _____,
in the 8th Grade Confirmation Class, to attend and participate in the activities connected with
the trip on _____ to:

The Center at Mariandale
299 North Highland Avenue
Ossining, NY 10562
Phone (914) 941-4455

I will provide for the transportation between my home and the parish premises.
I understand that transportation from the parish premises to the destination of the trip will be
provided by bus. I understand that my child will leave the parish premises at 9:00am and return
to the parish premises at approximately 3:30pm. An adult must pick the student up at that time.

Should an emergency arise I also give my permission for my child to be diagnosed and/or
treated and medicated in accordance with standard medical practice by licensed medical
personnel. I agree to assume the financial responsibility for any diagnosis, treatment and/or
medication deemed necessary.

I hereby release SAINT PIUS X PARISH, the Archdiocese of New York, and all of their agents,
representatives and volunteers from any and all liability in case of accident or injury incurred
during this trip.

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature

Home Telephone # Cell#