

**ST. BERNADETTE
PARISH**

CONFIRMATION 
SERVE. OFFER UP. SPEAK UP.

2017-2018 HANDBOOK



The

Family

PROGRAM CONTACT:

Rena Black

renablack@stbernadette.org or 410-969-2781

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CALENDAR OF GATHERINGS & DEADLINES

STAGE 1: INVITATION – AM I READY?

Wednesday, April 26, 7:00-8:30 pm – Parent-Youth Discernment Meeting

- Due by May 7: Registration form

Saturday, May 13, 2:30-6:30 pm – Candidate-Sponsor Day of Reflection

Saturday, May 13, 5:30-6:30 pm Mass – Rite of Enrollment

- Due May 13:
 - Copy of baptismal certificate
 - Parent-Candidate Covenant
 - Sponsor Covenant

STAGE II: IDENTITY – WHO AM I AND WHO IS JESUS TO ME?

May – August: Summer Exploration Process (*on your own with your sponsor*)

STAGE III: COMMUNITY – WHERE DO I BELONG?

Fall Discipleship One-on-One Interview (Sept. or Oct.): _____

Wed., September 13, 7:00-8:30 pm – Candidate ONLY Formation Session

- Due September 13:
 - Discipleship Plan 1.0
 - Paid in full OR payment plan form

Wed., October 11, 7:00-8:30 pm – Candidate ONLY Formation Session

Wed., November 8, 7:00-8:30 pm – Parent-Candidate Formation Session

- Due November 8:
 - Retreat permission forms
 - Special Parent Assignment

Saturday & Sunday, December 9 & 10 – Overnight Retreat at O’Dwyer

STAGE IV: CALLING – WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

Winter Discipleship One-on-One Interview (Jan. or Feb.): _____

Wed., January 10, 7:00-8:30 pm – Candidate ONLY Formation Session

- Due January 10: Discipleship Plan 2.0

Wed., February 21*, 7:00-8:30 pm – Candidate ONLY Formation Session

**NOTE: One week later than usual, due to Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14.*

Wed., March 14, 7:00-8:30 pm – Candidate ONLY Formation Session

- Due March 14: Letter to Bishop draft (via email)

STAGE V: MISSION – WHAT COMES NEXT?

Spring Discipleship One-on-One Interview (April or May): _____

Wednesday, April 11, 7:00-8:30 pm – Candidate ONLY Formation Session

- Due April 11:
 - Letter to the Bishop (final signed hard copy)
 - Confirmation Name Form

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00-8:30 pm – Parent-Candidate Formation Session

- Due May 9: Discipleship Plan 3.0

TBD: Confirmation Rehearsal & Confirmation Liturgy

**ST. BERNADETTE PARISH
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five effects of Confirmation:

- It roots us more firmly in the divine
- It unites us more firmly to Christ
- It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross

Many Catholics view the Sacrament of Confirmation as a type of “graduation.” The Sacrament of Confirmation does *not* signify the end of your religious education or formation. Likewise, it is not the end of the parents’ responsibilities either. The idea that “I just have to get my kid their Sacraments” is not only a bad idea—it’s bad theology. Confirmation is not an end; it’s a new beginning!

Some Catholics think that Confirmation is a time for the child/teen to “confirm” or “accept for themselves” what was begun at their Baptism. Again, this is incorrect. **Confirmation completes the reception of grace that was begun with the grace of Baptism.** (That’s why the renewal of our baptismal promises is part of the rite of Confirmation!) It’s not about what *you* have to proclaim. It is about the Church confirming what happened to you at Baptism and saying that you are ready to receive the Holy Spirit in this manner. Although it is important that the candidate freely chooses to pursue and receive it, Confirmation (as a Sacrament) is about God’s action (aka, grace), not ours!

The most important part of the Confirmation is the anointing of the confirmand with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop), accompanied by the words “**Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**” This seal is a blessing that represents the protection of the Holy Spirit of the graces conferred on the Christian at Baptism. In other words, the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) is protecting the grace God gives to you at and through your Baptism!

Adapted from the book 100 Things Every Catholic Teen Should Know (Mark Hart and Todd Lemieux)

HOW MUCH DOES CONFIRMATION COST?

Confirmation Preparation Process fee: \$200.

- Payable all at once or in installments.
- Total fee (or written payment plan) due by September 13, 2017.

If this is a financial hardship, or you would like to pay in installments, we will work with you to ensure your child can still prepare for Confirmation. All families should submit the Confirmation Fee Payment Plan Form along with their initial payment and/or request for a fee waiver.

ST. BERNADETTE PARISH CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

PREREQUISITES

- **BAPTISM:** Candidates for Confirmation must be baptized Christians, since baptism is the foundation for all other Sacraments. *Candidates who have not received their First Eucharist or who wish to receive Reconciliation for the first time (or would like help returning to Reconciliation) should contact the coordinator of youth ministry as soon as possible.*
 - **Candidates who were not baptized at St. Bernadette must provide a copy of their baptismal certificate (no later than May 13, 2017).**
- **SCHOOL YEAR:** Must be entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade in the 2017-2018 school year. *High school graduates seeking Confirmation should contact the coordinator of youth ministry or the parish office to seek preparation for Confirmation through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.*
- **CATECHETICAL FOUNDATION:** As per Archdiocesan guidelines, candidates for Confirmation must have a foundation of understanding in the faith (called “remote preparation”), which may be fulfilled by:
 - Completion of a full year of Religious Education/Faith Formation for one year immediately prior to beginning Confirmation preparation, OR
 - Attendance at a Catholic school for one year immediately prior to beginning Confirmation preparation

Candidates are also required to attend religious education or Catholic school during the year of preparation (“immediate preparation”) in order to supplement the sacramental, personal, and spiritual components of the preparation process with continued catechesis.

- **WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE AND DISCERN THE SACRAMENT:** *The Sacrament of Confirmation should only be undertaken if the candidate him- or herself wishes to do so. While candidates may choose to postpone the sacrament at any time during the preparation process (and candidates need not be perfectly certain about their choice to enter preparation!), parents of a potential candidate who feels strongly that he or she is not ready to pursue the sacrament are encouraged to allow him or her to postpone the process at the start. Confirmation can be received at any age, including later years of high school or adulthood. We have found that it is in the best interest of both the young person in question, and those who are choosing to pursue Confirmation at this time, to postpone preparation for a resistant or unsure young person until such a time as God calls them to enter the process. It is *never* too late for God to call and for us to respond!*

**ST. BERNADETTE PARISH
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

COMPONENTS OF THE PREPARATION PROCESS

Details for each component are enclosed or will be made available as we receive them.

- **RITE OF ENROLLMENT:** Candidates will participate in a ritual in the context of Mass, publicly stating their intention to pursue the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- **WORTHY OF THE CALL COMPLIANCE:** Candidates are expected to complete Worthy of the Call training and volunteer application with references in compliance with the Archdiocesan STAND child and youth protection program. *Candidates who have already completed training do not need to repeat the process, but we need to document their training, especially if they were trained at another Archdiocesan location.*
- **FORMATION SESSIONS:** Candidates, occasionally accompanied by a parent, are expected to attend all formation sessions as scheduled during the school year.
- **RETREAT:** Candidates are expected to actively participate in the entirety of an overnight retreat, focusing on the challenges and gifts that come with living as a baptized disciple.
- **DISCIPLESHIP PLAN PROCESS:** Candidates will develop a three-stage plan which addresses their continued growth as a disciple of Christ. A few elements of this plan are of particular importance, and are described in greater detail later in this handbook:
 - **Justice Encounter:** Candidate will immerse him- or herself in an experience or experiences of service for those in need and learn about the Christian call to work for justice and peace.
 - **Universal Church Experience:** Candidate will explore one way the Church is “catholic” (universal) as a means of reflecting on the meaning of Church.
 - **Parish Ministry Apprenticeship:** Candidate will apprentice (or “intern”) in a parish ministry, with the hope that this ministry will be one in which he or she will continue to minister after receiving Confirmation.
- **DISCIPLESHIP INTERVIEWS:** Candidate will participate in three one-on-one interview with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry as an opportunity to discuss and strengthen their faith journey and discipleship plan, as well as to determine their readiness to receive the Sacrament.
- **LETTER TO BISHOP:** Candidate will write a letter to the Bishop discussing his or her Confirmation journey, as per the Bishop’s request.
- **DAY OF REFLECTION & FAITH-SHARING WITH SPONSOR:** Candidate will spend time with his or her sponsor in several ways as outlined in the “sponsor” section of this handbook, and sponsors are encouraged to foster the relationship in other ways as appropriate.
- **CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL:** Mandatory for candidate and sponsor or a parent.
- **CONFIRMATION LITURGY:** Candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in a Mass celebrated with and at our cluster parish, St. Philip Neri, in Linthicum.

ST. BERNADETTE PARISH CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

WORTHY OF THE CALL COMPLIANCE

St. Bernadette Parish, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the Church as a whole have been tasked with the responsibility to protect our children and young people from harmful experiences and to ensure our volunteers are aware of the responsibility they have to foster a safe environment for all. Anyone who volunteers with a parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore who may have what is considered “substantial contact” with children and youth is expected to complete training related to this important value.

The Archdiocesan training for those 14-to-18 years of age is called Worthy of the Call, and in light of the call to serve inherent in Confirmation preparation, **all candidates are expected to complete this training**. It consists of a facilitated video training and an application for volunteer service, including references.

- *Youth who have already completed this training need not complete it again, but should fill out the “opt out” form accordingly.*
- *Youth who have a pressing reason not to complete the training or whose parents prefer they not complete such training are expected to fill out the “opt out” form and to choose their service and parish ministries accordingly in collaboration with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry.*

Adults interested in serving with young people at St. Bernadette are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, since one important component of becoming involved is completing the Archdiocesan STAND/Shield the Vulnerable training/clearance program for those over 18. We would love to have you!

RETREAT & FORMATION SESSIONS

Both the **overnight retreat** in December and the **Formation Sessions** in throughout the year are important elements of preparation. These experiences form the core of the preparation process, and **attendance at the retreat and each formation session is required**.

At least one parent is expected to attend the November and May formation sessions, and parents will receive additional information regarding a special request for the retreat, via email in the fall. **Follow up discussion questions**, designed for parents to continue the conversation with their candidate, will be made available via email following each formation session.

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

At the request of the bishop, each candidate is required to write a letter sharing elements of his or her faith journey, addressed to the bishop who will Confirm the candidate. This is the bishop’s way of “getting to know” those whom he will Confirm, since he will only have a chance to meet them briefly before. Guidelines for writing this letter will be made available as they are received from the bishop’s office. *Please note that deadlines for this letter are set with reference to the deadlines given by the bishop’s office, and are therefore subject to change.*

LITURGICAL EVENTS

Rite of Enrollment

This is a liturgical celebration which ritualizes the choice to pursue Confirmation, and in which candidates and sponsors are expected to participate.

St. Bernadette Parish, Saturday, May 13, 5:30 pm Mass (following the Candidate-Sponsor formation session beginning at 2:30 pm)

Liturgy Rehearsal

It is crucial that the candidate and his/her sponsor (or a parent) attend the rehearsal for the Confirmation liturgy, as this is our only opportunity to ensure that everyone knows the “choreography” (where, when, and how to move) of the liturgy. This makes it possible to have a smooth, elegant, and enjoyable liturgy for everyone, including the candidate.

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Date/Time: TBA

Confirmation Liturgy

The culmination of the Confirmation preparation process, Confirmation liturgy is a Mass with the bishop held at and with our cluster parish, St. Philip Neri in Linthicum. The date and time are set by the office of the bishop, and will be made available (along with other details regarding the liturgy) as they are established.

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Date/Time: TBA

Mass Attendance

In addition to these special liturgical events, **it is expected that candidates for Confirmation attend and participate in Sunday Mass on a weekly basis.** As the “source and summit” of our faith, the Eucharist is where Confirmation preparation draws its strength and meaning; to pursue Confirmation while not celebrating the central mystery of our faith is to “put the cart before the horse.”

- If you have trouble finding a Mass time that works around a tight sports schedule or while traveling (for example), check out <http://www.masstimes.org!>
- Resources for enabling the “full, active, and conscious” participation in the liturgy (the kind of participation to which we are called, in the words of the Second Vatican Council) are available from the youth office upon request.

SPONSOR & CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Choosing a Sponsor

Each candidate must choose an adult member of the Catholic Christian community—other than one of the candidate's parents (in accordance with canon law)—to be a sponsor during the preparation program. The sponsor should be at least seventeen (17) years of age, and must be a Confirmed Catholic, an active participant in the life of his/her parish community, and should live close enough to meet regularly with the candidate. Active participation means that the sponsor regularly attends liturgical celebrations and is involved in the mission of the parish to serve the community.

While the entire parish community has a responsibility to support and encourage each of the candidates, the sponsor has the special responsibility of a one-on-one personal relationship of support, encouragement, and faith sharing. If the candidate's Baptismal sponsors (godparents) live locally, and the relationship with them is already strong, they would make ideal sponsors.

Sponsors should be people of strong faith. They are not expected to be teachers, but they should understand and be able to talk about their personal faith experience of Christian life. They should be confident as role models for their candidates. Above all, a sponsor should be sincerely interested in the continued faith development of his/her candidate.

The sponsor's responsibilities include keeping regular contact with their candidate, listening to and sharing faith and doubts, praying for and with their candidate, and participating in the various activities of the preparation program.

Remember, your sponsor....

- should live locally or be available to meet with you regularly
- may not be one of your parents
- should be a Catholic man or woman, age 17 or older
- should be someone you respect and admire

Whom to consider as a sponsor...

- ◆ One (or both) of your godparents
- ◆ A close aunt, uncle, older cousin
- ◆ A close friend's mother or father
- ◆ A former or current teacher or catechist

SPONSOR & CANDIDATE CONNECTION, CON'T.

The Role of the Sponsor

As a Confirmation Sponsor, you will have the special responsibility of a one-on-one personal relationship of support, encouragement and faith sharing with your candidate. Your responsibilities will include keeping in regular contact with your candidate throughout the program, listening to and sharing faith and doubts, praying for and with your candidate and participating in various activities of the preparation program, including:

Candidate-Sponsor Day of Reflection & Rite of Enrollment

This is an introduction to the Confirmation preparation process for both candidate and sponsor, and the first “official” gathering of the Confirmation candidates. This will include an afternoon of guided and intentional faith sharing with your candidate.

Sponsors are also expected to attend the Rite of Enrollment immediately following the candidate-sponsor session.

Candidate-Sponsor “Check-ins”

You will meet with your candidate independently over the summer to guide him/her in the **Summer Exploration Process** and begin faith sharing. By the end of this process, your candidate will have completed his/her **Discipleship Plan 1.0**; you may want to assist them in making steps toward getting involved in his/her chosen Parish Ministry Apprenticeship, Justice Encounter, and Universal Church Experience.

Support of (or even collaboration on) your candidate’s second and third stage Discipleship Plan process is also highly encouraged.

During the school year, you should be dialoging and praying for and with your candidate. I recommend meeting face-to-face or calling/Skype-ing at least monthly throughout the Confirmation preparation process. **Follow up discussion questions**, designed for sponsors to continue the conversation with their candidate, will be made available via email for each formation sessions from September through May.

Sponsors are also expected to attend the Confirmation Liturgy Rehearsal (if possible), and the Confirmation Liturgy itself. At the liturgy, you will be the person who presents your candidate to the bishop to be anointed!

**ST. BERNADETTE PARISH
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

DISCIPLESHIP PLAN PROCESS

Your Discipleship Plan is the heart of your Confirmation journey. It is up to you to decide what your plan will look like! The three stages of the plan allow for development and change as you pray, discuss, explore, and experiment during your time of preparation for the Sacrament.

The Discipleship Plan Process occurs in three parts:

I. PART I: Your Initial Plan

- Over the summer, you will engage with your sponsor in a **Summer Exploration Process**, investigating some different aspects of who you are so that you can formulate your **Discipleship Plan 1.0**.
 - i. You may begin reaching out to contacts for various parts of your plan (such as your Parish Ministry Apprenticeship, Justice Encounter, and Universal Church Experience) at any time.
 - ii. **Discipleship Plan 1.0 is due at the Candidate Session on Sept. 13.**
 - iii. You will meet with Ms. Rena in September or October for your first one-on-one, the **Fall Discipleship Interview**. During this interview, you will discuss your Discipleship Plan 1.0.

II. PART II: Adjusting your Plan

- As you put your Plan into practice, continue to reflect with your sponsor and parents about how your journey is proceeding. Make changes to the Plan as you discover the need for them.
- You may find that the Retreat in December changes your perspective or inspires you to approach some aspect of your Plan differently. Don't hesitate to try something new!
- **Your Discipleship Plan 2.0 is due on January 10.**
 - i. You will meet with Ms. Rena in January or February for your second one-on-one, the **Winter Discipleship Interview**. During this interview, you will discuss your Discipleship Plan 2.0.

III. PART III: Taking your Plan Beyond Confirmation

- As you near the time for celebrating the Sacrament, think about how your Plan can help you to continue to grow and serve beyond the end of the preparation process. Think seriously about what you want your life to look like and what kind of Christian you want to be as you continue your journey. Ask your sponsor and parents for their input if you need additional insight. Write a third version of your Plan which accounts for this vision.
- **Your Discipleship Plan 3.0 is due on May 9.**
 - i. You will meet with Ms. Rena in April or May for your second one-on-one, the **Spring Discipleship Interview**. During this interview, you will discuss your Discipleship Plan 3.0.

**ST. BERNADETTE PARISH
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DISCIPLESHIP INTERVIEWS

Three times during the Confirmation process, each candidate is asked to meet with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry to discuss your Confirmation journey so far, as well as your progress in reference to the discoveries and goals of your Discipleship Plan. You will sign up for your 10 minute interviews (fall '17, winter '18, and spring '18) at our gatherings in September, November, and March respectively.

UNIVERSAL CHURCH EXPERIENCE

Our Church is catholic — which means “universal.” All kinds of people, all over the world and through time, have experienced God through the Catholic Church. To expand the candidate’s understanding of this fundamental aspect of our lives as Church, you are asked to explore a Catholic community different from St. Bernadette in history, place, and/or culture. This can be completed individually, with your family, with your sponsor or with St. Bernadette Youth Ministry.

Some examples of experiences you may select include:

- Participating in the **National Catholic Youth Conference** in Indianapolis (November 2017), a Regional Retreat (dates TBD), or the **Annual Youth & Young Adult Pilgrimage** on Saturday, March 24, 2018 (contact Ms. Rena ASAP to sign up).
- Attending Mass and touring any Catholic cathedral (for example, St. Patrick’s Cathedral in NYC) or historically significant Catholic church (for example, a mission church in Southern California). Some local examples include:
- The Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore. The tour is offered at 12 noon every Sunday and at other times during the week. (See <http://americasfirstcathedral.org/visit/faq>)
- The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. For times, see www.nationalshrine.com
- The Franciscan Monastery in Washington, DC. (See <http://www.myfranciscan.org>)
- Visiting the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born Saint of the United States of America, in Emmitsburg, MD (See <http://www.setonshrine.org/>)
- Visiting the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes (a replica of the place in France where our Patroness, St. Bernadette, encountered the Virgin Mary) in Emmitsburg, MD (See <http://www.msmary.edu/grotto/>)
- Visiting/touring St. Mary’s Spiritual Center & Historic Site in Baltimore (<http://www.stmarysspiritualcenter.org/>), where St. Elizabeth Ann Seton lived briefly and where the first order of African-American religious women (nuns), the Oblate Sisters of Providence, got their start.

**ST. BERNADETTE PARISH
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

PARISH MINISTRY APPRENTICESHIP

Part of what you are embracing as a Confirmation candidate is the responsibility to serve within the local church—in other words, to minister in the parish. You will select an area of parish ministry and participate in it under the guidance of a parishioner already active in that ministry. Your role is that of an “apprentice” (a learner), while your teacher is in the role of the “master” or veteran minister—the terminology we will use is “coach.”

You will be responsible for contacting your ministry coach, discussing the needs of the ministry, and outlining your agreement with your coach as to how exactly you will be involved in the ministry. Your involvement should be meaningful and substantial, but should also serve the needs of the ministry. As in the case of your Justice Encounter, you will not be amassing a certain number of hours—your time requirements will be determined by the ministry’s needs and laid out explicitly in your Discipleship Plan. The idea is to explore an area of ministry in which you may want to continue serving beyond Confirmation. This is an opportunity to dive deeper into what it means to be Catholic Christian, not a “hoop” to jump through!

Your coach may be from any one of the following committees and ministries, or you may work with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry to develop a “self-designed” apprenticeship.

<i>Committee or Division</i>	<i>Potential Ministry</i>	<i>Ministry Coach Contact</i>
Justice & Peace Chair: Mr. Joe Dulany justice@stbernadette.org	Winter Shelter	Ms. Rena Black 410-969-2781 or renablack@stbernadette.org
	Adopt-a-Family	Ms. Jan Zlockie jlzlockie@yahoo.com
	School Supplies Drive	Mr. Dan and Ms. Lisa Bell 410-551-2355 rupierupe@yahoo.com
	Other projects as needed (Haiti school sponsorship program, etc.)	Ms. Rena Black
Creating Community Chairs: Ms. Marge Sholl Ms. Christina Brandon	Help with Parish Picnic & other community events	Ms. Marge Sholl mdsholl@gmail.com Ms. Christina Brandon chris8462@gmail.com
	Music Ministry Director: Mr. Geoff Rohrbach grohrbach@stbernadette.org	SPIRIT (<i>teen choir</i>) Cantor (<i>leads the congregation in song</i>) Other music groups
Liturgy Committee Chair: Mr. Lou Czachor liturgy@stbernadette.org	Committee Member	Mr. Lou Czachor liturgy@stbernadette.org
	Lector (<i>proclaims first or second reading at Mass</i>)	Mrs. Marge Sholl mdsholl@gmail.com

	Leader of the Prayer of the Faithful	Ms. Barbara Hannon bhannon@vincentbaltimore.org Ms. Carol Paska carol.paska@gmail.com
	Liturgical Seasons (<i>help with Christmas decorating/ undecorating, Holy Week liturgies, etc.</i>)	Ms. Rena Black renablack@stbernadette.org
	Usher	Mr. Michael VanDereedt mvandereedt@aacps.org
Religious Education – Early Childhood & Elementary Division	Vacation Bible School Team	Ms. Pat Radford 410-969-2786 or pradford@stbernadette.org
	Reconciliation & First Eucharist Aide	
	Sunday (AM) Faith Formation Aide	
Religious Education – Middle & High School Division <i>AND</i> Youth Ministry	Sunday (PM) Faith Formation Aide	Ms. Rena Black 410-969-2781 or renablack@stbernadette.org
	Summer Madness Peer <i>June 27-30, 2017</i>	
	Middle School Ministry Peer	
	Youth Leadership Council	
	Famine Planning Team	
“Design-your-own” apprenticeship		

JUSTICE ENCOUNTER

By the time you enter Confirmation preparation, it is likely you will have had many experiences of what is usually called “service.” Rather than asking you to collect a certain number of service hours, what is required for Confirmation preparation is an experience of “going deeper,” by connecting your service to the Church’s teachings on social justice (Catholic Social Teaching) and the corporal works of mercy.

What “counts” for my Justice Encounter?

A list of suggested Justice Encounter opportunities is enclosed, but if you have an idea for a Justice Encounter not listed, please discuss it with Ms. Rena as soon as possible.

The requirements are that your Justice Encounter must:

- Include an act or acts of service which directly impact the life of someone in need (i.e., the vulnerable). Examples include: Persons who are hungry, homeless, or poor; persons with disabilities or who struggle with language barriers; persons affected by incarceration or who are ill, elderly, or have lost a loved one.
- Be a substantial engagement (i.e., direct contact with vulnerable individuals, or a sustained commitment to a form of indirect service) – *note that almsgiving (giving money or goods) by itself will not “count” for the purposes of the Justice Encounter.*

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Suggested Ministries & Agencies for Your Justice Encounter

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Baltimore-Appalachia Workcamp – B'more or WV – 2017 or 2018. *Contact:* Rena Black

Winter Shelter at St. Bernadette Parish – Nov. 2017 *Contact:* Rena Black

Sarah's House (Temporary Housing for Families in Emergency Need, Fort Meade)

Contact: Bruce Clopein at 410-551-7722 ext. 213 or bclopein@cc-md.org

HUNGER & BASIC NECESSITIES

30 Hour Famine 2014 – February 23 & 24, 2018 *Contact:* Rena Black

Happy Helpers for the Homeless *Contact:* Bobbi Coffman at 410-255-1697

H.O.P.E (He Opens Paths to Everyone) 108 Roesler Road, Glen Burnie - behind Azar Building

Contact: Leo Zerhusen at 410-859-1297 or lzerhusen@verizon.net

My Brother's Keeper 4207 Frederick Road, Baltimore

Contact: Kathy Gross at kgross@mybrotherskeeperbaltimore.org

NCEON (North County Emergency Outreach Network) 304 Fifth Ave SE, Glen Burnie.

Contact: 410-766-1826

CAP (Christian Assistance Program) 1215 Old Camp Meade Rd., Severn *Contact:* 410-674-3162

Beans and Bread 402 South Bond Street, Fell's Point, Baltimore *Contact:* Dorothy Askew-Sawyer

at 410-732-1892 x 116 or dorothy.sawyer@vincentbaltimore.org

Our Daily Bread 725 Fallsway, Baltimore *Contact:* 443-986-9031

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Ruth Parker Eason Summer School Program

(Special Education School for Students with Disabilities)

Contact: Nicole at 410-222-3815

Special Olympics Maryland

<http://www.somd.org/volunteer/>

Maryland Therapeutic Riding 1141 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville

Contact: Erin Teigen at 443-494-3150 or Erin@MTRinc.org

PERSONS WHO ARE ILL OR ELDERLY

North Arundel Health & Rehab Center 313 Hospital Dr., Glen Burnie *Contact:* 410-761-1222

Pascal Center - Senior Citizens Center Across from Msg. Slade School *Contact:* 410-222-6680

Sunrise Senior Living of Severna Park 43 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park

Contact: Kimberly at 410-544-7200

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I have a conflict with the preparation process?

We urge you to contact us as soon as you are made aware of the conflict. We will work with you to try and find a solution that works for everyone.

What about Confirmation Names?

We strongly suggest that candidates use the names given to them at Baptism since Confirmation is grounded in our Baptism. Neither the Rite of Confirmation nor the Code of Canon Law refers to the custom of choosing a “Confirmation Name.” The Rite simply refers to the candidate being called by name, the presumption being they are called by the name given at the time of Baptism.

Why is Confirmation celebrated at St. Philip Neri?

The bishop Confirms hundreds of young people each year, in addition to all of his other duties. In order to lessen the burden somewhat, smaller groups of candidates throughout the Archdiocese often come together to celebrate the Sacrament together with others from neighboring parishes.

St. Philip Neri is one of the parishes in our cluster, and since their worship space is the largest in our cluster, it is a natural choice for hosting what can be a very large celebration! We have agreed to collaborate in the liturgical celebration not only for practical reasons, but also to reinforce the important message that we are all One Body in Christ. We are Baptized (and Confirmed!) into the Church as a whole, not just into a parish. Although the Confirmation will be recorded at St. Philip Neri (as per canon law), the Confirmed will always have a home here at St. Bernadette!

What is the difference between the Justice Encounter and the Parish Ministry Apprenticeship?

The purpose of the Justice Encounter is to “go deeper” and really connect with a vulnerable person or persons through your service. Your Parish Ministry Apprenticeship is meant to be an introduction to an ongoing ministry in our parish, a way of “trying on” or seeing “behind the scenes” of a particular ministry. The Parish Ministry you choose to “try on” *may* be concerned with social justice, but because you are focusing on the reality of serving as part of the team which facilitates the ministry, your experience will be different than if you had simply served at a particular event or in a particular way, as facilitated by that ministry.

How will I know if I have “completed preparation”?

We are not looking for a certain number of “service hours,” or for information you have memorized (though neither of those is a bad thing!). The process provides Christ-focused opportunities for discerning, exploring, and experimenting for *your* benefit (not to keep a steady flow of paperwork coming through the Youth Office! ☺). **We are interested in whether you feel you have gotten out of the Confirmation process what you wanted, and in supporting who you are feeling called to be after receiving the Sacrament!**

If you are *genuinely engaged* with the process, you will have “done enough.” The goal is not to “complete preparation,” but to continue to grow in faith throughout your whole life!

**ST. BERNADETTE PARISH
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

PRAYERS & SCRIPTURE: THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by
the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Holy Spirit
from the Rite of Confirmation

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by
water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin: send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the
Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Saint Augustine of Hippo

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.
Amen.

Selected Scriptures

Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1-4a Isaiah 42:1-3 Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
Ezekiel 26:24-28 Joel 2:23a, 26-30a Psalm 30

New Testament

Acts 1:3-8 Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33 Acts 8:1, 4, 14-17
Acts 19:1b-6a Acts 10:1, 33-34, 37-44 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 Romans 8:14-17
Romans 8:26-27 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25
Ephesians 4:1-6 Ephesians 1:3a, 4a, 13-19a Hebrews 2:23a, 3:103a

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12a Matthew 15:24-27 Matthew 25:14-30 Mark 1:9-11 Luke 4:16-22a
Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15 Luke 10:21-24 John 7:37b-39
John 14:15-17 John 14:23-26 John 15:18-21, 26-27 John 16:5b-7, 12-13a