

**Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Family Catechesis**

**Sacrament Preparation Packet
2018-2019**

Grades 3, 4, and 5



The Last Supper
Vincent Juan (Juan de Juanes) Macip – 1560

Readiness of the Child

It is important to discern your child's readiness, or predisposition, for the sacraments they are receiving.

A child who is prepared to receive Confirmation and Holy Communion:

- Has reached the age of reason
- Has been baptized and is able to renew the baptismal promises made as his/her baptism
- Demonstrates knowledge of Christ and the Paschal Mystery, according to his/her age
- Recognizes that the Eucharist is different from ordinary food
- Is able to receive the Body and Blood of Christ with reverence.
- Is in a state of grace and has prepared for and has received their First Reconciliation.

If you have concerns about child's readiness, contact the Family Catechesis office.

If we observe that your child is not exhibiting readiness, you will be contacted.

Code of Canon Law #889, #913, #914; Rite of Confirmation III. 12, The Rites of the Catholic Church, Vol. 1, Catechism of the Catholic Church #1306-1311

Expectations

These were clearly explained in the Attendance Policy that each family was required to sign and turn in to the Family Catechesis Office.

Since children are preparing to receive the Sacraments, they should be attending Mass on Sundays. Weekly Mass (and the Holy Eucharist) is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. It does not make sense for a child to prepare for Sacraments, if they are not attending Mass regularly. Since children can't drive themselves to Mass, this responsibility and obligation falls upon the parent(s).

Eucharistic Adoration is also another way for children to grow in their Catholic faith and to learn a deep love and respect for the Holy Eucharist. They come to have a real appreciation for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Adoration is not a substitute for Weekly Mass.

Service

As the children learn about being a disciple for Christ in the world, they need to put that into practice. Beginning immediately, we would encourage families to volunteer at one of the organizations listed in the Appendix.

In the appendix of this packet, you will find volunteer form informing us where and when you volunteered. Please turn that in to the Family Catechesis once your family has completed a service project.

Confirmation Sponsors

A Sponsor assists the parents of this child in their Christian duty and will help this person, by example, word, and action to live as a faithful Christian in communion with, and according to, the teachings of the holy, Catholic Church.

In order to serve as a Godparent/Sponsor, we need the Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form completed (Appendix and Parish Website). This takes the place of a traditional sponsor letter. This form must be turned in by January 15-16, 2019.

For children preparing for Confirmation, you must obtain a sponsor who meets the following requirements:

- Is at least 16 years old
- Is a baptized member of the Roman Catholic Church
- Has received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- Regularly participates in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
- Regularly receives the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confession
- Believes what the Catholic Church professes and teaches and makes an effort to incorporate these teachings in daily life
- Is not the natural or adoptive parents of the child being sponsored
- Understands and accepts the responsibilities which are undertaken for sponsor
- Is in a marriage recognized as valid by the Catholic Church
- If single, is not cohabitating with someone (living together as if married)

Once a Sponsor has been chosen, please have your child (the candidate) fill out the form – *My Models in Faith* – found in the Appendix.

Sponsor Booklet

Along with this packet you were given a sponsor booklet, which is to be given to the person you and your child have chosen to be their sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This booklet will assist to facilitate conversations between the candidate and their sponsor.

These conversations can be in person, over the phone (video chats), via Skype, or whatever means convenient for the sponsor and the candidate. There is a summary page for the Candidate to complete, sharing the results of their conversations. This paper is due April 2-3, 2019.

Candidates are encouraged to talk to their Sponsor on a regular basis.

Selecting a New Name

See the forms in the Appendix – *Choosing a Confirmation Name and My Models of Faith*

Websites that will assist you:

Catholic Online: <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>

EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/>

My Catholic Life: <https://mycatholic.life/saints/>

Catholic Icing: <http://www.catholicicing.com/category/saints/>

Franciscan Media: <https://info.franciscanmedia.org/saints>

USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/saints/index.cfm>

Sacramental Masses

On Sunday, December 2, we will send out the online sign-up for these Sacramental Masses through [Flocknote](#). It is a first come first served format.

Saturday, May 11 at 10:00am ([Third and Fourth Graders Only](#))

Saturday, May 18 at 10:00am ([Third and Fourth Graders Only](#))

Thursday, May 16 at 6:00pm ([Fifth Graders Only](#))

How Does One Dress for the Sacraments Mass?

Because this is such an important part of one's relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church, we would ask that all those attending the ceremony follow these guidelines for attire.

Parents, Sponsors, Family Members and other Adults:

We ask you to set a good example by dressing up for the occasion.

- Please refrain from wearing denim, shorts, and flip-flops.
- Men should wear collared shirts or a shirt and tie; casual or dress pants.
- Dresses or skirts/tops are preferred for ladies. We would ask that they be of modest length and that shoulders be covered.

For further assistance on Mass attire, please see the article – *How I Learned to Dress Appropriately for Mass*.

Candidates for First Communion and Confirmation:

Girls: white dresses, with covered shoulder and knee length. Veils are permitted.

Boys: white shirts and ties, dark pants and dark shoes. Due to the heat, a jacket is not required.

Candidates for Confirmation:

Girls: light colored dress or skirt and top, knee length and with covered shoulders, dress sandals or dress shoes.

Boys: Light colored shirt and tie, dark pants and dark shoes.

Confirmation/Communion Candidate Information Form

Please see this form in the Appendix. It is very important that it is filled out completely and turned in to the Family Catechesis Office by March 3, 2019.

APPENDIX

Service Project – Places to Serve

Service Project Form

Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form

Choosing a Confirmation Name

My Models of Faith

Confirmation/Communion Candidate Information Form

Article – How I Learned to Dress Appropriately for Mass

Service Project - Places to Serve:

Senior Living Facilities in Gilbert -

Generations - www.GenerationsSeniorLiving.com

The Oaks - <https://www.merrillgardens.com/senior-living/az/gilbert/the-oaks-a-merrill-gardens-community/>

Wellsprings - <https://www.wellspringstherapy.com/index.php/locations/gilbert>

Quail Park - <https://www.qpmorrisonranch.com>

Summit - <http://www.avistaseniorliving.com/thesummitaz/>

The Center at Val Vista - <https://www.centeratvalvista.com>

Town of Gilbert - www.gilbertaz.gov/residents/volunteer

Service Opportunities in Metro Phoenix –

Maggie's Place - <https://www.maggiesplace.org>

First Way Pregnancy Center - <http://www.1stway.net>

Aid to Women's Center - <http://aidtowomencenter.org/volunteers>

Saint Mary's Food Bank - <https://www.firstfoodbank.org>

Saint Vincent DePaul - <https://www.stvincentdepaul.net>

Special Olympics (www.gilbertroadrunners.com) -

Contact: hod@gilbertroadrunners.com

**Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Family Catechesis 2018-2019
Service Project Follow-Up**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

Family Name _____ completed the following service
project _____

Date _____

Our project served the following
people _____

If you went with other families from the parish, what are the family names?

An important part of the service project is taking the time to reflect on the activity. Use the following questions to lead a discussion for your family:

- 1. What did you learn about the people you served?*
- 2. What did you learn about yourself?*
- 3. Talk about how you felt while you were doing the activity?*
- 4. How do you feel you made a difference in the lives of the people you served?*
- 5. What worked well in your group?*
- 6. Was there anything that didn't work well?*
- 7. If you had a chance, would you do more service?*

“Thus by their fruit you will recognize them.”

-- Matthew 7:20



Instructions for the Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form

Praise Be Jesus Christ!

You have been chosen to be a Godparent/Confirmation Sponsor for a child preparing for Baptism/Confirmation. This is a great honor and a great responsibility.

A Godparent/Sponsor assists the parents of this child in their Christian duty and will help this person, by my example, word, and action to live as a faithful Christian in communion with, and according to, the teachings of the holy, Catholic Church.

In order to serve as a Godparent/Sponsor, we need the Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form completed. This takes the place of a traditional sponsor letter.

The original is then turned in to the Saint Mary Magdalene Family Catechesis Office.

A copy can be faxed to serve in its place until the original arrives (Fax: 480-279-6786)

Originals are due January 15-16, 2019.

Any further questions, please contact the Family Catechesis Office at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

Saint Mary Magdalene

Meet Jesus ~ Know



Roman Catholic Church

Jesus ~ Experience Jesus

Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form

I, _____, have been asked to serve as a Godparent/Sponsor for

Print First and Last Name

the upcoming Baptism/Confirmation of _____

Print Name of Candidate

who is the child of _____

I am a registered member of _____ in _____

Name of Catholic Church

City and State

Grade of Candidate: _____

Sponsors "must be firm believers, able and ready to help the candidate on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function...bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism. Like parents, they share in the responsibility for the salvation of the soul entrusted to them" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1255).

I swear to Almighty God that the following statements are true: (Please initial each true statement)

- I am at least 16 years old
I am a baptized member of the Roman Catholic Church
I have received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
I participate regularly in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
I receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confession on a regular basis
I believe what the Catholic Church professes and teaches and I make an effort to incorporate these teachings in my daily life
I am not a parent of the child I am sponsoring
I understand and accept the responsibilities which I undertake as a sponsor for this person. I will assist the parents of this child in their Christian duty and will help this person, by my example, word, and action to live as a faithful Christian in communion with, and according to, the teachings of the holy, Catholic Church (according to the Code of Canon Law: Canons 872-874)

Mark only the one that applies:

- If married, I am married in the Catholic Church and therefore I am in a sacramental marriage
If single, I am not cohabitating with someone (living together as if married)

Signature of Godparent/Sponsor

Date

Signature of Parish Representative

Date

Affix Parish Seal

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Family Catechesis
2018-2019

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Choosing a new name for Confirmation is an ancient and honorable tradition. Taking a new name can be symbolic of a new stage in life. It follows in the scriptural tradition of the famous phrase, "I have called you by name (Isaiah 45:3-4)." In the Old Testament, Abram became Abraham, and Jacob became Israel. In the New Testament, the tradition continued when Simon was renamed Peter by Jesus (Matthew 16:17), and Saul called Paul by the early Christian community (Acts 13:9).

Since the Second Vatican Council, however, this is no longer a mandatory practice of the Rite of Confirmation. The Church now invites Candidates to reclaim the name they received at Baptism. In fact, the Diocese of Phoenix states the following:

"A Confirmation Candidate is strongly encouraged to be confirmed under his or her baptismal name (if a biblical, beatified, or canonized figure), or in accordance to the past custom of the Church, select the name of a biblical, beatified, or canonized person as recognized by the Church. If candidates decide to select a name, they should be familiar with the life of their person for their choice and the ways in which this person was a witness to Christ and demonstrated discipleship" (Diocese of Phoenix, *Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist Policy and Guidelines*, 2009; Canon 855).

If you decide to adopt a new name for yourself or stay with your Baptismal name, please use the following criterion in your judgment:

1. Do research on the history of your name and any other names you might be considering. Is there someone you were named after? Is there a family history to your name? Are you named after a saint? Pray and let the Holy Spirit guide your research.
2. Choose a name that reflects a virtue or value you wish to aspire to. This may be reflected in the person who has that name (it may be a saint or a relative.)
3. If you are choosing a saint, research that saint's life well. Come to know the saint as if she/he was a friend.
4. Once you have made a choice, please create a poster with your Saints name, any particular details about the saint, and why you are choosing this saint. You can find a picture of the saint or draw a picture of the saint. You will present this poster on the retreat.

My Models of Faith

To be filled out by the Candidate:

Name: _____

My Saint (Confirmation Name)

I have chosen to use the name _____ for my Confirmation.

I haven chosen this name in honor of _____.

This is why I feel this person is a good model of faith for my life -

_____.

Here is something they did in their life that I would like to try to model -

_____.

My Sponsor

I have chosen _____ to be my Confirmation Sponsor.

This is how I am related to my sponsor:

_____.

My sponsor is a good model for me because:

_____.

Parents: Please provide the following information about your child's sponsor.

Full Name _____

Parish _____

City/State of the Parish _____

Will the Sponsor be attending the Sacramental Mass? _____

If not, who will serve as proxy? _____

A proxy must also fill out an affidavit.

Due no later than March 3, 2019.

Confirmation/Communion Candidate Information Form

When a candidate receives a sacrament, information is recorded in our formal parish records/archives and information is sent to the parish where the candidate was originally baptized (Parish of Record).

Parents of Candidate – Please fill out the following information Completely.

Candidates Full Name (include Baptismal name if one was given)

Confirmation Name: _____

City/State of Birth: _____ Birthdate: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

City/State of Baptism: _____ Baptismal Date: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Name and Full Address for Church of Baptism

Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Family Address: _____

Sponsor: _____

Proxy (If one was used):

Due no later than March 3, 2019.

For office use:	FC	C
Date of Celebration:	_____	
Presider:	_____	

Advertisements

Church Growth Free eBook

5 Bad Habits That Kill Church Growth & How to Break Them. Learn More.
grow.pushpay.com

REPORT THIS AD

TOM PERNA

EVANGELIZATION. CATECHESIS. JP₂ GENERATION.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2018

CATHOLICISM

How I Learned to Dress Appropriately for Mass

ON MAY 9, 2017 • (8 COMMENTS)

This article first appeared in this week's edition of *Vidi Dominum* (<http://smarymag.org/uploads/docs/bulletins/20170507.pdf>), the parish bulletin of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Re-published here with permission.

If you Google Search – “how to dress for Mass”, you will find ten different articles explaining why it's important to dress appropriately, and a lot of different opinions in the comments. The reasons given are, for the most part, very similar. With the arrival of warmer temperatures here in Arizona and other places around the country, we tend to dress more casually. Many of us dress casually when we come to Mass as well. Should we?

Before I really dive deeper into this topic, let me say one thing – *I am not judging you in any way*. As one who works for the parish, it is my job, in union with our Pastor, Fr. Will, to help lead you closer to Christ. It's not about judgment, but helping you to grow in your faith. My hope is that many of you will read this article, understand it, and implement it.

How did I learn to dress for Mass appropriately?

It goes back to the very first time I attended Holy Mass at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Steubenville, Ohio nearly nine years ago. I'll never forget the feeling of being totally underdressed when I walked into church. Even though I was wearing a \$200 pair of Joe's Jeans, an expensive Banana Republic polo shirt, and a pair of Johnston and Murphy shoes, nearly everyone else was dressed in their “Sunday best.” This was how I was dressing for Mass for years before that day. At least four of my graduate school professors, including Scott Hahn, were dressed in full suits with ties and their families were dressed to the same degree. Even as I write these words to you now, the feeling of that moment still resides with me. My first thought I was, “I need to go home and change into better clothes.” In the end, I stayed for Mass but sat in a back corner hoping that none of my professors witnessed my attire. Some might think this is extreme, but I learned long ago from my Dad that it's better to be overdressed than underdressed, and I was most certainly underdressed for Holy Mass.

From that moment on, I learned how to wear appropriate clothing to Mass every Sunday. Did I dress in a suit every Sunday? No, but I wore dress pants, dress shoes, a polo or button down shirt (most often button down with a sweater) and, on occasion, a tie. In recent years, I

have begun to wear a tie nearly every week. I am grateful that this lesson was taught to me many years ago. Dressing appropriately for Mass completely changed my disposition at Mass. My outer disposition and clothing now reflect my inner disposition.

Although I am writing this article to all parishioners, I particularly hope that *my fellow Catholic men* who read this article will take my words to heart. If you wear dress pants/khaki's and a polo shirt/button down to work every day, but come to Mass dressed in shorts, a t-shirt, and flip flops – there is a disconnect. Why dress appropriately for work, but dress casually for Mass? Would you wear your work clothes to go to the pool, the beach or the lake? This seems like a common sense question, but if you were to visit the President of the United States or Pope Francis, would you wear shorts and t-shirt? In Rome, you aren't even permitted to enter a church building if you are not dressed appropriately.

Men – we can do better than this! It may not be a perfect expression, but the phrase “the clothes make the man” does express that the clothes we wear often affects the way we are regarded.

Practical Guidelines Appropriate Dress for Mass

So we might be asking ourselves, “what is appropriate dress for Sunday Mass?” In order to assist you in this question, below are a few norms for your consideration:

Men...

1. Wear formal (dress) shoes to Church. Flip-flops, TOMS (I love mine, but not for Mass), beach sandals, or cross training/running shoes are not formal shoes.
2. Wear dress pants or khakis (not jeans).
3. Don't wear shorts.
4. Wear a button down shirt or a polo shirt, but make sure the shirt has a collar. Tuck the shirt into the pants. T-shirts with no collars, sleeveless shirts, and sports jerseys are too informal.
5. [For the more daring types] – wear a tie, a suit, or a sport coat with your attire. Some may think this is too stuffy, but not long ago, men wore such clothes every day, every Sunday to Mass, and yes, even to sporting events. Go take a look at a baseball game from the 1930's and 1940's – the men are wearing suits!

Women... (these suggestions came from fellow female parishioners)

1. Wear decent shoes to Church. Flip-flops and tennis shoes should be avoided.
2. Remember that for a skirt or dress, three fingers above the knee, or longer, is appropriate. Skirts and dresses should not be “see through” or have long slits in them. Shorts, especially “short shorts” should not be worn.
3. Don't wear jeans (just like men). Slacks are a good option, but they should not be too tight. Your goal shouldn't be to attract attention to the shape of your body when dressing for Mass.
4. Wear a nice blouse (if not wearing a dress). Tops should not be too tight for the same reason that pants shouldn't be. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, and midriffs are not appropriate for Mass. It's also important to make sure that undergarments remain undergarments. If any part of your bra can be seen by others, rethink your choice in top.
5. Cleavage should never be visible. You might think a shirt covers your cleavage, but take this quick test before you leave for Mass: Bow in front of the mirror. Whatever you see is what the Priest, Deacon, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will see when you bow before receiving the Eucharist.

Common Objections

With all of this in mind, let's examine four common objections to dressing up for Mass –

1. *"God doesn't care what I wear to Mass"*: This is often heard along with – "Come as you are! God doesn't care what clothes you wear! He just wants you!" This objection is conjecture. God does care what you wear – don't use this excuse because laziness has set in. No Bride on her wedding day is going to say to her Groom – "Come as you are to our wedding! I really don't care what you wear." Jesus explicitly demands respectful attire in Matthew 22:1-14 (The Parable of the Wedding Feast).
2. *"It's my personal prerogative – I don't feel like dressing up"*: Here we have the objection that, because I dress up all week for work, on Sunday it's time to relax. Yes, Sunday is the Holy Sabbath – a day of rest. However, not dressing for Mass appropriately falls into the sin of sloth. Sloth lacks discipline and the willingness to suffer. If Our Lord suffered in agony on the cross for all of us, we can dress appropriately for a couple of hours on a Sunday to glorify His name, and yes, even when it's 110 degrees.
3. *"I never dress up"*: Some people that make this argument are non-conformists, or have a tendency to rebel against authority, but this comment also comes from people who aren't ever required to dress up for work. Some employers have become lax on their dress codes for their employees. Regardless, this argument doesn't really hold up since those same people who say they never dress up, actually dress up for a lot of things. We wear sport jerseys to games, dresses or tuxedos for Prom and weddings, uniforms for teams, or specialty (sometimes expensive) clothes for hunting, fishing, hiking or even working out at the gym. We actually "dress for the occasion" pretty often. Shouldn't that concept apply to Holy Mass as well?
4. *"I don't have money for dress clothes"*: Dressing nice for Mass does not need to cost a lot. Those who have limited financial resources can find clothes that are decent for Mass at discount or thrift stores. However, if you are truly unable to purchase new clothes and don't currently have anything appropriate for Mass, don't be ashamed to call the office and ask for help!

How we Dress for Mass Really Matters

There are two main reasons why how we dress matters. First, how we dress conveys respect and honor. When we dress appropriately for Mass, we are saying to God, "You are worth the effort; you deserve my best." It also communicates to your fellow parishioners that you take Mass seriously. It's not just another casual event during the week.

Second, when we dress in a respectful manner it changes our interior disposition. Personally, when I have a suit on, or even just a tie, my words, thoughts, posture, and my general attitude is different. My father used to say to me – "a gentleman truly knows how to dress for every occasion." Some will even argue that dressing up for Mass can be seen as spiritual discipline.

If you want to assist in bringing the changes needed for dressing appropriately, first make the commitment to dress more reverently at Mass yourself. Call up a friend from the parish and challenge each other to dress better for Mass. Next Sunday, make the effort to dress more appropriately. Once you are doing your best to express the seriousness of the sacrifice of the Mass in your outward appearance, then you can help your children to do the same.

Postscript: All comments are read by me and only approved with my discretion. Comments made should be done in regards to the article. Any comments attacking me, each other, or any entity associated with this post will not be approved. As long as these guidelines are followed, the comment box will remain open. If they are not followed, the comment section will be closed. Thank you.

SOURCES:

CHRISTOFF, MATTHEW JAMES. "DRESSING LIKE A MAN FOR MASS." THE CATHOLIC GENTLEMAN. N.P., 03 DEC. 2015. WEB. 26 APR. 2017.

POPE, MONSIGNOR CHARLES. "ADORE THE LORD IN HOLY ATTIRE – ON PROPER DRESS FOR MASS." COMMUNITY IN MISSION. ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON BLOG, 10 JUNE 2015. WEB. 26 APR. 2017.

VOGT, BRANDON. "[VIDEO] HOW MY FAMILY DRESSES FOR MASS." BRANDON VOGT. N.P., 08 JULY 2015. WEB. 26 APR. 2017.