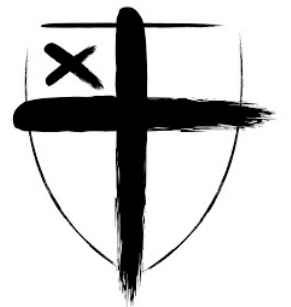
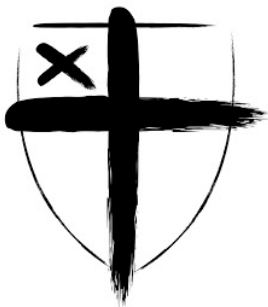


St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church  
Confirmation Guide Book



Welcome to Confirmation at St. Paul's! To help you, we want to make sure you know EVERYTHING before making your commitment! If you have questions or concerns during the year, PLEASE let us know!

1st - , our vision of youth ministry, in brief, is that we want to:

*"Create opportunities and a community for youth that will encourage and nurture them to participate in the life of the church beyond their tenure as a youth."*

With this, we looked at everything we do with youth as they transition from childhood to adulthood. We want to make sure that the Confirmation experience is unique compared to our other offerings but we don't want to make Confirmation and ONE-STOP-SHOP. In other words, Confirmation can't be a Formation, EYC, youth trip, and fellowship all in one. We still encourage youth to participate in other facets of our youth ministry opportunities.

2nd - we looked at the core understanding of Confirmation -

*"Confirmation literally means "to strengthen" ones faith, idea of community, and even self identity."*

3rd -

*"Confirmation is a response to our Baptism."*

As part of the Anglican community and as Episcopalians, we believe in infant Baptism because our relationship and covenant with God is a communal one rather than being individual. That being said, we understand that we make a decision for Baptism (entrance into the Body of Christ and the community of believers) for those who are unable. Because of this, Confirmation is the opportunity for one who has already been Baptized to take time to discern what it means to be a part of the Christian community, their particular body of belief, and even their specific parish. We need to understand that everyone's walk with Christ is unique and that our experiences and revelations happen at different stages in life. Because of this, Confirmation at St. Paul's is available for any youth 8th grade and older. We must understand that not everyone is ready to be Confirmed at the same time. Some may feel led at an older age - even adulthood. We just simply don't want to feel that youth should be pushed to make such an important decision at a particular time because that is when it is offered.

*"So what does Confirmation look like this year?"*

Before we look at logistics, we need to understand that the Confirmation experience is a discernment process. We want to provide youth and adults the opportunity to experience different ministerial opportunities while they think about whether or not they want to be confirmed.

## Checklist for Confirmation

Total Credits

### Discernment Meeting

- 2 Sundays in October (pick 1)

Mentor

- Pick One Before the End of the Year (Dec 31)

### Mandatory Experiences

#### Episcopal 101 Classes

- Ethos
- Church History I
- Church History II
- Church Polity
- The Bible
- Book of Common Prayer I
- Book of Common Prayer II
- Baptism
- Symbols
- Stewardship
- Outreach



#### Mandatory Experience outside classes

- Clergy Lunch
- Annual Meeting

#### Other Mandatory Experiences (Pick 2)

- Shrove Tuesday
- Ash Wednesday
- Maundy Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service (5pm)

#### Formation Experiences 5 by Dec10 / 5 by March 17

- SundayEYC
- Sunday Formation

# Mentor

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## What is a Confirmation mentor?

A mentor is someone who is capable of guiding one who is discerning confirmation so that they may further their walk with Christ.

## Conditions of Serving as a Mentor

Be a confirmed Episcopalian. As youth are being confirmed in the Episcopal Church, it is important to have mentors who have experience in the Episcopal tradition.

Be a member of St. Paul's. Confirmation builds community within our parish and so it is important to have a mentor who can draw from their experiences at St. Paul's. In addition, this relationship is one that we want to continue within the church context beyond confirmation.

## Expectations of Confirmands

- Be in attendance during the sessions on Sunday mornings Nov. 12; Dec. 3, Jan 14; Feb. 11, Mar. 3
- Participate in either the 7:30, 9, or 11:15 am services on Sunday's with classes as we understand worship to be the center of our identity as Christians.

## Expectations of Mentors

- Meet with your confirmands at least twice a month during the classes from Jan-March. The confirmand will have a mentor/confirmand worksheet from the previous class to work on with their mentors.
- Confirmation classes are not mandatory for mentors BUT highly encouraged.

## Expectations of both Mentors and Confirmands

- Be available for Confirmation Sunday (March 17)

In serving as a mentor, the main thing you offer is a listening ear and an interest in your confirmand's questions and explorations. You do not have to have all the answers - in fact, one of the greatest gifts you can offer a confirmand are your own honest questions. Confirmands will gain from this experience through participation in getting to know their mentor and asking questions along the way.

We enter into this covenant and will support each other in this mentoring process through participation and prayer.

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Confirmand's Name

Signature

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Mentor's Name/Email

Signature

## Episcopal 101 Classes

Episcopal 101 Classes are designed to create a foundation for what it means to be a committed disciple of Christ through the lens of the Anglican tradition. Each class provides a pillar that helps you discern you you are in all this and what direction God is calling you to follow. While these classes are comprehensive, they exist to begin conversation and to fan the flames of inquisitiveness understanding the becoming a disciple is not simply about objective learning but rather learning to discern. It is the intention that our students do not merely accumulate knowledge but rather open a new world of questions and conversation. Each class will be online for confirmands to watch and listen. When they are finished, they will have a quick questionnaire to fill out which will be sent to the Director of Youth Ministries. Confirmands are also required to meet with their mentor to discuss the lesson. Your Confirmation guide provides questions not to be filled out and turned in but rather to help with mentor conversations. After each lesson, you will need to have your mentor sign the bottom. If you meet online or over the phone, you may sign the alternative signature option.



*Thomas Cranmer -  
Arch Bishop of Canterbury*

### Session 1 Ethos

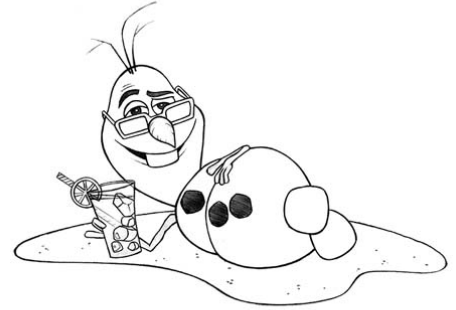
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*Mentors Signature after meeting*

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*Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone*

- If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, and take one cartoon character with you, where would you go and whom would you take?



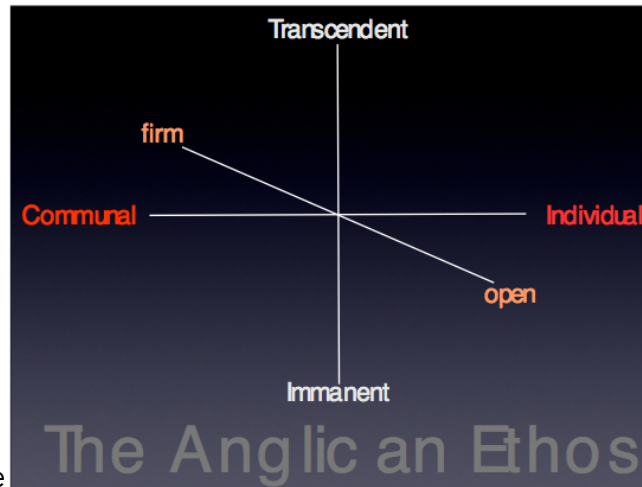
- Where is one place you saw God at work in the world this week?

- What is one place you were aware of God's presence in your life this week?

- What's something you remember from Dixon's teaching on Sunday about the Anglican ethos\*?

- Dixon said that Anglicans are only "radical" about one thing, and that's Jesus. What does it mean to be "radical about Jesus"? What would it look like to this poorly? What would it look like to do this well?

## **Ethos Explained**



- The axis are:
  - Y Axis: The
    - *Transcendent* is a God that is wholly other: represented by the Orthodox tradition
    - *Immanent* is about a God who is close to us here and now: Best represented by the Pentecostal or Contemplative traditions.
  - X Axis: The Christian's relationship to other Christians
    - *Communal* is when the faith is so deeply tied up in the community of other Christians, it almost cannot be separated: Best represented by the Roman Catholic tradition (this is why people can be "non-practicing Roman Catholics" – it's a communal conceptualization of the faith.)
    - *Individual* is when the Christian faith is mostly about your, personal decision: Best represented here by the Evangelical tradition and their "personal relationship with Jesus."
  - Z Axis: The Christian's relationship to doctrine
    - *Firm Doctrine* is when there are less and less questions in the faith and more and more answers. In firm doctrine you find precise and immovable answers about the mechanism of salvation, what happens in the Eucharist, the timeline of events that follow a person after death, etc. Best represented by the Reformed tradition.
    - *Open Doctrine* is an approach to the Christian faith that says, there are some things we cannot know the answers to, or the answers we have, have changed. This is best represented by the Liberal tradition of Christianity.

Anglicanism is a heart around the center of all three axes. We hold all the poles together in tension, not planting our flag on any extreme, to the exclusion of the other. We don't radicalize on the poles. We radicalize on Jesus.

## Session 2

### Church History I

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Mentors Signature after meeting

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Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone

What is the church to you?

Ask your Mentor:

What does the church mean to your mentor?

Did they grow up in the church?

Have they always been Episcopalian?

Have your mentor share one of their favorite stories at church.

We describe the universal church as "One Body." What does this mean to you and your mentor?

Share with your mentor what you remembered from the first class? (Example - how did the Episcopal church start in your own words?)

Answer together ( This is not a test! You can look online!)

Who is the "Father of the Reformation?" \_\_\_\_\_

Who split in the "Great Schism?" \_\_\_\_\_

Who is responsible for the start of the Anglican church? \_\_\_\_\_





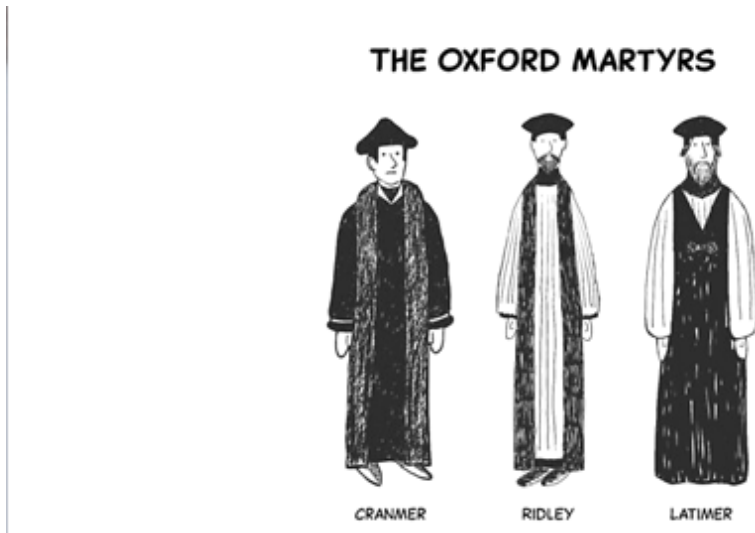
## Church History II

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*Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone*



What was the greatest Christmas present you ever received?

What's one thing you learned that you didn't know before from Fr. Dixon's lecture on Anglican church history?

What is one thing you now wonder about our Anglican history?

Where is one place where you saw God this week?

If God could do one thing for the incoming week, what would you want it to be?

**Session 4**

## The Bible

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*Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone*

How would you describe what the Bible is to your friends?

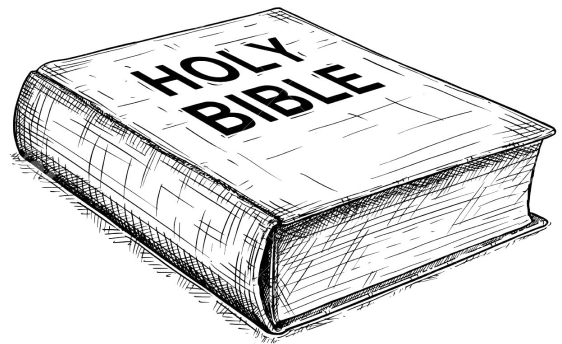
About Your Mentor:

Have you attended a Bible study?

What is the Bible to you?

Have your mentor share a story about them and the Bible (if they have one).

As Episcopalians, we read the Bible in two ways - we read together and we interpret responsibly. Explain these two facets to your mentor.



Share with your mentor what you remembered from this class? (Example - what is the official translation of the Episcopal church.)

We believe the Bible to be “inspired by God.” What does this mean?

## Session 5

# The Book of Common Prayer I

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*Mentors Signature after meeting*

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*Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone*

Do you have your own *Book of Common Prayer*?

Do you find it helpful?

If someone were to ask you what the Book of Common Prayer is and why Episcopalians use it, how would you respond?

What was the most interesting you discovering during the class lesson on the Book of Common Prayer?



# Book of Common Prayer II

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*Mentors Signature after meeting*

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Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone

A Scavenger Hunt of  
*The Book of Common Prayer aka BCP*

Divide into pairs and see if you can find or answer the following:

- What is the earliest date on which Easter can fall? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the latest date on which Easter can fall? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the words used to introduce a reading from the Bible and to end a reading at Eucharist? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where is a collect for schools and colleges? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many Articles of Religion are in the BCP? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Who can read the Gospel at Eucharist? \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you renounce and promise to do when you are baptized?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who can lay hands on and anoint the sick? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many versions of the Lord's Prayer are found in the BCP? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the Latin name for the Song of Mary? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does the BCP have to say about the age of those to be confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where can you find a book of the Bible in the BCP? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many psalms are there? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Session 7** **Baptism**

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*Mentors Signature after meeting*

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*Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone*

Share your stories of your baptism with your mentor.  
(If you were baptized as a baby, talk to your parents or godparents.)

- What do they remember about that day?
- Why did they have you baptized?
- What did they pray for, for you?



Ask your mentor about their baptism.  
(If they don't remember, perhaps they can share about their child's baptism.)

- What do they remember most?
- Why was it important to them and their family?
- Who came to the baptism?
- How did they celebrate?

Share with your mentor the activity of the 5 practices of the baptismal covenant that you did in class. (Or the handout if you were not in class.)  
How did you do with your 5 practices of living out your baptismal covenant?  
Was it easy or hard?  
How can you do something more challenging next week?

## **Session 8**

### **Eucharist**

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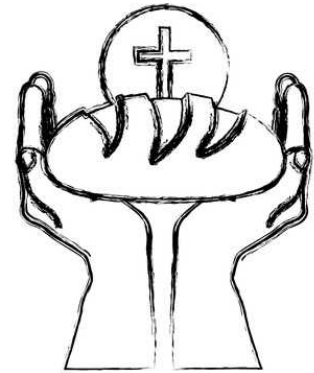
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What is a sacrament?

What is one thing you learned from Dixon's lecture Sunday about the Eucharist that you didn't know before?

After this class on the Eucharist, what is one question you now have?

Have you ever had an experience of God in the Eucharist? If so talk about when.



If God can do one thing in your life this week, what would you want to be?

**Session 9**

**Polity**

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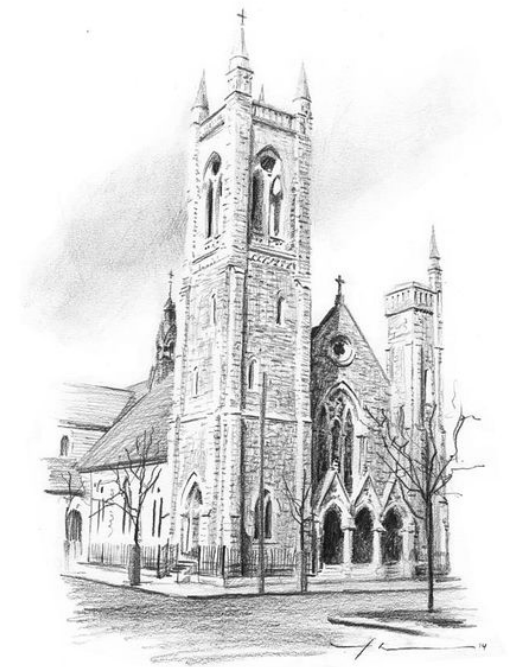
*Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone*

What is one place you saw god this week?

What is one thing you learned that you didn't know before about the structure of the Episcopal Church?

What is one question you now have after hearing Dixon's lecture on the structure of the episcopal church?

Mentors, have you ever been on a committee in the church? If so, share your experience with your confirmand.



**Session 9**  
**Symbols**

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Mentors Signature after meeting

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Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone

When you worship God on Sunday morning, what do you do to participate? (Kneel & pray, genuflect, cross yourself, bow, sit in silence)?

How do these ritual actions get you ready to experience God's holiness?

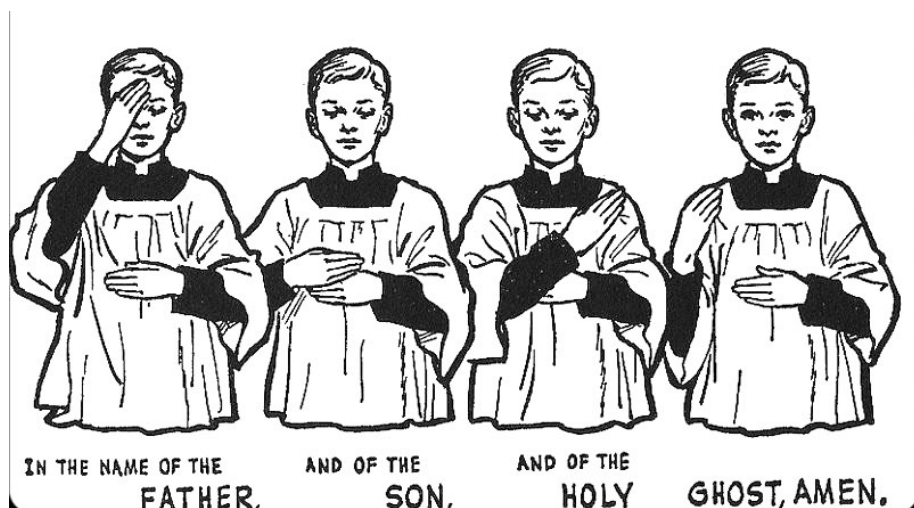
What is your favorite hymn in the hymnal? Or your favorite piece of service music - from the S section in the beginning of the hymnal?

The Episcopal Church has different worship practices than Baptists, Methodists, or Moravians.

- What is it about our way of worship that you love?
- What makes your heart happy?
- What are some of the aspects of our worship that are frustrating, or difficult to understand?

Our signs and symbols are a big part of Episcopal identity, from the colors on the altar to the vestments that are worn, to the words we use for various items and architecture.

- Talk it over: what's the difference between a chalice and a cup?
- What's the difference between a deacon and a priest?
- Why do the ministers wear a white alb when they serve at the altar (Look to your handout for some clues.)
- Why do these differences matter to us?





## Session 10

### Stewardship & Outreach

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*Mentors Signature after meeting*

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*Alternative Signature - Confirmands Parent may sign if they met with Mentor via Zoom/Phone*



How do you currently contribute to the work of mission and outreach at St. Paul's?

-Have you ever pledged before? If not, why not?

What does tithing mean?

-Why did people in the Bible do it?

-Why do we do it now?

What does "Go to Galilee" mean in the Diocese of North Carolina?

(Hint: Bishop Curry preached a lot about this!)

What are some of the outreach activities at St. Paul's that inspire you?

-Why?

-What work would you like to do to bring about the "healing of the world through Jesus Christ and the tending of God's garden" as Dixon says on Sundays?

## Other Required Experiences

### Annual Meeting:

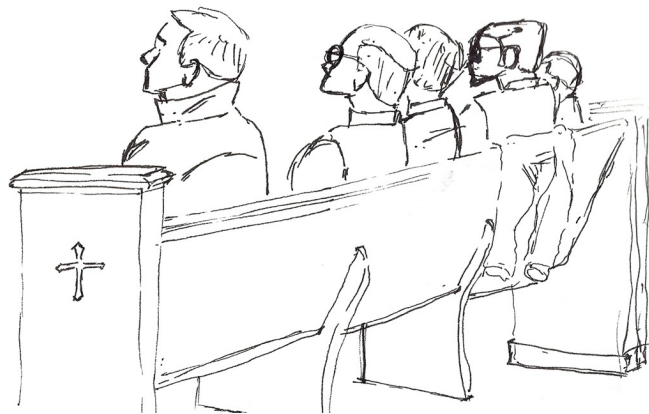
During our annual meeting, we do not have Sunday formation for Sr. High (including Confirmation class) but it is a part of the confirmation experience for our confirmands to attend this meeting with their mentors. The annual meeting expresses the true uniqueness of our Episcopal heritage and we feel that this is a great way for confirmands to witness the structure of the church they are committing to.

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*Thoughts & Reflection on your experience of the Annual Meeting*

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*Signature of Clergy*



### Spaghetti Dinner:

Each year, the Confirmation class has a Spaghetti dinner early in the year to raise funds for the youth scholarship fund. This is one of the largest youth events and a great experience for the church to see our confirmands in action. This also provides a service opportunity with their mentors.

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*Signature of Dir of Youth Ministries*



## Holy Week

Every attends Easter right? But that's only a part of the story!

During Holy week, we have many opportunities for worship. On Maundy Thursday, we have a service observing the last supper and the next Jesus was taken. On Good Friday, we have a two services observing the crucifixion of Christ. Confirmands are expected to attend these services before Confirmation.

Maundy Thursday:

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*Thoughts & Reflection on your experience of the Maundy Thursday*

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*Signature of Clergy*

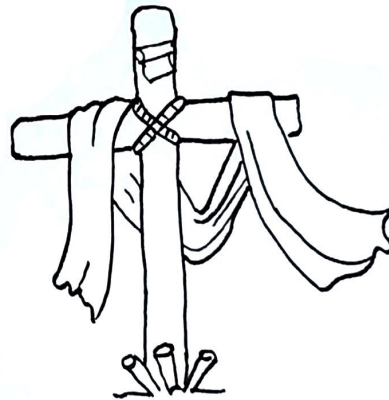
Good Friday:

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*Thoughts & Reflection on your experience of the Good Friday Service*

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*Signature of Clergy*



## Clergy lunches:

We will have signups for candidates to meet with a priest in October or November after the 11am service. We will assign no more than 3 candidates at a time to have lunch with our clergy so that they can have a personal conversation about what Confirmation is. This is required to be in the spring Confirmation class.

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*Signature of Clergy*













Optional Experiences Total Check Box

EYC	
Formation	
Acolyte	
Choir	
Outreach	
<b>TOTAL</b>	