

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Confirmation Prep Spring Supplement Packet**

***\*\*Due Tuesday, April 25, 2017\*\****

### **America's Constitutional Freedom of Religion Expression through Speech**

Students will research, write, and speak on **ONE** of the following topics:

1. In September 2015 when the Pope visited Philadelphia, he reflected upon the right to religious freedom. He said, "It is a right which shapes the way we interact socially and personally with our neighbors whose religious views differ from our own. Religious freedom certainly means the right to worship God, individually and in community, as our consciences dictate. But religious liberty, by its nature, transcends places of worship and the private sphere of individuals and families. Religious freedom isn't a subculture, it's part of every people and nation.

Explain why it is important to understand the difference between freedom of worship and freedom of religion.

2. What would life be like if our first amendment right, freedom of religion, was taken away from us? Pope Francis reminded us on his visit to Washington that freedom of religion is one of America's most precious possessions. He stated, "All are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it."

Explain what Pope Francis meant in this statement to the American people.

3. "The education of conscience is a lifelong task." (CCC, No. 1784) "In the formation of conscience the Word of God is the light for our path; we must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice". (CCC, No. 1785) The First Amendment protects our right to the free exercise of our religion. Pope Francis stated, "I can say that conscientious objection is a right that is a part of every human right. It is a right, and if a person does not allow others to be a conscientious objector, he denies a right."

Why is Pope Francis' statement so important? Explain, how this freedom benefits society when people are free to live by their conscience; and conversely, how is society injured when conscience is suppressed and individuals are less free to truly pursue what is good and to avoid evil.

#### **Tips and Guidelines**

- Speeches are to be approximately 400 words (about one typed page double spaced) and submitted typed on standard white paper with no graphics, artwork, borders or other special formatting. Include word count.
- They can be printed and handed in with the packet or emailed to [reled@bsvs.us](mailto:reled@bsvs.us)
- All of the transcripts from Pope Francis's visit to America are available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). It is recommended that you go there to read the initial source work from the pope to start. After which, it would be good to do some research on religious freedom in America.
- Be mindful of secondary sources. Check with the director or a teacher in school for further assistance in determining good print or online sources.

***\*\*Due Tuesday, April 25, 2017\*\****

## Mass Reflections ~ Confirmation Prep

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date (of Mass) \_\_\_\_\_  
Catechist \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Mass \_\_\_\_\_  
Celebrant (Priest) \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color of Priest's Vestments \_\_\_\_\_ Church Season: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ Feast (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize the events of the Gospel (or other readings) today.

---

---

---

---

Reflection: what did you learn from the reading described above or the priest's homily and how does it apply (or can you make it apply) to your life?

---

---

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date (of Mass) \_\_\_\_\_  
Catechist \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Mass \_\_\_\_\_  
Celebrant (Priest) \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color of Priest's Vestments \_\_\_\_\_ Church Season: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ Feast (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize the events of the Gospel (or other readings) today.

---

---

---

---

Reflection: what did you learn from the reading described above or the priest's homily and how does it apply (or can you make it apply) to your life?

---

---

---

---

# **Confirmation Prep Spring Supplement Packet**

**\*\*Due Tuesday, April 25, 2017\*\***

## **Sin, Grace, and Reconciliation**

The gifts of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness are among the greatest gifts we receive from God. These gifts are so important that God seeks every opportunity to bestow them upon us, most especially through the sacraments which, by definition, are "holy, visible signs instituted by Christ of an invisible reality" (YC n. 171) and which bestow upon the receiver *sacramental grace*. This grace, in turn "helps us to know, to will, and to do everything that leads us to what is good, to God, and to heaven" (YC n. 399).

It is no secret that we all have to deal with many temptations and often find doing the right thing a challenge (sometimes we are not sure what is right or why something that seems harmless is actually very sinful). Our current culture has defined different standards of living than Christian ones, which makes our journeys to holiness in the world all the more difficult. We should not be disheartened by this, however. Even the greatest of saints faced many challenges and temptations from their respective societies.

When we receive grace to resist temptations and respond to our call to holiness, we are receiving the strength of Jesus to endure whatever trials we face along the way. We succeed, *literally*, by the grace of God. And it is Jesus alone who was able to perfectly resist temptation. He knows what it is like and desires to help us. This is one of the many reasons why going to mass and receiving the Eucharist is so important: each time we receive the Eucharist we are strengthened that much more with Christ's power.

And, when we do falter and fall into sin, we need to rely on God's mercy and forgiveness to restore that bond of *sanctifying grace* (the grace that makes us holy). Jesus gives us our Sacraments of Healing in order to do just that.

According to the precepts of the Church, the faithful should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation *at least* once a year and *must* receive it as soon as possible after committing a mortal (aka serious) sin. Because the grace of this sacrament is so good in restoring us to right relationship with God, it is further recommended that we approach the sacrament once a month. The season of Lent (as well as Advent) is a very appropriate time to approach the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Prior to Ash Wednesday, you will have received "reconciliation vouchers" that you are to use. While you are always free to go to Reconciliation as often as needed, as part of your preparation for Confirmation, you will use this voucher for one instance during the season of Lent and either hand it to the priest after (if going here) or have him sign it and return it (if going elsewhere).

Once you have gone to Reconciliation, you will reflect on the experience, responding to ALL of the statements below in essay or bullet format. Your response should be 1 full typed page at 12 point font and 1.5 or double spaced. It can be handed in with your packet or emailed to [reled@bsvs.us](mailto:reled@bsvs.us).

### Reconciliation Reflection:

1. Your name, the date you went to confession and the name of the church you went to.
2. Describe the experience of going to Reconciliation: before (examination of conscience), during (actual confession), and after (absolution and penance). Include mention of your thoughts and feelings during each stage. Don't mention the specific sins you confessed, however.
3. Did anything about the experience surprise you? Did you have any unexpected thoughts or feelings?
4. Read numbers 67-70, 224-239, 337-342, and 524 in your YouCat
5. In your own words (with the help of your YouCat and past years of faith formation), define "sin" and explain why it is so important to avoid and be absolved from it.
6. In reflecting on your experience of Reconciliation and your review of the YouCat, what is thing that stands out and sticks with you?
7. What is one question you still have about sin, grace, Reconciliation, or related topics?

**\*\*Due Tuesday, April 25, 2017\*\***

## Mass Reflections ~ Confirmation Prep

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date (of Mass) \_\_\_\_\_

Catechist \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Mass \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant (Priest) \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of Priest's Vestments \_\_\_\_\_ Church Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ Feast (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize the events of the Gospel (or other readings) today.

---

---

---

---

Reflection: what did you learn from the reading described above or the priest's homily and how does it apply (or can you make it apply) to your life?

---

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date (of Mass) \_\_\_\_\_

Catechist \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Mass \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant (Priest) \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of Priest's Vestments \_\_\_\_\_ Church Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ Feast (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize the events of the Gospel (or other readings) today.

---

---

---

---

Reflection: what did you learn from the reading described above or the priest's homily and how does it apply (or can you make it apply) to your life?

---

---

---

---

# **Confirmation Prep Spring Supplement Packet**

**\*\*Due Tuesday, April 25, 2017\*\***

## **Spring Service Reflection**

God bestows many gifts upon us in life. It is part of our mission as Christians to discover what these might be in order to fulfill our greater mission of evangelization. Central to this mission is the primary message of Christ, which is to love God and love others. Thus, in discerning these gifts, it is important to see how we are called to use our gifts to help others.

Service, the doing of good works, is a staple of Catholic life. In these years of preparation for Confirmation, we simply ask for accountability of service work that should already be part of a young Christian's life as well as theological and spiritual reflection on such work for a deeper and more integrative experience.

Please refer to the last page of the Confirmation Process guidelines for more information and a list of acceptable forms of community service. For each type of service done in the last four months or since your last reflection, please follow the instructions below.

Remember, if you have done the same service throughout the year, complete this project again by reflecting on new insights and connections learned from your service to our Faith and Tradition.

Reflection instructions:

On separate paper, either 1 typed page size 12 font and double or 1.5 spaced, or 2-3 (equal to 1 typed page) *neatly* handwritten pages, please respond to the following:

1. Your name.
2. The name of the supervisor/witness of the service and his/her contact info.
3. Where the service took place and for what organization (if applicable).
4. The dates and times of the service.
5. A summary of what the service was and why you chose it.
6. Choose a Work of Mercy *and* a principle of Catholic Social Teaching that apply to your service and define them.
7. Explain how that Work of Mercy and Catholic Social teaching applies.
8. Answer the following: did you enjoy the service? Why or why not? Would you do it again? If not, what would you rather do and why?
9. Have the supervisor/witness sign and date your reflection.

**\*\*Due Tuesday, April 25, 2017\*\***

**Mass Reflections ~ Confirmation Prep**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date (of Mass) \_\_\_\_\_

Catechist \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Mass \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant (Priest) \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of Priest's Vestments \_\_\_\_\_

Church Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

Feast (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize the events of the Gospel (or other readings) today.

---

---

---

---

Reflection: what did you learn from the reading described above or the priest's homily and how does it apply (or can you make it apply) to your life?

---

---

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date (of Mass) \_\_\_\_\_

Catechist \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Mass \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant (Priest) \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of Priest's Vestments \_\_\_\_\_

Church Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

Feast (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize the events of the Gospel (or other readings) today.

---

---

---

---

Reflection: what did you learn from the reading described above or the priest's homily and how does it apply (or can you make it apply) to your life?

---

---

---

---