

Confirmation Guidelines 2015

St. Joachim's Church

Welcome to Confirmation Preparation. Our hope is that this program will enrich the spiritual growth and development of your family's relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church community.

This year we started using *Chosen* as our Confirmation Program. It is designed to be simple to implement and the formation is valuable insight and tools that leads to inspiration of one's Catholic faith. It follows the RCIA catechetical model and how this process of conversion can lead teens to a personal encounter with Christ and lifelong discipleship. It is presented by Chris Stefanick and other leading experts.

The following information will serve as a guideline for Confirmation preparation. The students are expected to attend **all** Sunday Masses, Holy Day Masses, a Retreat, Classes, Service Projects, Rite of Candidacy, Learning Centers (*once*), and Youth Ministry activities.

Sunday Mass is an obligation of our Catholic Faith and as one asking for full initiation into the Church, regular Mass attendance is part of that commitment.

Candidates will be accountable for their attendance.

CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Confirmation is the sacrament of acceptance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which begins at Baptism that we may live in the fullness of those gifts for the rest of our lives. Confirmation gives us the fullness of the Holy Spirit by which we are compelled to spread and defend the faith. To live our faith is not our own work, but rather we receive power from God to be a true witness for Christ. By Confirmation, we are anointed and receive a permanent mark or seal that identifies us as belonging to Jesus Christ. The words "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit" tell us that

Confirmation increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us and makes us more open to His actions and God's invitation to life.

These gifts are Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Fortitude (courage), Counsel (right judgment), Piety, and Holy Fear in God's Presence (wonder and awe) (Isaiah 11:2-3). By living in accord with the Holy Spirit, we experience His spiritual fruits: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Long-suffering, Mildness, Fortitude, Modesty, Self-control, and Chastity. (Gal. 5:22)

ROLE OF THE PARENTS

The role of the parent(s) during Confirmation preparation is a very important one. The diocesan guidelines state that, *at the time of infant Baptism, parents are told that you are the primary teachers of the faith for your child*. Today, your involvement in the Confirmation process is essential for the continued formation of your child's faith. Young people need to see their parents modeling their faith in their daily lives.

Parental involvement should be encouraged through the following measures:

- Weekly participation in the Sunday Liturgy
- Attendance at the Monthly Sessions (a sponsor can fill in if need be)
- Selection of a Sponsor

ATTENDANCE

Candidates will be accountable for their attendance. Every Confirmation candidate is expected to attend *every* activity on the calendar; this means **all** scheduled activities. If you do not attend an activity, you will have to find out what you missed. You will be held accountable for all materials. If candidates are not going to attend a session, please contact those who are in charge of whatever event is planned. Candidates are encouraged to take ownership of their Confirmation preparation.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Retreat participation is a *requirement of the Diocese*. Our Confirmation retreat is on **November 3rd**.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

A copy of the Candidate's Baptismal Certificate is needed for Confirmation. These need to be handed in by **December** of your first year. If you were baptized at here, let us know, as it should be on file here.

Canon 895 - The names of the confirmed with mention of the minister, the parents, and the sponsors, the place and the date of the conferral of Confirmation are to be noted in the Confirmation register in the diocesan curia, or, where the conference of bishops or the diocesan bishop has prescribed it, in a book kept in the parish archive; the pastor/parish director must advise the pastor/parish director of the place of baptism about the conferral of Confirmation so that notation is made in the Baptismal register, in accord with the norm of canon 535 #2.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

The role of the Sponsor is explained in detail below.

As the student begins to experience the reality with their Catholic Christian tradition, a strong relationship with a sponsor can create an environment for the candidate to ask questions about faith in a safe and supportive environment. Essentially, the sponsor mentors the candidate by supporting, listening, and challenging the candidate's faith. The sponsor needs to be someone who can relate to the candidate and meet the following criteria:

- Mature in practicing his or her Catholic faith (see canon 874 below)
- Fully initiated, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist and participates weekly in the Eucharist
- A faith-filled, Catholic relative or friend of the candidate.

Canon 874 - To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must: be designated by the one to be confirmed, by the parent(s) or individual(s) who take their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role, have completed their sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor/parish director or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause; be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the

sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken; not to be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

Candidates will have to meet with sponsors about four times before Confirmation. The name of their sponsor is due by **December 3**. A short paragraph stating who their sponsor is and why they chose their sponsor will be due on **January 7**. It will be important to include name of sponsor and candidate, parish both belong too, why they chose this person and why is this person Catholic.

CONFIRMATION NAME

All 10th Grade Candidates must have a Confirmation name and a short **typed** paragraph explaining why you chose that name. You will present this information to your faith-sharing group and/or class.

The diocesan guidelines are stated below:

In Baptism candidates were given the name of a saint or of someone who modeled the faith. At Confirmation youth may choose an additional saint's name. A saint is a person of virtue who has been recognized by the universal Catholic Church. Candidates should research the Confirmation name they choose. Candidates should be ready to tell the Bishop:

- About the saint and his/her life, i.e. where and when they lived, why they were named a saint.
- Why the candidate chose the name.
- How they plan to imitate the life of that saint.

The bishop may ask one or more of these questions during the Confirmation ceremony, so please be prepared.

This will be due on **February 4**.

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

The **10th grade candidates are required to present a well-written typed letter explaining what Confirmation means to them and why they wish to be confirmed.** The purpose of this letter is to help clarify what is happening in their lives and what it means to be confirmed. Diocesan guidelines state, "In the letter candidates can tell what they have been doing to ready themselves for the sacrament and why they wish to be confirmed as a Catholic Christian." These will be handed in to

Dennis Kunkel who will mail them to the Bishop prior to Confirmation. Again, these letters must be typed and at least one page long.

These will be due on **March 4**.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE'S SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Confirmation candidates are required to do service projects. These projects can be done in several ways.

1. At least one project will be done as a part of a group.
2. *Each student* will do another individual project. This individual project will be need to be discussed with their sponsor. *It's the responsibility of the individual to follow through with their project.*
3. Other projects will be planned through ones preparation process and details will be given in a timely matter.

A Service Project Report is to be presented to your Faith Sharing Group and/or class. This report should include the following four things:

1. What was done for service this year?
2. A description of the people involved.
3. Comments on how the projects affected you and those you worked with.
4. Comments on how one might see this service in relationship to Confirmation.

This report needs to be legible, so typing is required.

It is due on **April 1**.

CLERGY INTERVIEWS

The **Clergy Interviews** are required by the bishop and will take place the **early spring**. Clergy will need to meet with every Confirmation candidate prior to receiving the Sacrament. The purpose of this interview will be to continue dialogue of faith growth, vocations and readiness for Confirmation.

And as always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dennis Kunkel at the parish office stjoachimff@gmail.com or (507) 534-2887.

Confirmation Checklist

- Nov. 3 ~ Confirmation Retreat
- December ~ Baptism Certificates
- December ~ 1st Meeting with Sponsor
- Dec. 3 ~ Sponsor Name
- January ~ 2nd Meeting with Sponsor
- Jan. 7 ~ Sponsor paragraph
- February ~ 3rd Meeting with sponsor
- Feb. 4 ~ Confirmation Name
- Clergy Interviews
- March ~ 4th Meeting with sponsor
- March 4 ~ Letter to the Bishop
- April 1 ~ Service Project
- April 22 ~ Confirmation gathering
- April 29 ~ Confirmation gathering