

## CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

We are all called by our Baptism to help build God's Kingdom on Earth. The ways by which we learn about and hone our skills to do this is through practice. During this formal time of preparation, you are called to experience a variety of ways by which your God-given Gifts can be recognized and used. This is why you will be required to fulfill the following:

### Liturgy

- ❖ Full, active participation in liturgical celebrations is expected of all Confirmation candidates. This means attending weekly Mass and seeking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Interviews

- ❖ All candidates who are registered in St. John's Religious Education program are required to complete an entrance and exit interview with their Catechist. These interviews afford the Catechist the opportunity to answer your questions about being Confirmed and gauge where continued catechesis should be directed.
- ❖ **Candidates who attend Catholic High School** also are required to complete an entrance interview with a member of the Religious Education Department staff.
- ❖ Interviews are to be completed before the Sacrament is conferred by the Bishop on Jan. 24.

### Retreats

- ❖ All Confirmation candidates are required to participate in at least one retreat during their year of formal preparation. These may include but are not limited to:
  - Catholic High School grade-level retreats (a retreat taken in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade counts with the assumption a 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat also is scheduled.)
  - Youth Room Day Retreat, from 11 am-5 pm, Saturday, Oct. 4
  - NET day retreat at St. John's, Sunday, Nov. 9
  - Advent overnight retreat (information forthcoming) on Friday to Saturday, Dec. 5 to 6
  - NET Overnight Confirmation Retreats @ NET Center, West St. Paul\*\*  
*\*\*If candidates choose this option, you will receive a \$50 credit/refund towards the retreat cost AFTER the retreat is completed. Documentation is required to receive the credit/refund.*
- ❖ All candidates are required to submit a RETREAT REFLECTION upon completion of their retreat experience. **This reflection is to be completed and returned (along with Service Reflections) by Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009.**

### Service

- ❖ All candidates are required to participate in three service opportunities which will provide an opportunity for them to respond to God's call to serve his children. These service opportunities should be completed within the context of PARISH and COMMUNITY
- ❖ **At least ONE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY is to be completed with fellow members of your Confirmation class. These include but are not limited to:**

➤ Trick or Treat for the Food Shelves	➤ Loaves and Fishes
➤ Childrens' Shopping Spree	➤ Advent Retreat
➤ Feed My Starving Children	➤ Assist with Childrens' Liturgy of the Word
➤ Fellowship Weekends	➤ Operation Christmas Child

All candidates are required to submit a SERVICE REFLECTION upon completion of each of their three service experiences. **This reflection is to be completed and returned (along with Retreat Reflections) by Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009.**

## Sponsors

- ❖ All candidates are required to select someone who models an active, living Catholic faith to walk with them through this life journey of faith.
- ❖ What are you really looking for in a sponsor? Your sponsor should be a person you consider a mature and dedicated member of the Church. He or she should be a person who can truly help you in many ways. The sponsor should be able to help you understand the teaching of Jesus and help you live out that teaching. A sponsor should be able to guide you and help you become familiar with your parish's activities. A sponsor should not be afraid to point out bad habits and help you work at overcoming them. Therefore, the choice of a sponsor should be taken seriously. You should seek a person who not only can help you become a better Catholic, but also has the time to help you prepare for confirmation.
- ❖ All sponsors have the responsibility to:
  - Share examples of full, active participation in parish life.
  - Be a good role model in a personal commitment to the Lord and the Church.
  - Talk about and encourage participation in and encourage parish life.
  - Discuss the Catholic faith.
  - Share forms of prayer.
  - Meet at least once with the candidate and keep in touch about class sessions and content, service projects, retreat and answer any questions that may come up during the process.
- ❖ Confirmation Sponsors must:
  - **First**, be Baptized, be Confirmed, and have received the Eucharist in the Catholic faith.
  - **Second**, your sponsor has to be at least sixteen years old. (The Church may make exceptions to this rule in very special cases.)
  - **Third, your sponsor needs to be a person of faith, that is, a *practicing* Catholic.**

If at all possible, the Church encourages candidates to choose as sponsor the same person who served in that role when the candidate was Baptized; however this is not required. **Parents cannot serve as Confirmation sponsors;** however, they may represent (proxy) a sponsor who cannot be present when the sacrament is conferred.

### Confirmation Name

- ❖ Candidates will be asked to give the name in which they wish to be Confirmed by the Bishop. The Church strongly suggests that you use the Christian name you received at Baptism. This reflects the unity between Baptism and the completion of your initiation into the Catholic faith at Confirmation.
- ❖ In the early Church, many adult converts had received names at their birth that came from pagan religions. One of the signs of their total rejection of that former life and their rebirth into the life of Jesus was to drop the old name and take on a new one. The new name was selected for its meaning to the Christian community. Names like Fidelity (faithful) or Theophilus (love of God) or Christopher (Christ-bearer) were chosen. As time went on, people often selected the names of saints of an earlier time -- like Peter, Mary, or Paul. Choice of name was taken seriously.
- ❖ One's name was intended to express the quality of one's person and the ideals a person would strive to develop. For example, to choose the name, Paul, was a pledge to try to imitate Paul's courage and dedication in spreading the Gospel. Mary, or variations of Mary, were popular for obvious reasons. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter (rock) because he wanted Peter to become as firm as a rock and a solid base for establishing the community. More information about saints may be obtained through your computer and in Religious Education classes.

**All candidates are required to submit the NAME by which they wish to be CONFIRMED on their CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM by December 3.**

## **Certificate of Baptism**

- ❖ All Sacraments flow from the Sacrament of Baptism. This information is recorded in the church where the Baptism occurred as are all subsequent Sacraments of Initiation.
- ❖ A copy of the candidate's Baptismal Certificate must be on file in the RE Office.
  - If the candidate was baptized and/or received the Sacrament of Eucharist at St. John's, please inform the RE Office.
  - Candidates who were not baptized or who did not receive First Eucharist at St. John's are required to submit a copy of the Certificate of Baptism to the RE Office by Wednesday, Oct. 29. Faxed copies are acceptable; the RE Office fax number is (952)890-9481.
  - If baptized in another faith, but wishes to be confirmed in the Catholic faith, candidate must sign a Profession of Faith document.

## **Candidate Information Form**

- ❖ **The Candidate Information Form is to be completed and returned to the RE Office by December 3.**

## **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND SESSIONS**

As parent, you are your child's primary catechist – a task you readily accepted when you brought him or her to the Baptismal font. Your Religious Education Department staff, volunteer catechists and the entire parish are here to help support you in this role. Thus, as partners in your candidate's formal preparation for Confirmation, we invite you:

- To continue to nurture your child's faith by attending Mass and other liturgical celebrations;
- To attend all parent information meetings and to help ensure all requirements of the preparation program be completed, including making sure all required documentation is submitted by stated deadlines.
- To volunteer as a chaperone and/or driver for Confirmation service opportunities.\*\*  
*\*\*Chaperone/drivers are required to have completed a background check and VIRTUS awareness training as required by the Archdiocese of St. Paul. Background check application forms are available in the RE Office. Registrations for VIRTUS training may be made on-line at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)*

## **ABOUT THE CONFIRMATION CURRICULUM** *(not applicable to Catholic High School students)*

The curriculum used in our preparation program is: "*Call to Celebrate Confirmation*," published by Harcourt Religion Publishers. This material flows from the following traditional Church teachings:

- ❖ Liturgy, the public worship of the Church, is the central activity of the People of God.
- ❖ The Eucharist or Mass is where the faithful come together to offer praise and thanks and to celebrate God's presence and promise.
- ❖ In the celebration of the Sacraments, the People of God are transformed by their immersion in symbols, rituals, prayers and participation in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Participation in the Sacraments urges and strengthens the faithful to apostolic witness and action for justice in the world.

These subjects are important in our lifelong faith journeys of which Confirmation is a part. Through Confirmation we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift first received at Baptism.

**BEHAVIOR CONTRACT 2008-2009**

As a candidate for Confirmation within the St. John’s Religious Education Program, I promise to uphold the following behavior expectations while I participate in the program:

- I will fulfill the requirements set forth by this preparation.
- I will show respect to my fellow candidates, volunteer catechists, coordinators, speakers, and church.
- I will listen when others are speaking and can expect the same considerations from others when I am speaking.
- I will act appropriately during presentations, prayer, penance services and retreats.
- I will refrain from bringing and/or using any electronic equipment, such as iPods, MP3, and cell phones, during class, presentations, and/or meetings and understand should I not respect this expectation, the electronic equipment will be taken from me.
- If a problem arises for me within this preparation, I will address it with my catechist or Sacramental Coordinator.
- I will make a special effort to get involved in this preparation process and any special events (speakers, retreats, outreach activities) in which I participate.
- I REALIZE THAT MY PARENTS WILL BE CONTACTED IF ANY OF THE ABOVE GUIDELINES ARE NOT FOLLOWED!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PARENT AGREEMENT**

I, the parent/guardian of the above signed Confirmation candidate agree to do my part to support and encourage my child’s participation in this sacramental preparation program.

I promise to encourage the above positive behavior in my child. I agree to work with the Sacramental Coordinator should any problems arise during the year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please sign, date and return this form to your child’s CATECHIST by the first night of class, or if a candidate attending Catholic High School, to the Education Office.  
Thank you!



*Everyone at one time  
or another has received an  
inspiration -- perhaps  
no more than an impulse –  
to serve the suffering  
and the needy.*

*This impulse should not  
be ignored but acted upon,  
even if it calls for the  
smallest act of mercy.*

*“If I had not picked up that  
first person dying  
on the street,  
I would not have picked up the  
thousands later on.”*

*“We are not called to be  
successful –  
we are called to be faithful.”*

BLESSED MOTHER TERESA  
OF CALCUTTA

Here are some ideas for SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- provide childcare for RCIA (Bonnie Unzen, 952-890-9465)
- provide childcare for a couple who needed a night out together for free
- help with Fellowship Weekend (Tracy Tredinnick, 952-890-9465)
- volunteer to polish pews and arrange books in the church (Ron Nord, 952-890-9465)
- serve dinner at the Loaves & Fishes program (RE Office, 952-890-9434)
- usher at weekend Masses (especially 11 a.m.; Diane Hanson, 952-898-1981)
- visit residents at a local long-term care facility or senior residence
- tutor children
- volunteer to help with Elementary Youth Ministry events (Andi Little, 952-890-9434)
- help lead Children’s Liturgy of the Word (Colleen Roberge, 952-894.8205)
- help sort items donated to the parish Christmas Giving Tree (Jane Lalonde Shea, 952-435-5990)
- help neighbors prepare lawns/gardens for fall; shovel driveways/walks

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL IDEAS, OR HAVE QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE CALL THE RE OFFICE AT (952)890-9434

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM**  
*(Please print CLEARLY)*

<b>CANDIDATE NAME</b>		
<b>CONFIRMATION NAME</b>		
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>		
<b>ADDRESS</b>		
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE</b>		
<b>HOME TELEPHONE</b>	<b>MOTHER'S CELL PHONE</b>	<b>FATHER'S CELL PHONE</b>
<b>NAME OF PARISH OF BAPTISM WITH ADDRESS</b>		
<b>NAME OF REGISTERED PARISH WITH ADDRESS (IF NOT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, SAVAGE)</b>		

<b>NAME OF FATHER/LEGAL GUARDIAN</b>	
<b>ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE</b>	

<b>NAME OF MOTHER/LEGAL GUARDIAN (INCLUDE MAIDEN NAME)</b>	
<b>ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE</b>	

<b>NAME OF SPONSOR</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE</b>	

**THIS INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO**

**THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE BY DECEMBER 3.**