

# **Parent Information Packet for Confirmation**



Dear Parents,

Just as your child grows physically, intellectually, and emotionally, he or she also grows spiritually. As a parent, you try to meet all of his or her changing needs. You foster and direct spiritual growth by the atmosphere in your home, the example of your life, and the celebration of the sacraments. You have seen that your child has been initiated into the faith through Baptism and First Holy Communion. Now your young teenager is at the stage of strengthening his or her commitment to the faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmed in the Spirit will assist you in giving your teen a better understanding of Christian Life, and will help him or her lead a more active, responsible Catholic Faith.

### **Confirmed in the Spirit**

The goal of this sacramental program is to help young people be receptive and responsive to the graces and challenges of the Sacrament of Confirmation. They learn that it is a Sacrament of Initiation that deepens their relationship with the Church. They become more aware of the presence and action of the Spirit and his gifts within them, which empower them to live as Jesus did. They discover ways to fulfill the specific responsibilities that are theirs as Christians.

This program for Confirmation gives guidance to all those involved in the formation of the candidates and in the celebration of the sacrament so that confirmation becomes a meaningful faith experience for the candidates, the family, and the parish community. At the same time, the program aims to equip the candidates with the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the lifelong process of the conversion to Christ.

### **The Spirit Sent by Jesus**

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be our advocate and helper. At Pentecost this spirit was poured out on the first believers, making them witnesses full of faith and courage. At Baptism the Holy Spirit comes upon us, and at Confirmation we are anointed in the strength of this Spirit and sent to carry on Christ's mission.

The Spirit in us is the same Spirit who anointed Jesus to redeem the world and bring about the kingdom of the Father through loving service. The Holy Spirit and his gifts help us to live our baptismal promises, grow into the likeness of Christ, and share his mission. We are united with other Spirit-filled people in the Church, the Body of Christ. Together we spread the message of the Good News, we worship at the Eucharist, we support one another in community, and we give service to those in need.

### **Parenting for a Responsible Christian Life**

As young teens struggle to clarify their own convictions, attitudes, and values parents are their chief models. Faith is caught more than taught. In undertaking more seriously your role of preparing your teenager for Confirmation, consider these questions.

- Do I keep lines of communication open with my teenager?
- Do I make time for prayer, both private and communal?
- Do I actively participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do I try to grow in knowledge of the faith and share it with my family?
- Do I give loving service to those inside and outside my family circle?
- Am I involved with parish activities as much as I could be?

We look forward to sharing with you this time of spiritual growth in the life of your child.

# Faith Summary

[This information is intended for parents to review at home after they have attended Parent Meeting 1.]

The Confirmation Rite is rich with symbols and images that teach us about our relationship with the Holy Spirit. As confirmation day approaches, think about how the following people and things we see during the Confirmation celebration call us to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit and challenge us to deepen the commitment we made in Baptism to be followers of Jesus.

- **The Bishop** As the regular celebrant of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop represents Christ himself --- teacher, shepherd, and priest.
- **The Bishop's pectoral cross, mitre, crosier, and ring.** The bishop wears or carries the following symbols: The pectoral cross is worn by bishops near their heart to remind them of the Passion of Christ that is the center of the Gospel. The bishop's ring symbolizes his commitment to the diocese he serves. The mitre, or headdress, symbolizes a crown to represent the kingship and authority of Christ. The crosier or pastoral staff symbolizes the role of the bishop as a shepherd.
- **The Sponsor** The role of the Sponsor for Confirmation is to be more than the honor of standing behind a Confirmation candidate as the bishop confirms. It is to be the beginning (or the continuation) of a lasting relationship of mentoring and apprenticeship.
- **Renewal of Baptismal Promises** By renewing our baptismal promises at Confirmation, we express the intimate connection between Confirmation and Baptism and affirm our commitment to follow Jesus.
- **Laying on of Hands** The laying on, or imposition, of hands is a solemn gesture that the apostles used. As the bishop extends his hands over the candidate in the Rite of confirmation, the parents, sponsors, and the entire congregation are united in focusing on one thought: Come, Holy Spirit.
- **Anointing with Oil (chrism)** Oil is a symbol of strength. In Scripture, kings and prophets were anointed to symbolize the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Anointing in Confirmation is a symbol of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those being confirmed, strengthening them to be disciples of Jesus. When the bishop anoints, he says, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- **The Sign of Peace** The bishop offers each candidate the Sign of Peace symbolizing the positive dimension of being a Catholic --Living in the love of Christ serving others. The Bishop says, "Peace be with you," and the Confirmandi reply, "And also with you."
- **The Eucharist** The celebration of Confirmation takes place within a celebration of the Eucharist to show how intimately these two sacraments are tied together.



# All who are led by the Spirit are children of God.

## The Responsibilities of Parents

Parents:

- are the primary educators of their children
- are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- service as models for their child by being committed Christians
- worship with their families regularly
- nurture their child in faith
- should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
- are asked to attend meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation
- are no longer permitted as Confirmation sponsors for their own child
- are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study and Christian service
- can emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation
- should stress the initiation aspect of the sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- Should help their child in understanding that the Confirmation service project is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service.

## Christian Commitment to Service

Jesus came “not to be served, but to serve”. (Mt 20: 28) The church is a servant community and all those accepting full membership in the church are also accepting the responsibility to service.

Candidates for the reception of Confirmation are asked to select service projects which are geared to their own special talents and abilities. Candidates are asked to perform \_\_\_\_\_ hours of Christian service to others as part of their preparation for Confirmation. The service should be preformed freely and willingly. It could help the parish, neighborhood, or local community. This service project is meant to represent the candidate’s intentions of becoming full members of this servant community, the church, and special followers of Christ – Christians.

## The Rite of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation:

- is celebrated during Mass
- begins after the Liturgy of the Word
- Is presided over by the bishop or a designated auxiliary or pastor.

There are four parts to the rite:

- renewal of baptismal vows
- laying on of hands
- anointing with oil
- sign of peace

## The Role of Sponsor

**Sponsors:**

- support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- must belong to the Catholic church and be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- may be either male or female for any candidate
- must obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of their parish
- may be a baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation
- may help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
- may assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment
- must be reasonably informed on current church teachings

- may accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- may not be the parents of the candidate
- can encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship
- may assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- may present the candidate to the minister of Confirmation

**He has given us  
the pledge of His Spirit.**

2 Corinthians 5: 5

## Candidates Preparing for Confirmation

**Candidates:**

- must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- must be in the state of grace
- must have adequate knowledge of Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions
- must be practicing their faith
- should attend Mass and receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- are responsible for completing all required home study and service projects
- must be aware of the initiation aspect of the sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion
- Must be willing to participate in the confirmation program of prayer, retreat, communal celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation, etc.

## Dates and Reminders Confirmation 2016/2017



Please use the check list below and make sure to turn in all Confirmation paper work for your child.

### Parents

- Sponsor Form (from sponsor's church)..... Due March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Candidate Form (completed)..... Due March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Baptismal Certificate ..... Due March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Letter to their child ..... Due March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Retreat Fee/gown (\$50) ..... Due March 19<sup>th</sup>

### Students

- Saint Report and Name .....By January 8th
- Letter to Father Hellwig .....By March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Mass reports/Service Hours booklet .....By March 19<sup>th</sup>

### *Reminder of Important dates:*

**St. Vincent DePaul "Walking in their foot steps"** Sunday, **October 16, 2016** meet at Library Park in Waterbury (behind the Silas Bronson Library) at **12:00 noon**, the walk starts at 1:00. We will walk and visit the soup kitchen and shelter. **This is a Confirmation Service requirement.**

### **Confirmation Service Requirement # 2 – TBA Confirmation Service requirement**

**Parents Meeting – January 19<sup>th</sup>** Thursday 6:30 p.m. in the Church

**Gown Measurements** – March **26<sup>th</sup>** Measurements for confirmation gowns will be taken during class. Please have your child make all efforts to be here.

**Retreat - April 22nd– Saturday** -Confirmation Retreat with R.O.C.K group will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas School and Church. This is mandatory to make Confirmation.

**Abstinence Video** – **April 23 and April 30<sup>th</sup>** - This will take place during class. Please have your child make all effort to be in class. / Lures

**Student Practice** – **April 2nd and April 23rd** Sunday at 11:00 a.m. practice for Confirmation (students and teachers only) after 10:00 a.m. mass – please have your child Attend class and mass that day. They will receive their Confirmation Gown.

**Rehearsal** – **April 30th** - Practice will be held at 5p.m. at St. Anthony Church 111 School Street, Bristol, CT.  
**Sponsors are required to attend along with the confirmation Candidates**

**Confirmation Night** – **May 5th** at 7p.m –St. Anthony Church, 111 School Street, Bristol, CT.

Candidates should arrive at 6:15 p.m. .in the church hall.

Sponsors will go directly upstairs to the church for seating. Enter the parking lot on the School Street side, drive around the back of the church to the side entrance.

NOTE: Handicap entrance is located on the West side with an elevator if needed. Please drop off and drive around the back of the church to park.

\*\*Please have students attend classes and all events on the above important dates. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at anytime. My cell number is 860-307-7604(call or text) or the office number is 860-283-5817 Ext 405.

God Bless

Lucy L. Santopietro

DRE/ Confirmation Coordinator

## **Parent Letter to Child**

Write a letter to your child explaining how proud you are of them for completing their Sacrament of Confirmation and what it means to you. Place the letter in a sealed envelope with their name and classroom. The letter will be given to each student.

**Please hand this letter in by March 19**

## **Archdiocese of Hartford Sponsor Requirements**

- **May not be the parents of the candidate**
  - **Must belong to the Catholic church and be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist**
  - **May be either male or female for any candidate**
  - **Must complete (sponsor affirmation form) from the pastor of their parish**
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- Must be 16 years of age or older
  - May be a baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation
  - May help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
  - May assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment
  - Support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian Catholic life
  - Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
  - Should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment

**St. Thomas Church  
19 Electric Avenue  
Thomaston, Connecticut 06787-1651  
860.283.3817**

The Archdiocese of Hartford has adopted a new sponsor form for those wishing to be godparents at baptism or sponsors at confirmation.

This form now requires the person seeking to be a godparent or sponsor (not the priest) to attest that he/she "lives a life of faith" by regularly practicing his/her Catholic faith.

Please read this form carefully and determine if you can sign it in good faith. The responsibility for affirming that *you* live a life of faith in conformity with the teaching of the church and that *you* practice your Catholic faith is *your* responsibility.

Once you have signed the form, return it to the parish where you will be a godparent or sponsor.

If for some reason you cannot sign this form, I am available to speak to you about this matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Lee W. Hellwig  
Pastor



**ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD**  
**BAPTISM AND/OR CONFIRMATION**  
**GODPARENT/SPONSOR AFFIRMATION**

**I. Some Basic Church Norms Concerning Godparents/Sponsors**

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of baptism or confirmation, a godparent/sponsor is present. The function of the godparent/sponsor is; A) together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church; and B) to support the person in living the Catholic Christian life.

In accord with **Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law**, the Church can admit a person to the role of godparent/sponsor if; A) he or she is more than sixteen years of age; B) is a baptized Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the Blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken; and C) is neither the father or the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a godparent/sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a godparent/sponsor; however, he or she can serve as a Christian witness (c. 874 §2). A person baptized as a Catholic who is now sacramentally or canonically ineligible to serve as a godparent may not serve as a Christian witness. These include those who subsequently renounced the faith in favor of another church community or entity. Those unbaptized and those whose Baptism is not recognized by the Catholic Church may not serve in the role of Christian witness, but are welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor "lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken." This phraseology means that the candidate for godparent/sponsor; A) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; B) regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and C) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

**II. Affirmation of the Prospective Godparent/Sponsor**

If therefore, you seek to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor, and are convinced that you qualify in accordance with the conditions listed above, kindly make the following solemn affirmation before God:

I, *(print full name)* \_\_\_\_\_, a practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as godparent/sponsor.

***(PLEASE PRINT)***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of Ceremony*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Baptism or Confirmation Candidate (circle one)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parish/Town*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Godparent/Sponsor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Today's Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Godparent's/Sponsor's email address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Godparent/Sponsor's phone number*

On completion of this form, please present, mail, or fax to the Priest or Deacon *(circle)* *3* days prior to the date the sacrament(s) will be celebrated.

Approved by Presbytery Council 12/1/16

**CONFIRMATION Candidate Form**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student FULL LEGAL NAME: (PLEASE PRINT)**

Last: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth Information:**

Birth Date----- City Born \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ (as of May 5th)

**BAPTISM INFORMATION:**

Baptism Date \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS' NAMES**

Father's  
First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's  
First: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE AND PLACE OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CONFIRMATION NAME:** (Saint's name chosen by student) \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR NAME** (a sponsor Affirmation form is, included in this packet must be filled out)

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_