

Student Information Packet for Confirmation



Dates and Reminders Confirmation 2017/2018

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 18th
- Candidate Form (completed)..... Due March 18th
- Baptismal Certificate Due March 18th
- Parent Letter to their child Due March 18th
- Retreat Fee/gown (\$50) Due March 18th

Students

- Saint Report and NameBy January 7th
- Letter to Father CrowleyBy March 18th
- Mass reports/Service Hours bookletBy March 25th

Reminder of Important dates:

St. Vincent DePaul "Walking in their foot steps" Sunday, **October 22, 2017** 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 14th** Thursday 6:30 p.m. in the Church (snow date Jan. 19th)

Gown Measurements – March **25th** Measurements for confirmation gowns will be taken during class. Please have your child make all efforts to be here.

Retreat - **April 7th – 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 22 and April 29th** - This will take place during class. Please have your child make all effort to be in class. / Lures

Student Practice – **April 22nd April 29th and May 6** 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 – **May TBD** - Practice will be held at St. Thomas Church 1 or 2 nights before confirmation date
Sponsors are required to attend along with the confirmation Candidates

Confirmation Night – **May TBD** at 7p.m – St. Thomas Church. Candidates arrive at 6p.m. in the Church Hall downstairs. Sponsors are to go directly to the church and sit in their assigned seats.

**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

CONFIRMATION AGREEMENT

I, _____ of

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

AGREE TO:

1. Cooperate to the best of my ability with the parish program preparing me for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
2. Participate in the classes and activities, and try to the best of my ability to place my talents at the service of others.
3. Pray for growth in faith, hope, and love.
4. Strive for greater maturity and understanding on my path in becoming a young adult.
5. Accept more responsibility in my Family, my Church, and my Community.

I ask the help of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in this Agreement.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

WITNESSED BY TEACHER: _____

DATE: _____

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.

Confirmation Candidates are expected to fulfill the following:

- (1) Weekly Mass and Class Attendance – Students are required to attend the Sunday Mass as part of their religious education. If they do not attend the 10 a.m. mass after class, they can attend any other mass but are required to hand in to their teacher, a signed church bulletin by a clergy member at that mass (priest or deacon).
- (2) Christian Service – 10 hours of service - *You show your appreciation for God’s gifts by using them – and sharing them with others. A Christian steward serves God out of love and helps to build God’s kingdom. There are different service projects listed in your Mass booklets. If there is a service that is not listed that you would like to do or are doing please let me know.
- (3) Mass/service booklets- Your mass booklets need to be filled in and handed in by March 25.
- (4) Choice of a Patron Saint and Report – Confirmation Candidates will be expected to submit a simple report about the life of their patron saint (The candidate’s Confirmation Name may be their baptismal name or another saint’s name). The reports will be displayed the night of confirmation.
- (5) Selection of Sponsor – Confirmation Candidates should be choosing their sponsors in January.
Important -I have included information on the qualifications a sponsor needs to have. Please look at the qualifications first, before asking anyone to be your sponsor. We want to avoid any hurt feelings.
- (6) Letter to the Pastor – a letter for request of the sacrament of Confirmation from the candidate to the St. Thomas Pastor needs to be written. The letter should be completed and handed in before April.
Note: A template for the letter has been attached.
- (7) Retreat Day for Confirmation Candidates – April 7, 2018 at St. Thomas Church from 1p.m. to 7:30p.m. R.O.C.K. (Revival of catholic kids) will be handling the retreat.
- (8) Abstinence Video/Lures- April 22 and April 29th –This will take place during class.

Parent/Sponsor/Student Discussions

*Spend some time discussing
Some of these questions with your sponsor and / or parents.*

Prayer

We sometimes speak of four ACTS of prayer.

A	<u>Adoration or love</u>	<u>We express our love for God.</u>
C	<u>Contrition or sorrow</u>	<u>We express sorrow for our sins and forgiveness</u>
T	<u>Thanksgiving</u>	<u>We thank God for his many blessings.</u>
S	<u>Supplication or request</u>	<u>We ask for his help and guidance.</u>

A healthy prayer life includes all of these approaches. Examine your prayer life. What approach do you use most often? Least often? For a week keep track of the prayers you use.

Knowing My Faith

- What does it mean to give witness of your Christian faith to those of your own age? How have your parents helped you? How has your sponsor helped you? How have other candidates helped you?
- Baptism is the sacrament by which you were incorporated into Christ and became a member of the Church. Ask your sponsor why he or she agreed to be your sponsor. Together, talk about the responsibility of a sponsor that you both consider most important.

Christian Service

- Find one incident in the Gospels that shows Jesus helping others. What do you learn about him in the incident? How can you imitate him in a similar way?
- Does your family or sponsor belong to any parish organization or committee? Explain. Record the following in My Mementos section of your journal.
- Do you have a picture of your parish church? (Check the cover of your parish bulletin.) Paste it in your journal. Write the feast day of the church below it.
- What new things have you learned about your parish?

Requesting the Sacrament

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply --- to worship, witness, and serve as a confirmed Christian. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to your (or pastor) stating your desire. Follow these guidelines.

Greeting

Begin your letter with the greeting, Dear _____

Body of the Letter

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, your background.

Paragraph 2: Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service for others exercised at home and within the parish, and so on.

Paragraph 4: Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

Conclusion

Conclude the letter and write your complete signature.

Address your letter as follows:

From: Your Full Name

To: Father Crowley

Choice of a Patron Saint and Report

Confirmation Candidates will be expected to submit a simple report about the life of their patron saint (The candidate's Confirmation Name may be their baptismal name or another saint's name).

- The reports will be displayed the night of confirmation.
- The reports should be typed
- The report should be 1 to 2 page report
- You can use the website to get your information on the saint you have chosen.
- Please tell why you chose this Saint

Knowledge Checklist for Candidates

This form is to be filled out by your teacher and submitted to Mrs. Santopietro before May 6.

_____ has prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation by reviewing
(Candidate's name)
the basic elements of faith and Christian living and by studying the sacrament itself. He / she have given evidence of adequate knowledge of the following checked items.

Basic Prayers

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Our Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Apostles' Creed
5. An Act of Contrition

The Holy Spirit and Confirmation

1. Pentecost
2. Effects of Confirmation
3. Gifts of the Holy Spirit
4. Rite of Confirmation

Principles of Christian Living

1. The Ten Commandments
2. Duties of Catholic Christians
3. The Beatitudes
4. Spiritual Works of Mercy
5. Corporal Works of Mercy
6. Theological and Moral Virtues

Other

1. Holy Days of Obligation
2. Seven Sacraments

Signature of Teacher: _____

Date: _____

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