

Preparing to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

This booklet contains a brief description of the Assumption Parish Confirmation preparation process. All Confirmation candidates are expected to participate in all the activities and retreats described in this packet.

Every time we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit," we mean that we believe there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.

J.B. Phillips

Attitude and Spirit

Candidates will exhibit a sincere attitude and spirit of cooperation during the time of preparation.

Attendance

A prayerful attitude and regular attendance at the Sunday Liturgy, as well as all scheduled class sessions, meetings, community group meetings, retreats, and liturgical celebrations is imperative in order for all candidates to be fully prepared to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Basic Teachings

Each candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the basic teachings of the Catholic Church, particularly in regard to the following areas: prayer, liturgy, the Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, Christian life, the Church and salvation. Therefore, all candidates will be required to earn a passing grade in their religion class and complete all assigned coursework.

Sponsors

All candidates will choose a sponsor. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, sufficiently mature, who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. A candidate may choose their baptismal Godparent as a Confirmation sponsor; however, parents may not serve as sponsors.

The duty of a sponsor is to serve as a mentor, role model, and guide to the Confirmation candidate throughout the preparation period. Sponsors assist the candidate by working with the candidate in the following areas:

- praying for and with the candidate
- attending mass
- completing the Sponsor Handbook with the candidate
- attending the Confirmation Candidate Sponsor Meeting
- attending the Confirmation Retreat
- sponsors may also serve as community group leaders.

During the Rite of Confirmation, the sponsor stands behind the confirmand. As they are presented to the bishop, the sponsor places his or her right hand on the right shoulder of the confirmand. This simple gesture symbolizes and affirms the role of the sponsor.

In the event that a sponsor is unable to meet these requirements, someone else who meets the requirements may serve as a proxy for the sponsor. Please inform Mrs. Koppy as soon as possible if a sponsor will be unable to fulfill his or her role.

Please note: All completed Sponsor Handbooks are to be turned in to the classroom religion teacher by Monday, March 29, 2010.

Confirmation Candidate Activities

**“We cannot be sure if we are loving God,
although we may have good reason for believing that we are,
but we can know quite well if we are loving our neighbor.”**

St. Teresa of Avila

Confirmation Names and the Catholic Hall of Fame

Our Catholic tradition provides us with a wealth of lived history in the stories of the holy men and women who became saints. They serve as inspiring role models for us today because they dedicated their lives to following the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

All candidates will choose a saint's name as a confirmation name. Candidates will write a report about that saint.

Saint Research Activity

Directions for activity:

1. Every candidate will research the saint name chosen for Confirmation.
2. Every candidate will write a report that includes the following:

a. Cover page

- name of saint
- picture of saint
- date
- student's name
- student's grade level

b. Body of the paper

- full saint's name
- place where the saint lived
- time period in which the saint lived
- biographical information about the saint
- a virtue that the saint represents
- reasons why you think this saint is a role model

The saint paper must be typed, include a minimum of two pages, and use size 12 font.

All Saint Reports are due to the student's religion teacher by December 7, 2009.

**The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been
given to us.**

Romans 5:5

Confirmation Community Groups and Service Projects

All candidates will participate in a Community Group with adult Community Group leaders. Parents and sponsors may volunteer to be Community Group leaders. All community group leaders must adhere to Child Safety policies of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and Assumption Parish. The purpose of the Community Group is to assist and guide Confirmation Candidates in planning and participating in two of three community group service projects. The third project will be planned by Mrs. Donna Koppy. Plan and participate in two service projects of their group's choosing. All service projects must be designed to benefit one or more of the following three groups: the Assumption Church community, the larger St. Louis community, or the candidate's school community.

"Each of you has a special mission in life and each of you is called to be a disciple of Christ. Many of you will serve God in the vocation of Christian married life, some of you will serve him as dedicated single persons; some as priests and religious. But all of you must be the light of the world. To those of you that think that Christ may be inviting you to follow him in the priesthood or the consecrated life I make this personal appeal: I ask you to open your hearts generously to him; do not delay your response. The Lord will help you know his will; he will help you follow your vocation courageously."

Pope John Paul II
Youth Gathering in St. Louis Missouri
January 26, 1999

Confirmation Service Plan

As a part of the preparation process for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, all candidates will participate in a Confirmation Community Group. The Community Group is designed to assist the candidates in the planning and implementing of its Confirmation service project.

Once the Community Groups have chosen their projects, each Community Group will complete one Confirmation Service Plan per project per group. The Service Plan will include the following information:

- a list of the group members' names
- name and description of the service project
- date, time, and location of the service project
- an estimation of the amount of time it will take to complete the project
- an explanation of the Community Group's reasons for participating in the project and what they expect to learn from this experience
- name and phone number of the Community Group's leaders

Each plan must be written up separately, in complete sentences, and typed in size 12 font.

All Community Groups will participate in a joint service project on **Sunday, March 28, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the School Cafeteria. Everyone will attend the 12:00 p.m. mass following the service project.**

All Confirmation Service Plans will be turned into the student's religion teacher by Monday, December 7, 2009.

Catholic Service Agency Report

All Catholics are called to serve others by using their gifts and talents to help spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. The Catholic Church is dedicated to serving people in need and has a long history of service. Over time, a variety of service organizations, religious orders, and missionaries in our church have developed programs that are dedicated to meeting the needs of people in a variety of settings.

All Confirmation candidates will complete a research project on the catholic service organization, agency, or religious order of their choice. Candidates may present their research in the format of their choice:

Formats

- create a brochure
- make a diorama showing the history and mission of the organization
- create song lyrics and music to describe the organization
- write a report
- create a Power Point presentation about the organization
- write a journal from the point of view of someone who is working in or receiving services from the organization
- create a news report or T.V. program about the organization
- interview someone who works in the organization

If a candidate wishes to present the information in a way other than those that are listed, the candidate should discuss his or her plans with Mrs. Kopyy in advance.

The following information must be included in the content of the completed project:

Content

- a history of the organization
- the people who founded the organization
- the mission of the organization
- the size of the organization
- the people who benefit from the service provided by the organization and how they benefit
- The funding source and financial support of the organization; in other words, how does this group receive the money they need to run its service organization? How much does it cost to provide the service? How many people work in this organization?
- What can other people in the community do to help this organization?

Catholic Service Organizations

Candidates may do research on any of the following Catholic organizations, agencies, religious orders, or any that are listed on the Archdiocese of St. Louis web site (www.archstl.org). There are wide varieties from which to choose. This is only a sampling.

Alexian Brothers Salus Place
Catholic Community Services
Catholic Charities
Cardinal Ritter Institute
Catholic Family Counseling
Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry

Deaf Ministry
Disability Ministry
Hispanic Ministry
Archdiocesan Human Rights Office
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis
St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care

Catholic Relief Services
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Christian Brothers
Stella Maria Center
Marian Hall Transition Living Program
Marian Hall Emergency Shelter
Fr. Dunne's Newsboys Home
Boys Hope/Girls Hope of St. Louis
Little Sisters of the Poor
Rosary House
Veronica House
Our Little Haven

Our Lady's Inn
St. Agnes Home
St. Patrick Center
St. Louis University
Any Catholic Hospital
DuBourg House
Villa St. Joseph Child Care and Educational Center
Almost Home
St. Augustine Wellness Center
St. Peter and Paul
Catholic Commission on Housing

All completed Confirmation Service Agency Reports are due to the classroom religion teacher by **Monday, March 29, 2010.**

The Confirmation Retreat

All candidates will attend a Confirmation Retreat. Sponsors should attend with his or her candidate. If a sponsor is unable to attend, another adult must attend with the Candidate. Candidates may choose to attend the retreat on one of the following dates:

Saturday, March 6, 2010 or Saturday, March 13, 2010. The retreat will be held at the Mercy Center at 2039 North Geyer Road from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost for the retreat will be \$45.00 per candidate. This fee includes the cost for both the sponsor and the candidate.

All completed permission forms and retreat fees must be returned to the student's religion teacher by Monday, January 11, 2010.

**Where the Spirit of God is,
There is the Church.
St. Ireneus**

Classroom Instruction

In January, the teachers will begin using the Confirmation text, *Confirmation*, RCL/Benzinger Publishing, January, 2007. **All candidates who are attending private Catholic schools in the area will join PSR class on Monday, January 11, 2010.** PSR classes meet from 6:15 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Monday evenings.

Confirmation Practice

Candidates and sponsors will gather for our practice in church on **Monday, April 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.**

Date of Confirmation

Confirmation at Assumption Parish will be announced as soon as we receive the information from the Bishop's office.

Candidate Attire

Assumption Parish will provide red robes for all candidates to wear during Confirmation. The candidates will keep the robes after Confirmation.

Contact Information

Mrs. Donna Koppy, Coordinator of Faith Formation for Children

Assumption Religion Office phone: 314-487-6520 ext. 2219

Email: kopyd@assumptionstl.org

Assumption School Fast Direct system

By the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

Second Vatican Council
Constitution on the Church

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION

**RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR
RELIGION TEACHER BY
December 7, 2009**

PLEASE PRINT

Candidate's Information:

Baptismal and Family Name _____
(FIRST NAME and LAST NAME)

Date of **BAPTISM** _____

Church of **BAPTISM** _____

Home Phone Number _____

Date of **Birth** _____

City and State of **Birth** _____

Confirmation Name _____

Height ____ Foot ____ Inches

Sponsor's Information:

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Home Phone Number _____

Sponsor's Address _____

Sponsor's Church _____

Parents' Information:

Father's Name _____

Mother's Name (include maiden name) _____

Confirmation Calendar

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Parent Meeting

7:00 p.m. Church Lower Level

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Community Group Leader Meeting

7:00 p.m. Church Lower Level

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Candidate and Sponsor Meeting

7:00 p.m. Church Lower Level

Saturday, March 6, 2010 OR Saturday, March 13, 2010

Confirmation Retreat

Mercy Center

2039 North Geyer Road

314-966-4686

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Candidates **and** sponsors attend

Monday, April 19, 2010

Practice for the Rite of Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Church

TBA

7:00 p.m.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation Turn In Dates

Community Service Group Assignments

Mailed to parents and candidates the week of November 9, 2009

Confirmation Service Plan

Due to the classroom religion teacher by Monday, December 7, 2009

Confirmation Candidate Information and Saint Report

Due to the classroom religion teacher by Monday, December 7, 2009

Confirmation Retreat Permission Form

Due to the classroom religion teacher by Monday, January 11, 2010

Catholic Service Agency Report and Sponsor Handbooks

Due to the classroom religion teacher by Monday, March 29, 2010.