



# Confirmation Parent Packet



## Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

## What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are called the sacraments of Initiation. Through these sacraments we become members of the Catholic Church, a community of Spirit-filled people who have been saved by Christ and who witness Christ's love in the world.

By means of the Sacrament of Baptism, persons are made sons and daughters of God, their sins are forgiven, and they are welcomed as members of the Church.

As one of the sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation impresses the candidate with a special character. Through this sacrament the candidates are enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are bound more perfectly to the Church, and are strengthened in faith. They are enabled to witness more courageously to Christ by word and deed, to spread and defend the faith.

The Eucharist unites the people of God as a family of Christ, whose body and blood they share.

By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, the faithful receive in increasing measure the treasures of divine life and grow toward the perfection of charity.

## The Role of those to be Confirmed

Those to be confirmed must be suitably instructed and properly disposed. They must be willing to be involved in the preparation program with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ and his Church.

## The Role of Parents

As parents, you play a primary role in the sacramental preparation program. You help your son or daughter grow in faith as you prepare him or her for fruitful reception of the sacrament. Your attendance at the parent meeting and the Sunday parish celebrations of the Eucharist is vital. There is, and can be, no substitute for your actual presence at such moments. Your interest, involvement, and concern make a difference in your son's or daughter's perception of what this sacrament and the Christian life are all about.

## The Role of the Sponsor

Note- two copies of this page were provided: one for your information and one for you to forward to the candidate's sponsor.

Each candidate, with the help of his or her parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the baptismal sponsor also be the confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that men be sponsor for boys and women be sponsors for girls.

**Church law states that the sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age. He or she must be a confirmed Catholic who has received Holy Eucharist and also a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. The sponsor may not be a mother or father of the one to be confirmed. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to give assurance of his or her qualifications.**

Sponsors take on a lifelong commitment to help their candidate fulfill the obligations of the sacrament. During the time of preparation, the sponsors are encouraged to take an active role in the Confirmation program. Sponsors should be present at the Confirmation practice (if possible) and ceremony. Their immediate role demands time, commitment, and willingness to engage in faith-sharing activities with their candidates. Frequent phone calls, letters, or other means of communication between the candidate and the sponsor is recommended. The follow discussion points might begin your conversion.

### **Discussion Points** for dialogue between Confirmation Sponsors and Candidates

1. What does it mean for me to a Catholic? What difference does it make in my faith and life that I am a Catholic as opposed to a member of any other Christian denomination or non-Christian religion?
2. What has the Sacrament of Confirmation meant to me in my life?
3. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in my life?
4. How have I seen the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgment, courage, reverence, and wonder and awe) functioning in my life?
5. How is a regular routine of prayer integrated into my life?
6. How do I regularly avail myself of sacramental grace, especially that of the Sacrament of Penance? What difference has this made in my life?
7. How am I a model for a mature, Catholic Christian life?

## Confirmation Service Hours

Confirmation strengthens and obliges Christians more firmly to be witnessed to Christ by word and deed, to spread and defend the faith....

It is in serving the community that we are witnessed by deed. It is our good deeds, our service to each other that spreads the faith. Carefully choose your service to the community—know your own gifts and talents and use these in service to those around you. **No other person has the combination of abilities you have been given to share** with the family of God.

These can be voluntary contributions, either individual or group service projects, **performed for the betterment of your parish, school or community (not for your family, immediate or extended).**

Generally, service hours are those that are done for or on behalf of others (not including immediate family members) for which no compensation (direct financial, material or otherwise) has been given to the individual performing the service. Sometimes, service is enabling others to serve. Please ask an adult supervisor who can verify your participation in each activity to sign on the appropriate line.

Hours accepted beginning the summer prior to receiving Confirmation. Some examples include:

- **Parish:** Bonifest, Vacation Bible School, Rummage Sale, setting up or taking down Christmas decorations, K of C Fish Fries, Youth Ministry Service Projects (Live Nativity , Breakfast with St. Nick, etc.), Liturgical Ministers (Altar Server, Lector, Cantor, Choir, etc.), St. Vincent De Paul Society collections, etc.
- **School:** Public: FIT/GO projects (food and toy drives, Meridian Village, Humane Society, Glen Ed Pantry, etc. However, please note that the FIT weekly meetings and the summer GO camp are not directly serving the community and these hours would not be appropriate to submit.), Team 90 Peer Tutoring  
St. B's School: after school tutoring to younger students, sorting AR books, help in the school as indicated by Sister Anna or teachers
- **Community:** Glen Ed Pantry, Humane Society, Scouting projects, Library, Little Tiger Football or other sporting activities helping/coaching younger participants, Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, assisting the elderly, nursing homes, visiting the sick, charity fundraising efforts, caring for the environment

Reflect, listen to God's call, know your abilities and gifts, look and see the needs around you—decide how best you can answer the call and serve with the confidence that Jesus, your brother, is beside you. **Let the Spirit work through you!** Be sensitive to those you serve and those who may serve with you. Service enables us to learn about ourselves and others—we discover others' needs and our own!

Service does not "end" when the time is up...service "ends" when the need has been met. Then, it seems, God provides other needs that only you are qualified to meet.

**Action:** PRS will begin earning/submitting hours in August when PSR begins and will submit 20 hours.

**Half due December 9, 2015 and remaining half due March 9, 2016.**

## **Selecting a Saint Name and Essay:** “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.”-Isaiah 43:1

At your Confirmation, you enter into a deeper relationship with God. One Confirmation custom is to choose a name which symbolizes this relationship. Your Confirmation name reflects your choice of a saintly patron, which sometimes means claiming for yourself the name received at Baptism. If you choose a name different from your baptismal name, you will have a patron saint in addition to your baptismal patron saint.

Some questions you might ask before choosing: What is your complete baptismal name? Why did your parents give you these names? Think of a saint you admire and wish to be like...what is his/her name? What is the feast day, is it a special day in your life? Are there any miracles associated with this saint? Is it the name of your sponsor? Is there a family name or confirmation name that is passed through the generations? What do you want your Confirmation name to be? Why? What does your Confirmation name and your Confirmation Saint mean to you?

**Action:** Whatever name you choose, be familiar with and able to describe the life of the saint whose name you are taking for Confirmation. You will be submitting a one to two paged typed, double spaced essay about your Confirmation name patron on the date determined by your teacher.

**PSR is due January 13, 2016.**

Reports must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- The name of the saint, date of birth, death date, feast day and if this saint is a patron of something
- A little history about the saint and other interesting information. Also include why and when he or she was canonized
- Why you chose this saint
- What you admire about this saint and how you could exemplify the saint
- Name(s) of a person and a description of the qualities of saintliness that you have seen in that person

Candidate may select a saint of either gender, and in the process of Sainthood (e.g. Blessed). Old Testament Prophets names are acceptable, but report could be written about another chosen modern saint.

Please understand that the Confirmation Name chosen will be the one that the Bishop will announce at Mass during the Rite of Confirmation.

Please contact Mrs. Stamer concerning any questions, difficulties or problems with the various aspects of Confirmation. Should a candidate not work to his/her potential, a meeting with the parents, student, catechist, and Mrs. Stamer may be necessary.



## Requirements and Checklist:

### Candidate State of readiness according to the Catholic Church:

Category	Explanation	Opportunity	Completed
Faith:	the person <b>MUST</b> be baptized	Copy of Baptismal Certificate needed, if not baptized at St. B's	
Age:	the grace of Confirmation is a <i>gift</i> of God. Receiving this grace does not depend on one's age, however must be after age of discretion.		Yes
Grace:	candidates must be in a state of grace, <b>MUST</b> go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Rite of Confirmation	St. B's every Saturday 3:30 to 4 pm, Wednesday from 6 to 6:30 pm, Communal Penance Services during Advent and Lent	
Will, or choice	the candidate needs to have a clear and deliberate intention to receive the sacrament. They must be open to accept the responsibilities of being a witness for Christ		
Sponsor:	the candidate is to seek the spiritual help of a sponsor, that is a practicing Catholic who is in good standing with the Church.	At least 16 years old, received Sacraments of Initiation, and a practicing Catholic. The parents of the candidate are not to act as their child's sponsor for Confirmation.	

### Specific Items needed:

Category	Explanation	Opportunity	Completed
Candidate and Sponsor Information Form	basic information of Candidate and Sponsor. Candidate's chosen saint identified. Include copy of baptismal certificate if received outside of St. B's		
Saint Report	choose a saint, research history of and write 1-2 page report on the Saint and why you selected		
Confirmation Service Hours Record	20 hours in service to others total		
Religion Class	active participation and regular attendance		
Sunday Mass	regular attendance		
Parent Meeting	Your parent(s)/guardian(s) will attend one of three meetings offer during the school year.		
Journal	for reflection time	This will be done in class	
Questionnaire for Confirmandi	for Bishop Paprocki's use prior to Confirmation Mass	This will be completed in class	
Confirmation Retreat	TBA at St. B's typically a <b>Sunday from 11:30 to 6:15</b> . We will attend 5:15pm Mass together. We encourage parents and families to attend this Mass.		
Confirmation Rehearsal	Date to be announced		
Conferring of the Sacrament	TBA -Bishop Thomas John Paprocki will be at St. Boniface.		



# Candidate and Sponsor Information Form



St. Boniface Church

110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville, IL 62025

618-656-6450

Candidate's name information will be used for the Parish sacrament record, therefore, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

**Candidate's** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Saint Name Selected for Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate's Baptismal Information:** Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address (fill in address and submit a copy of baptismal record if sacrament was received at any church other than St. Boniface):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Baptismal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Baptismal Name (Maiden Name): \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Current Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Year of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's Year of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

(No need to request Sponsor's Baptismal record if year of Baptism and Confirmation are already known by sponsor.)

A Confirmation Sponsor must be:

- At least 16 year old and must be a practicing Catholic
- Have received the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the Confirmation sponsor be one of the candidate's baptismal godparents to show the unity between the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- May not be the father or mother of the candidate, but may be either a man or woman, but only one sponsor per candidate

**COMPLETED FORM IS DUE TO PSR TEACHER BY DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



# Confirmation Service Hours Record

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of Service	Date Performed	Service Performed	Who Benefitted from your service? * Mark: P-S-C	Adult Supervisor's Signature

Service performed for the betterment of your parish, school or community (not for your family, immediate or extended). P = Parish S = School C = Community

Total Hours Submitted on this form: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Half due December 9, 2015 and remaining half due March 9, 2016.