



Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
St. Joseph Parish
721 Chemeketa St. NE
Salem OR 97301

Confirmation Program
2009-2010

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a wonderful and exciting event in our faith journey! Through this sacrament we are fully initiated into the Catholic Church and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit which enable us to live out our faith to the fullest. With this awesome milestone in our journey comes great responsibility and this sacrament should not be taken lightly. Our Confirmation program is open to students age 13 to 18 and a two-year commitment. Registration for on-going faith formation and those beginning their first year of formation for Confirmation begins in the fall

The enclosed sheet lists the expectations of the Confirmandi (those preparing for Confirmation), and parents. Please read through the expectations carefully, sign the signature page, and return it to the parish office. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

God's Love and Light
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There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps, for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less. - Kurt Hahn

Year 1

Those planning to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are expected to be actively involved in the parish community (in addition to regular Mass attendance) the year prior to receiving the sacrament. Active involvement includes, but is not limited to regular attendance (weekly commitment) of one of the following:

- Sunday Night High School Youth Group
- Wednesday Night High School faith sharing/Bible study
- Wednesday Night Mid-High Youth Group
- Saturday Night Apostleship of the Cross with Missionaries of the Holy Spirit
- Sunday afternoon faith formation classes with Missionaries of the Holy Spirit
- Friday Night charismatic prayer group
- Teen catechist for Wed Night Faith Formation, RCIA,
- Children's Liturgy of the Word, etc.

Year 2

The following requirements need to be met during the second year of formation for Confirmation (dates correspond to those on track to receive the sacrament Spring 2010 and subject to change):

1. Regular Mass attendance – Confirmation initiates us into full membership with the universal and local church, insisting on a personal commitment to attend Mass each Sunday and holy days of obligation; a willingness to contribute to the Eucharistic celebration by praying, listening, and singing.
2. Monthly meetings with parents (sponsors will be expected to attend periodically but always welcome) – 1st Sunday of the month at 3:30pm starting October 4, 2009.
3. Monthly reading/homework assignments – at each monthly meeting parents and confirmandi will receive a short reading along with discussion questions to go over and prepare them for the next meeting.
4. Turn in copy of Baptismal certificate at time of registration.
5. Choose a Confirmation Sponsor – a sponsor is someone who will support you in living the Christian life and will pray with and for you. Please read the attached information regarding how to choose a sponsor and requirements of sponsors. **Due Nov 1, 2009**
6. Choose a Confirmation name - One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. Please read the attached information regarding choosing a Confirmation name and turn in name by **Jan 6 2010**.
7. Attend 2 retreats – retreats are an amazing opportunity for participants to dig deeper into their faith lives and get to know one another a little better (**Fall Vicariate Retreat Nov 6-8, 2009 and Spring Men's and Women's Retreat May 2010**).
8. Read Gospel of Mark – presents a good basic understanding of whom Jesus is and his invitation to faith.
9. Written reflection on community service – service is part of our call as Catholic Christians, upon completing 4hrs of community service with the organization of your choice (if looking for service opportunities please speak with Sarah Kresse) a written reflection based on provided questions (see attached) is **due March 7, 2010**
10. Interview with Confirmation catechist team – all confirmandi will set up time to meet with Confirmation catechist team and be expected to know Apostle's Creed, Seven Sacraments, Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit, Ten Commandments, and Our Father.
11. Letter to Archbishop Vlazny indicating desire to be confirmed – goal is to help Archbishop Vlazny know a little about you as he prepares to celebrate this awesome sacrament. **Due May 2, 2010**
12. Lastly, continued weekly involvement in parish life through one of the above mentioned activities required first year (e.g. continue to attend Wed Faith Sharing) is expected.



I have read through the expectations of the St. Joseph Confirmation Program and agree to meet expectations of program

Parent Signature

_____ Date _____

Confirmandi Signature

_____ Date _____

Choosing a Confirmation name. A name identifies you in a unique way, not just your physical self, but who you are as person. One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. You might want to recommit yourself to your Baptismal name since it expresses the relationship that exists between these two sacraments, especially after you reflect on its meaning and discover some of the people who shared your name in Christian history. You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. It is important to learn as much as you can about your patron saint. After all, you are asking this saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life. Whether you decide to stay with your Baptismal name or pick a new name, take the time to research and explore the root meaning of the name, for as Scripture says "Yahweh calls each of us by name."

Cool websites to search for Saint information:

Catholic Online-Saints
<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Patron Saints Index
<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

Catholic Information Network - Catholic Saint Links
<http://www.cin.org/saintlink.html>



CONFIRMATION NAME FORM

The name I have chosen as my Confirmation name is:

I have chosen this name because:

Please print your full name (First, Middle, Confirmation, Last), as it will appear in the program.

Candidate Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Sponsors for Confirmation

FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

How to choose a sponsor

Confirmation can be a great experience, and hopefully you've thought a lot about what this sacrament means, and how the Holy Spirit will affect your life. You'll be required to have a sponsor—someone who will guide you and share the story of faith with you. A good sponsor will make this process a little easier and even more fun.

If all has gone as planned, the best person will be one of your baptismal godparents. The *Catechism* (#1311) and canon law (#892-893) both tell us that you need a sponsor. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. Sadly, by the time they get to Confirmation, many young people no longer know their godparents, or they're no longer good role models. Or maybe they just live too far away. These young people will need to choose a new sponsor.

Some advice to the candidates: You're looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. The requirements mentioned for godparents earlier also apply to sponsors: that they be *confirmed Catholics, at least 16 years old* (for maturity) and *practicing members of the Church, while not being your parents*. This means you can choose a relative, friend or someone from your parish as your sponsor. Remember Kevin and his brother Mark of uncertain faith that we mentioned earlier? Let's see how all this applies to them.

As much as Kevin admires his brother, Kevin shouldn't choose Mark as a sponsor. And Mark shouldn't accept either. He isn't a bad person, but Mark has some faith issues he needs to work out first. Right now, Kevin needs someone who is active in church, can share why faith is important to him and who lives close enough to help Kevin with his preparation. So in choosing a sponsor, Kevin needs to take all these things seriously. So do you! Pray about it, and when you think you have the right person, ask him or her to help you grow in faith by being your sponsor!

Have you had a chance to prayerfully consider who you would like to ask to be your sponsor?
If so, who is the person you would like to ask?

Why?

How do you plan to share your confirmation preparation with them?



Community Service Reflection

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

—Matthew 25:35-40

Whether we are helping people meet their most basic needs or advocating for social change to reduce poverty in America, our Catholic values, teachings, and traditions provide the foundation for the work we do. We are called to witness the love of God through compassionate care of all God's children and to work prophetically, as Jesus did in his time, to build a more just and equitable society.

Upon completing your community service hours please reflect on the following questions and turn in to Sarah Kresse by April 5, 2009 (see number 9 on expectations page). Be sure to include the organization you worked and your supervisor.

- **What?** What issue(s) is being addressed? What did you notice happening around you during the project? What were the results/outcome of the project?
- **So What?** What did you think about during the project activity? What affect do you think this activity has had on those intended to benefit from it? How as it affected you
- **Now What?** What are the larger issues that caused the need for you to participate in this service activity? How did your efforts help? What more needs to be done to improve these problems? How will you apply what you have learned here in the future?