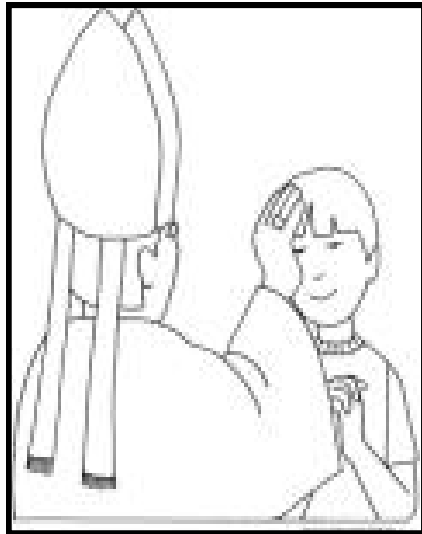


*Come Holy Spirit*



Confirmation will take place at  
Sacred Heart on a Friday during  
February, 2012  
at 7:00 pm



*Sacrament of  
Confirmation  
2011-12 Preparation*

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## Introduction

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred upon prepared candidates at Sacred Heart on a Friday during the month of February, 2012 at 7:00pm. To prepare the candidates of our parish, we will be offering **sessions either on select Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart from 11:15am-12:45pm OR Sunday evenings at St. Lucy from 6:00-7:30pm from September, 2011 through February, 2012 (excluding school and holiday breaks).**

This handbook is to help identify the process of preparation for Confirmation. Confirmation is a decision that must be freely made by the candidate. Fulfilling each of these requirements shows the candidate's willingness to participate more fully in his or her Catholic faith.

## Curriculum

Confirmation candidates are prepared according to the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and a format reflecting the four periods of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Invitation (Precatechumenate or Inquiry), Formation (Catechumenate), Reflection (Purification & Enlightenment), and Mission (Mystagogia).

During this process, candidates are encouraged to deepen their personal relationships with Christ and the Church. A deeper relationship requires a deeper faith. A deeper faith requires deeper knowledge of the faith. By reflecting on the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, Spirituality, and the Church, we hope to provide a deeper knowledge of the faith so that candidates may ultimately deepen their personal relationship with God, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit.



## Service Hours & Project

By choosing to become a Confirmed Catholic, you are saying yes to worship and service; and yes to love of God and love of neighbor. There are many opportunities for service in our parish community and because you are choosing to enter more fully into the life of the Church through Confirmation, we will now be asking you to help when these opportunities arise. Only 4 service projects are required, but as candidates for Confirmation and later as Confirmed Catholics, we expect you to be involved in service to the community and hope that you will respond generously to the requests for help in our Parish.

**In preparation for Confirmation, each candidate is required to take part in 4 service projects, each being 2-3 hours in duration, one being with their sponsor. A two-page paper must be turned in after completion of each of the service projects. One service project must be liturgical in nature. Another service project must serve the parish and/or school. A third service project should serve the greater community and correspond to one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. The fourth service project should correspond to one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy.**

### **Some examples of service include:**

-taking part in the liturgy as a server, lector, usher, greeter, cantor, choir member, or musician during at least 3 Masses (Liturgical).

-assisting at the parish picnic, acting as a CYF aide, preparing Homebound baskets, decorating the church for Christmas, preparing and serving Community Meals for St. Patrick, assisting in the Advent Giving Tree or "Halo Collection" for the homeless, or assisting in preparation for the school's silent auction (Parish/School-Wide)

-taking part in Awareness Walks (CROP, Cancer, etc.), ringing bells or making meals for the Salvation Army, or serving the elderly, etc (Community-Wide Corporal Works of Mercy)

-tutoring other students, counseling a friend, or offering constructive criticism when appropriate (Spiritual Works of Mercy)

## Requirements Checklist

- Application for Confirmation signed & turned-in along with pledge to attend Sunday Mass (due Sept. 11th)
- Confirmation Preparation Fee, and Catechesis catch-up—if applicable (due Sept. 11th)
- Sponsor Application Form, choice of service project with sponsor (due Sept. 25th)
- Submit 2-page report on Confirmation name chosen (due Oct. 16th)
- Permission slip for retreat signed & turned-in (due Nov. 13th)

4 service projects (one with sponsor) and a 2-page reflective sheet to be turned-in after each of the projects.

- At least one complete by Oct. 16th
- At least two complete by Nov. 13th
- At least three complete by Dec. 11th
- All 4 complete by Jan. 22nd
  
- Submit Fall Mass attendance Form (due January 22)

## Holy Spirit Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we 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.

## Parent/Family Participation and Activities

Parents and families, we ask your help in the following areas:

- ✝ **Praying** for the candidate's spiritual growth and decision concerning the celebration of Confirmation.
- ✝ **Attending Sunday Mass**
- ✝ **Preparing your child:** Parents are asked to discuss with their child his/her readiness for Confirmation. The sacrament should be received freely, not as a result of conformity or pressure. Confirmation begins a fuller participation in the life of the Catholic Church as we deepen our relationship with God and try to live a life modeled on the values and teachings of Jesus. Parents and sponsors are encouraged to attend the Confirmation preparation sessions.
- ✝ **Assisting** with retreats, service work, rehearsal and Liturgy of Confirmation as requested.
- ✝ **Service/Outreach Projects:** Parents are asked to give practical support in scheduling, transportation, supervision, discussion and follow-up, and above all a supportive attitude and good example. Students complete the project.
- ✝ **Support:** Parents can be a great help in offering friendly reminders about completing projects.
- ✝ **Confirmation Liturgy:** Join us to celebrate your child's Confirmation with your family.

## Why are Parents and Other Adults so Involved in the Program?

As the Bishops remind us, parents are the first and most important examples to their children of how to live their Christian faith. The activities attempt to foster and strengthen the faith which the family shares with one another. This time of preparation for Confirmation is an opportunity for parents and adults to learn, deepen their own growth in their faith, and share their commitment to Jesus and the Church with young people. As a parish event, Confirmation is prepared for and celebrated as a time of renewal and recommitment for the whole parish. Students need parents and other adults as models for their growth in faith and Christian living.

## Interview

The interview is an informal visit between the candidate and the pastor (or his delegate). It is a time to reflect on the experience of the Confirmation process and discern the readiness of the candidate. This requirement may be waived by the pastor and/or catechist if he/she believes the purpose of the interview has been met by the work presented by the candidate during the preparatory process.

### The purpose of the interview is to answer the following questions:

- ✝ Is the candidate approaching the sacrament of Confirmation freely of his or her own desire;
- ✝ Can the candidate demonstrate a knowledge of the sacrament of Confirmation and of the Holy Spirit?
- ✝ Does the candidate have a grasp of the teachings of the Catholic Church and can he or she speak about what they have learned in preparation for Confirmation?
- ✝ Does the candidate participate in service to the community and in the Parish and how does his or her service reflect the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy?

## Some Background And Answers to Questions

### What are the American Bishops' Guidelines Regarding Confirmation ?

The Bishops state very clearly in the *National Catechetical Directory* that:

- ✚ Confirmation preparation must call Christians to a real relationship with Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit through a “vigorous sacramental life, prayer, study, and service.”
- ✚ Parents are called to renew and strengthen their own faith. They must set an example of mature faith and involvement in their parish through their own efforts to grow spiritually and be of service to others.

### How is Confirmation Related to Baptism?

“As a sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation is intimately related to Baptism and Eucharist. Christians are reborn in Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation and sustained by the food of Eucharist. Specifically, in Confirmation they are signed with the gift of the Spirit and become more perfect images of their Lord. Confirmation renews and strengthens the Christian’s baptismal call to bear witness to Christ before the world and work eagerly for the building up of God’s body.”

“Confirmation emphasizes the transformation of life by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in God’s fullness.”  
(From the National Catechetical Directory for Catholics in the U.S. #118)

## Confirmation Goals

### I. To help the candidate deepen his/her relationship with the person of Jesus and the teachings of His Church

We will:

- ✚ speak about the purpose of confirmation: Confirmation deepens what was begun at Baptism, namely initiation into the Christian life which is a life centered on the Eucharist. (CCC, 1285).
- ✚ study the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a baptized person and the Church. (CCC, 1286-1289).
- ✚ expect the candidates to have a basic understanding of the Catholic Church, of the signs and rite of Confirmation (CCC, 1293-1300), and of the effects of this sacrament (CCC, 1302-1305).

### II. To deepen experiences of personal and liturgical prayer

We work to:

- ✚ help candidates become more conscious of God’s presence and more responsive to Him in their day-to-day living.
- ✚ encourage each candidate to make prayer a priority in their daily lives and to experience a variety of ways to pray, especially the praying of Scripture.
- ✚ provide opportunities for the candidates to participate in liturgical celebrations.

### III. To offer the challenges of a Christian Moral Life based on the Gospel Principles of Love, Service, and Justice

We offer:

- ✚ activities and discussions that will help the candidate assume adult level responsibility for their moral decisions and actions.
- ✚ opportunities for the candidates to use their talents and gifts in the service of others, especially the poor, the needy, the elderly and the disadvantaged.
- ✚ opportunities to assume responsibility in the ministry and service aspects of parish life.

### IV. To demonstrate the responsibilities that flow from belonging to a Christian community

We seek to:

- ✚ show that through Confirmation, one is called to be an active member of the Catholic Church.
- ✚ make clear our role in the universal Church.

## Confirmation Name

Each candidate must reflect upon the Christian name he/she will choose for his/her Confirmation. The name a candidate chooses must remind him/her of his/her call to live a life in union with Christ, that is to strive to be a saint. You may use your baptismal name if you were named after a saint or virtue. Whichever Christian name you choose, you should understand how this name clearly shows the significance of your choice to be initiated fully into the Catholic Church. You are asked to turn-in a 2-page paper on WHY you have chosen your particular Saints' name.

## Choosing A Sponsor

While the parents present the young person for Confirmation, another adult sponsors the candidate. (Canon 874#5).

A sponsor must have received all three Sacraments of Initiation, be 16 years of age, be actively practicing their faith in the Catholic Church and be in good standing with the Catholic Church. It is desirable that a baptismal Godparent also be the Confirmation sponsor; However, a candidate may choose anyone who has a special relationship of faith. Again, parents cannot be sponsors.

### Sponsors are asked to:

- ✚ provide appropriate paperwork.
- ✚ follow up on the candidate's preparation process through discussions with the candidate.
- ✚ help with the candidate's service/outreach projects.
- ✚ if they so choose, attend the Confirmation sessions.
- ✚ pray for the candidate's spiritual growth and decision concerning the celebration of Confirmation.
- ✚ attend Sunday Mass regularly.
- ✚ support the candidate and encourage them to grow in and practice their faith while they prepare for confirmation and after they are confirmed.

