Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation



A Family Guide

Congratulations! Your child is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Within this booklet you will find:**

* A theology of the Sacrament of Confirmation
* A list of expectations in preparing for this Sacrament
* Information on the Confirmation Retreat
* A calendar of events
* The paperwork that needs to get turned in

**What is Confirmation?**

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation… the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace (CCC 1285).

**What does the Sacrament of Confirmation DO for us?**

* Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
* It roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!”
* it unites us more firmly to Christ;
* it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
* it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
* it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross
* Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an *indelible spiritual mark*, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness. (CCC 1303- 1304)

**Who can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that "the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time," for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete. (CCC 1306)

**What is the age of our soul?**

Although Confirmation is sometimes called the "sacrament of Christian maturity," we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need "ratification" to become effective. St. Thomas reminds us of this:

Age of body does not determine age of soul. Even in childhood man can attain spiritual maturity: as the book of Wisdom says: "For old age is not honored for length of time, or measured by number of years. “Many children, through the strength of the Holy Spirit they have received, have bravely fought for Christ even to the shedding of their blood (CCC 1308).

**PREPARATION should involve:**

* A more intimate union with Christ
* Familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings
* Assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.
* Awakening a sense of belonging to…
	+ the Church of Jesus Christ,
	+ the parish community
* Receiving the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
* Intensity of prayer to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act (Cf. CCC 1309-1311).
* Seeking the spiritual help of a *sponsor*.
	+ MUST be a PRACTICING Catholic who will model Christian living through:
		- Going to Mass every weekend and Holy day of Obligation
		- Frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation (at least once a year for serious sins)
		- Fasting and abstaining on appointed days
		- Obeying the laws of the Church
	+ Who is at least 16 years old
	+ Who has already received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
	+ Who, if married, was married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church
	+ Is NOT a parent of the candidate

**Where do we get the idea of Confirmation?**

*In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught* *until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.* *He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.* *While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me* *speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:1-5)*

*When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together.* *And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were**. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.* *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.* *Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem.* *At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language (Acts 2:1-6).*

Peter, because he is our first Pope, spoke to the crowd and told them about how Jesus is the Savior; the Savior God promised to Adam and Eve (cf. Gen 3;15). Peter told the crowd about Jesus dying, rising, and ascending into heaven. Many people believed Peter and asked what they should do. Peter told them they needed to be sorry for their sins, change their life, and be baptized. There were 3,000 people baptized that day.

**Confirmation after Pentecost…**

*"Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit"* (*Acts* 8:14-17).

**What is necessary for Confirmation?**

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must:

* Profess the faith,
* be in the state of grace,
* have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and
* be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs (CCC 1319)

The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism (in the East other sense-organs as well), together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words: *"Accipe signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti"* (Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.) in the Roman rite, or: *Signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti* [the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit] in the Byzantine rite (CCC 1320).

In the East this sacrament is administered immediately after Baptism and is followed by participation in the Eucharist; this tradition highlights the unity of the three sacraments of Christian initiation. In the Latin Church this sacrament is administered when the age of reason has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to the bishop, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the ecclesial bond (CCC 1318)

**What do we expect in our Confirmation program?**

* Completion of the High School requirements including: 7 mandatory credits and 9 elective credits
* Attending an overnight retreat
* Regular Mass attendance (regarding the weekend obligation)
* Research a saint and prepare a two-page report for display on the bulletin board (pictures are encouraged). It is ideal if the researched saint connects with the chosen Confirmation name (This allows for a special bond between the Confirmation candidate and a specific Saint).
* Two interviews: one in the spring (11th grade) and one in the fall (12th grade)
* Turning in the assigned paperwork
* Choose a sponsor who will be a great spiritual help on this journey (must be a practicing Catholic)

**Confirmation Retreat for 11th grade students 2016**

When? Saturday, January 30th at 2:00 p.m. – Sunday, January 31st at 2:00 p.m. (not including driving time)

Where? Mt. Tabor Retreat Center: 522 2nd St, Menasha, WI 54952

(920) 722-8918

Time? We will depart from St. Anthony Parish at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. We will return to St. Anthony Parish at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Cost of Retreat? It will be $65 per student (Please make checks out to: St. Anthony Parish (Attn: Dawn Johnson/Retreat)

What to bring? Cell phones (and any other electronics) will be collected by the chaperones for the weekend. Otherwise, feel free to bring snacks, change of clothes, and personal items for an overnight stay.

**Needed:** Drivers/chaperones

If you have any questions contact Dawn Johnson at 715-251-1773 or by e-mail dawnlouisepj@gmail.com

**Confirmation Preparation: 11th Grade**

**2015-2016 school year**

**Sunday, December 20th** Rite of Enrollment at the 10:30am Mass (11th graders) where you will sign the Faithful Catholic Obligation form (see next page)

**January 30-31 Retreat at Mt. Tabor with SPIRTUS Team for 11th graders**

**February 6, 2016**: Research Confirmation name and prepare a two-page report for the bulletin board (pictures are encouraged). Good websites to visit for your research: [www.newadvent.org](http://www.newadvent.org),. [www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php](http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php), [www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/](http://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/), [www.sacred-texts.com/chr/lots/index.htm](http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/lots/index.htm)

* Complete classes and electives for the High School requirements
* Attend the weekend Mass – EVERY WEEK (use envelopes or turn in form)
* Decide on who will serve as sponsor. Must be a PRACTICING CATHOLIC and the Sponsor Form must be returned (with the signature of priest only if the person attends another parish)
* Complete the Confirmation application form (Due at the first interview!!)
* Sign the faithful Catholic obligation form
* Attend at least one Youth Group activity/meeting (contact Yvonne Voss for details)

**Sometime in the spring of 2016 as 11th graders…**

* Attend the first interview with Fr. Matt and your sponsor (ALL PAPERWORK IS DUE AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW!!!)

**Sometime in the summer as 11th graders…**

* Do a sponsor booklet and interview over the summer and continue attending Mass EVERY Sunday (or Saturday evening).

**Sometime in the fall of 2016 as 12th graders…**

* Register and continue to attend classes in the fall of 2016.
* Write a letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation (done in class)
* Attend the Confirmation rehearsal (TBA)
* Show up to be Confirmed (We should know the date by early summer 2016. It is possible we will need to travel to Green Bay for the Confirmation)

Faithful Catholic Obligation Form

As a devoted Catholic, actively practicing my faith and desiring Confirmation in my faith, I promise to:

* Attend Obligatory Weekend Masses and Holy Days.
* Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as needed (once a month is strongly encouraged)
* Attend all religious education classes and the elective hours of my choosing
* Arrive on time for Mass/Class/Activities allowing time to pray and prepare myself for God and minimizing disruption to others trying to pray/meditate.
* Contribute to my community and faith family through sharing time, talent, and treasure as provided by God.
* Prepare a Saint report in an effort to get to know the Saint, whose name I will take for Confirmation.
* Attend and participate in the interviews with my sponsor, Fr. Matt, and a Faith Formation committee member
* Write a letter to the Bishop stating my wishes to be confirmed and why.
* Attend a Catholic retreat to deepen my faith and hunger for Jesus in anticipation of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
* Work fully with my sponsor and/or parent(s) during preparation of Confirmation.
* Keep in contact with my sponsor after the Sacrament of Confirmation with the knowledge that Confirmation is the beginning of my adult faith journey.

Confirmation Commitment Signatures

Confirmand Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Sponsor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM**

Name of Confirmation Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of parish you attend: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**As a practicing Catholic, I appreciate that this request is an important opportunity for me to witness to my faith and provide a good example of Catholic Life. I have prayerfully considered what I have been asked to do. I promise, with God’s help, to be the best sponsor I can be, therefore, I now affirm:**

□ **t*hat I am at least 16 years of age;***

□ **t*hat I have completed my own Christian initiation through reception of the most Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation;***

□ ***that, If I am married, I was married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church*;**

□ ***that, I will do all in my power to be a model of Catholic Christian living by: assisting at Mass every Sunday and on Holy days of Obligation; confessing serious sins at least once a year; receiving Holy Communion frequently; fasting and abstaining on days appointed; contributing to the support of the church; observing the laws of the church concerning marriage and giving religious training to one’s children; and joining in the missionary spirit and work of the church.***

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Signature of Sponsor Date*

**Pastor Certification:**

**I certify that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a registered, ACTIVE**

**parishioner of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parish.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Date and Parish Seal (Pastors Signature)*

Please turn this form into St. Anthony Parish, 1432 River St. Niagara, WI 54151 (Attn: Dawn Johnson)

**CONFIRMATION INFORMATION**

**PLEASE PRINT**

***CANDIDATE INFORMATION***:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *(Print your name as you would like it to appear on your certificate)*

PHONE #:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AGE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FATHER’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Last) (First) (Middle)

MOTHER’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Last) (First) (Maiden)

DATE OF BAPTISM: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_PLACE OF BAPTISM: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *(Submit a copy of your baptismal certificate if not baptized at St. Anthony)*

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_STATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF FIRST COMMUNION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_STATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CONFIRMATION NAME CHOSEN: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***SPONSOR INFORMATION*:**

SPONSOR’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Last) (First) (Middle)

RELATIONSHIP TO CANDIDATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(also fill out sponsor form…)*