



## Confirmation *Parent Packet*

# Program Expectations

### **Mass attendance**

Candidates are expected to go to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The grace received through the Eucharist is indispensable in preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. \*Parents are responsible for making sure their teens attend weekly Mass.\*

### **Attendance & Participation at Sessions**

Canon Law requires parishes to be sure that each candidate is adequately instructed in the Faith. The primary way by which we do this is through class sessions, so it is important that candidates plan to attend each class session. However, since everyone experiences occasional conflicts, candidates are allowed 3 *non-emergency* absences over 2 years. These would include school events, family trips, sporting events, etc. Emergency absences, such as a death in the family, sickness or inclement weather, will not result in postponement of the sacrament. If you are going to miss a class for whatever reason, *please call your group leader* before the session begins. You may receive a call at home if candidate is absent but does not call. While in class, students are expected to actively participate by coming prepared, listening to presentations and engaging in small group discussion. Failure to participate will count as an absence. When candidates miss a class for whatever reason, they should review the lesson with their parent or sponsor. Lesson plans can be found at: [www.stjohnnb.com](http://www.stjohnnb.com)

Sessions: Session Curriculum will be YDisciple sessions from Formed.org

Year 1: For Faith Formation Students: required to attend confirmation 2 times a month on Sundays

For School Students: required to attend 2 sessions a month during school day

Year 2: Confirmandi are required to attend Confirmation sessions 2 times a month on Sundays.

Each confirmation session will begin with Mass at 5:30. A light meal will be provided and the session will end at 8 pm.

### **Sessions will be held**

October 7 and 28, November 4, and 11, December 9 and 16, January 6 and 27, February 3 and 10, March 3 and 10, April 14 and 28

### **Out of Class Assignments**

Throughout their *two years*, candidates will complete 2 Sponsor activities and a Saint Report. These should be typed and handed in to the group leader.

### **Service**

Year 1: Candidates will be emailed a list of 7 parish events and will need to pick 3 of these events as service opportunities.

Year 2: Each candidate will take on an ongoing form of service during our weekend liturgies. Options are helping with the nursery or children's liturgy of the word. Altar serving, reading, greeting, ushering, lecturing, music ministry.

### **Faith Enrichment**

Faith enrichment comes in the form of particular events offered through our youth ministry department. These will be emailed out in advance of the events

### **Retreats**

Confirmation 1 students both school and faith formation will attend a weekend retreat here at the parish in the Spring. Confirmation 2 students must attend a weekend over night retreat. These retreats are designed to give candidates a chance to internalize what they have learned and spiritually prepare for the sacrament.



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### {Expectations, continued}

#### **Sponsors (to be chosen by end of Year 1 in May)**

Each candidate will need to choose a sponsor. A sponsor must be:

- a practicing Catholic who has been confirmed and is at least 16 years old;
- a good role model for Catholic Christian living;
- someone with whom the candidate can discuss their faith.
- Sponsors do not need to live locally, as Sponsor projects can be done remotely and someone can even stand in for a sponsor at the Confirmation ceremony itself if needed.
- Since Confirmation is tied to the sacrament of baptism, godparents **can be** a good option.
- As per Canon Law, **parents may not be sponsors**.

Sponsors will meet with candidates throughout the 2nd year in order to complete projects. Sponsors should be available to help guide the candidate as they grow in faith, and if at all possible, attend Confirmation. There is special information for Sponsors that can be found at: [www.stjohnnb.com](http://www.stjohnnb.com)

#### **Confirmation Name**

Candidates will need to choose a Confirmation Name. This can be the name of a saint they admire, or their own baptismal name. More information on choosing a Confirmation name is available within the Saint Report assignment in the Candidate Workbook.

#### **Baptismal Certificates**

A copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate is necessary if the candidate was baptized somewhere other than St. John's. If this applies to you, please send us a copy of the certificate ASAP. (If you don't have a copy at home, you can call the church where you were baptized and request another copy. Please do not give us your original!) This documentation is necessary for the candidate to be confirmed. **This will be handed in with the Confirmation 2 registration in the Spring of Confirmation 1.**

#### **Inclement Weather**

1. In event of snow, severe thunderstorms, tornados, etc., you can call 651-633-8333 x1218 and there will be a message letting you know if class will be cancelled or not.
2. If conditions do not seem safe enough for you to travel, **please do not come to class!** We will defer to your judgment as parents as to the safety of your children. Absences due to weather will be considered "emergency" absences.
3. When there is a question of whether or not to hold class due to weather, we will err on the side of having it. Again, do not come if it is not safe for you to travel.



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### **Sponsor Activity #1: Living Faith**

Due in January of Year 1

#### **Context:**

*Our faith is not just something to do on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. It should shape our lives and the way we do things. This activity is meant to get you involved in your faith in a deeper way, and to share that experience with your sponsor. Our hope is that through this shared experience, you will both grow in your faith together.*

#### **What to do:**

1. Pick one of the following three activities to do with your sponsor:
  - \* **Grow together** in faith by attending a “Faith Enrichment” activity together. (See Faith Enrichment Hours Sheet for suggestions. Note: the hours you get with your sponsor still count for Faith Enrichment hours).
  - \* **Work together** with your sponsor, by doing some kind of community service together. (See Service Hour sheet for suggestions, again, these hours will still count toward you total).
  - \* **Learn together** by both listening to the same Lighthouse Catholic Media CD, or reading the same faith-building book from our library. (CD’s may be purchased for \$3/ea, or borrowed and returned in good condition. Books in our library may be borrowed, or the same title may be purchased in Catholic bookstores.)
2. Fill out the reflection sheet on the next page.
3. Turn the reflection sheet in to your small group leader.



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# Suggestions for Sponsor Activity #1 Activities

### **Grow Together... by attending one of these activities:**

**Lifeline Youth Mass** and Evening Program at NET Ministries (first Saturdays of the month, Oct-May, carpool from St. John's.)

**Living Rosary** at St. John's

**Adoration and Praise**— 1st Wednesday of every month in the Chapel of Angels @ 7:30

(Catholic) **Baptisms**- (held at St. John's every month- check the bulletin)

Pray in our own parish **Adoration chapel**, open all the time (except Sat night-Sunday night)

**Go on pilgrimage** to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine or other holy site (watch for trips offered through St. John's)

**Team Vianney or Theotokos nights** (offered through St. Thomas for guys and girls respectively- on growing in your faith as a Catholic man or woman).

Attend Catholic **Mass in Latin, Spanish**, or another language.

## Suggested Reading (or listening) for the “Learn Together” option

### **Books**

*You can borrow most of these from our library, or order them from Amazon.com*

Hahn, Scott, *I Choose God, Stories from Young Catholics*

Hart, Mark, *Blessed are the Bored in Spirit*

Hart, Mark, *Saintbook*

Hart, Mark, *Ask the Bible Geek, Ask the Bible Geek 2*

Lemieux, Todd and Mark Hart, *100 Things Every Catholic Teen Should Know*

Pinto, Matthew, *Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?* (Q& A about the Faith)

Pinto, Matthew, *Did Jesus Have a Last Name?* (Q& A about the Faith)

Pinto, Matthew, *Do I Have to Go?* (A teen's guide to Mass)

Wellborn, Amy, *Prove It!* Series. Titles include Church, God, Jesus... (Down-to-earth explanation of these topics)

***Any other titles in our library are okay, too. If you want suggestions on something a little deeper, talk to Adam***

### **CD's**

*These and more are available from the kiosk in the plaza.*

Former Drug Dealer to the Catholic Priesthood

The Healing Power of Confession

The Passion of Christ Applied to Your Life

***Any other Lighthouse Catholic Media CD is okay for this project.***



# **Confirmation 1 Sponsor Activity Reflection Sheet**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name and describe the event, service or book/CD that you chose for this activity.-

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2. What did you think of this event/service/book or CD? Why?

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3. What did your sponsor think of it? Why?.-

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4. What are two things you learned from this experience?

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5. What did you learn about your sponsor during this activity?

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## Confirmation *Parent Packet*

### **Sponsor Activity #2: Defending the Faith**

To be handed in to Small Group Leader before Spring Break of year 2

#### **Context:**

*One of the things you will be called and obliged to do as a confirmed Catholic is to spread and defend the Catholic Faith. Part of your sponsor's job is to model what it means to grow in their own understanding of the Catholic faith and to help you figure out the tough questions. This activity will help you both to grow in both these areas.*

#### **What to do:**

Pick one of the statements below. Then, using the resources we have in the Youth Room, other recommended books or recommended websites, both you and your sponsor together should figure out how to refute the statement. Candidate will write a one-page (typed, double spaced!) summary of your findings. (Or, you can do your research and report your findings orally to your small group leader.)

#### **Statements to Disprove**

1. I don't have to go to a priest to confess my sins. I can go right to Jesus.
2. Catholics worship Mary.
3. You don't have to go to Mass to be a good Catholic.
4. A loving God wouldn't send anyone to hell, so everyone goes to heaven.
5. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're a good person (since all religions believe basically the same thing).
6. The Eucharist is a symbol of God's love for us.
7. Jesus was only a good teacher.

#### **Resources**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Any books or CD's in our library or mentioned for Sponsor Activity #1

*The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*

[www.Catholic.com](http://www.Catholic.com)

[www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com)

[www.catholic.net](http://www.catholic.net)



## Confirmation *Parent Packet*

### Saint Report

To be handed in to Small Group Leader no later than Jan of Year 1

#### Why a Saint Report?

Names had great meaning in the Bible and in our tradition, yet today we often take for granted their beauty and power. In the sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop will call you by name before you are anointed. This Saint Report is an opportunity for you to get to know the person whose name you take on that day.

#### Choosing a Confirmation Name

Since Confirmation is the sacrament that completes Baptism, it is fine to use your baptismal (given) name at Confirmation. Confirmation is also a time for you to accept as your own the faith that was given to you by your parents and godparents. For this reason, it's also okay to choose a saint whose life story really interests you, or a saint to whom you have a devotion. Either way, by picking your Confirmation name, you are asking a saint to look after you, pray for you and guide you in much the same way you asked your sponsor to be part of your faith and life. *(That is why you need to choose a saint's name. If your baptismal name is not a saint's name, you can still use it in the ceremony, but will need to choose a saint's name to go with it. For example: Connor Michael.)*

#### Resources

There are tons of saints, and almost as many resources to find out about them and their lives. Take some time to research some saints before you decide on your name. Ask friends or family who their favorite saint is, or browse through some books or websites. We have some good books in the youth room you can look through, or you can check out some of the many saint websites. Here are a few to get you started:

Catholic Online [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)

Patron Saints Index [www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm)

Catholic Information Network [www.cin.org/saints.html](http://www.cin.org/saints.html)

Saint profiles in the [Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth](#).

#### Saint Report

Your report should be **one page typed** and include the following information:

- Your saint's full name
- Their approximate date of birth and death
- General biographical information
- What it was that made them a saint
- What you can relate to about this saint's life
- Why you chose this saint

Each candidate share their saint with their small group. Small group leaders will work with you to choose your presentation date. This is done as a class assignment in SJB school.



## Confirmation *Parent Packet*

### **Service**

To be completed by Confirmation 2.

#### **The Reason for Service:**

By our Baptism, we are called to serve one another. It says in the book of James, "faith without works is dead." Just as God proved His love for us through an action of sacrifice, we too can demonstrate our love for God by the sacrifice of our time, treasure and talent in helping others. Hopefully your experiences of service during your preparation for Confirmation will be part of your daily life as a fully initiated Catholic Christian!

#### **Service Options :**

##### **Year 1-Choose 3 of 7**

1. Helping at Fallfest
2. All Saints Party
3. Family Advent and Easter Vigil Party
4. Families moving Forward
5. Families Serving Families
6. Soup Suppers
7. Living Stations

##### **Year 2 - Choose 1 ongoing Liturgical ministry**

1. Nursery
2. Children's liturgy of the Word
3. Greeting
4. Lector- 5:30
5. Usher- 5:30
6. Altar serving
7. Music Ministry- 5:30
8. Meal prep

**EACH CANDIDATE IS REQUIRED TO KEEP TRACK OF HIS OR HER SERVICE. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR SERVICE LOG TO YOUR SERVICE PROJECTS SO THAT YOU CAN GET IT SIGNED.**







## Confirmation *Parent Packet*

# Faith Enrichment Hours

### **What is a “faith enrichment hour” and why do I have to do it?**

In Confirmation, you will be bound more closely to the Church, and will be called to be an increasingly more active member of it. Faith enrichment hours are designed to give you a taste of the Catholic Church outside what your ‘normal’ experiences might be. You may discover something you didn’t know you liked!

### **How do I get them?**

Check for youth activities @ [facebook.com/SJBYM](https://www.facebook.com/SJBYM)

Winterblast or middle school youth group event

Youth Adoration Nights-1st Wednesday of every month in the Chapel at 7:30

Lifeline Youth Mass and Evening Program at NET Ministries– February for Vocation night

Team Vianney or Theotokos nights (offered through St. Thomas for guys and girls respectively- on growing in your faith as a Catholic man or woman).

Triduum services (Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday Easter vigil).

Extreme Faith Camp

March for Life– 9th only

The Hunger for Catholic Missions

Senior High Retreats– 9th Only

Archdiocesan Youth Day– 9th Only

**Attend 2 events per year of Confirmation.**

**Faith Enrichment Reflection Sheet**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Session** \_\_\_\_\_ **SG Leader** \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the event you attended.

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What is one thing you learned by attending this event?

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Did this event affect the way you view the Catholic Church? Why or why not?

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