

# *THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION*

## *Student's Booklet*

*Name: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Over the coming school year, you will be given a number of details regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be administered in the fall of next year.*

*Every student is responsible for completing and submitting this booklet during the first week in March. Parents and students should read through the following pages in order to determine how to expedite the completion of the material in the timeliest manner.*

*Some matters need to be attended to immediately (Sponsor eligibility note), while other matters require constant attention (service projects).*

*Please feel free to contact the Religious Education Office if you have any questions regarding this booklet. Good luck to you this year as you begin your formal preparation for this important sacramental event.*



## *CONFIRMATION.....WHAT IS IT?*

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon his apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized. It is the final sacrament of initiation to the Catholic faith and may only be received once in a lifetime.

## GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These gifts are:

*Wisdom      Understanding      Counsel      Fortitude*  
*Knowledge      Reverence of God      Piety*

From the Gifts of the Spirit, come the Fruits, which are:

*Charity      Joy      Peace      Patience      Kindness      Goodness*  
*Long suffering      Mildness      Chastity      Modesty      Faith*  
*Self restraint*

CONFIRMATION NAME

The Bishop will seal your commitment to Jesus and His Church by anointing you with oil and calling you by name. You should pick a name that you would like as your Confirmation name. This must be a Saint's name.

Confirmation name: \_\_\_\_\_

I have chosen this name because:

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

*APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF  
CONFIRMATION*

Please type or print clearly

Name of the person to be Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Record of Baptism: All information must be provided in full.

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ (month/day/year)

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparents: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sponsor's Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

### *CONFIRMATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS*

The Confirmation program is a two-year process. This process begins in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and will continue right up until the time of Confirmation. Below is an outline of the expectations of our candidates.

- First and foremost, candidates **MUST** be practicing Catholics who attend Mass and receive Communion on a regular basis. If you are not attending Mass, you put your candidacy at risk.
- Religious Education Classes - Candidates are to attend classes once a week and adhere to the attendance policy already in place.
- Parental supervision – While candidates are primarily responsible for fulfilling the requirements of Confirmation, we ask that parents play an active role in this preparation.
- Investiture Ceremony (Enrollment Mass) – This ceremony is held in order to present our 7<sup>th</sup> graders asking for Confirmation to the parish community. The community and Pastor are then asked to accept these students as candidates for Confirmation. The only students who will be invited to participate in the Investiture Ceremony are 7<sup>th</sup> graders who prove themselves to be candidate ready. The criteria for determining readiness involves the following:

1. Regular Mass Attendance
2. Class behavior, participation
3. Catechist recommendation
4. Student request for candidacy

- Picking a sponsor – A sponsor is a person chosen by the candidate who acts as a spiritual guide and support system. This person may not necessarily be a relative. The sponsor should be someone who has a very strong spiritual life and **MUST** be an active parishioner of his/her church. Please give careful thought to picking a sponsor. The sponsor must do the following:
  1. Apply to his/her home parish for a letter of eligibility to be a sponsor.
  2. Supply the candidate with this letter ASAP and it should be attached to this booklet. Please keep in mind, every church may have different requirements for a person to be considered eligible. Do not delay in asking your sponsor in case they have steps to take in order to be considered eligible by the Pastor of his/her church.

**\*\*IF YOUR SPONSOR IS A MEMBER OF ST. PIUS X CHURCH, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE (609-693-0368) FOR VERIFICATION OF SPONSOR ELIBIGILITY. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO COME TO THE CHURCH TO PICK UP AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE.**

- Confirmation name – The name chosen as your Confirmation name should be name that identifies a person as a Christian, as does their Baptismal name. In fact, candidates my retain their Baptismal name rather than pick another name. However, if another name is chosen, this name must be a Saint’s name, and the student is asked to briefly explain why this name was chosen.
- Successful completion of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum – All students must complete the 7<sup>th</sup> grade program including the assessment test which is given at the end of the year.

### *THE ROLE AND ELIGIBILITY OF THE SPONSOR*

Individual sponsors must be selected. A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. This selection should be indicated at the beginning of the candidates preparation as it often takes time for a sponsor to receive eligibility papers from his/her own parish.

Sponsor eligibility:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must be Catholic and have been initiated in the three Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- May be either male or female for any candidate
- May not be biological parents but may be Step-parents, God-parents or Grandparents provided they fulfill all other requirements
- Must meet the eligibility requirements of his/her home parish
- Must be in a valid marriage if married. If divorced and remarried and the original marriage took place in a Catholic church, the original marriage must have been dissolved through annulment. Please ask for clarification if needed.

Please fill in:

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Parish: (name and address) \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\*Sponsor eligibility certificate must be attached to this booklet and handed in.**

*CONFIRMATION FEES AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PLACEMENT*

The fee for Confirmation is \$75.00. Please make your check payable to St. Pius X Church and attach it to this page.

This fee covers the cost of materials for Confirmation and the robe that is worn by candidates at the time of the ceremony. In addition, this fee covers registration fees for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade program that your child will need to complete prior to Confirmation itself.

ATTACH CHECK HERE:

*EIGHTH GRADE ....YOUR CHOICE*

Students and parents have a choice as to which program they participate in for the weeks leading up to Confirmation in the fall.

Standard Confirmation Prep Religious Education – This program will pick up where 7<sup>th</sup> grade left off and will focus mainly on the Sacrament of Confirmation and its spiritual components. This class runs for 8 weeks. Each class is one hour in length. Absenteeism is carefully monitored.

True Love Waits - TLW is a faith-based abstinence, chastity, and morality program designed for Catholic teens. This program deals with issues such as peer pressure, setting goals, personal decision making, as well as health issues such as pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and abortion. TLW sessions run for 4 weeks. Each session is two hours in length. Please refer to the True Love Waits information page before making a decision for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

In addition, parents of TLW students must attend a TLW parent meeting late in the summer. This meeting gives parents an opportunity to review the program firsthand. A final permission slip will then be signed after the parent meeting before a student can participate in TLW.

Please sign below based on your decision:

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in St. Pius X's True Love Waits program which is offered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in preparation for Confirmation. I understand that this is a 4 week program with classes lasting 2 hours. These classes will deal with the subject of abstinence and health issues such as sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy, and abortion.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

(permission denied, sign below)

\_\_\_\_\_ does not have permission to attend or participate in the True Love Waits program. I would prefer that he/she be placed in a traditional Religious Education class in preparation of Confirmation.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

*CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS*

As a reflection of the love that Christ had for us, service to others is something we encourage, not only for Confirmation candidates, but for all of us who consider ourselves Christians. In preparation for Confirmation, when one receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we ask that all candidates perform a minimum of 9 hours of service to others prior to the fall of 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

This service should be broken down as follows:

3 hours of family service – Service done for the immediate family without payment. This includes chores, babysitting, homework help, etc.

3 hours of community service – Service done for others in the community without payment. This could be helping a neighbor, a civic organization in the community, etc.

3 hours of church service – Service for God or his community. Service opportunities are available throughout the year. Please check the church bulletin on a regular basis for service hours.

The service hours should be noted below. This form can be separated from the booklet and handed in after the March deadline.

**FAMILY SERVICE.**

No. of hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of service:

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

Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

No. of hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of service:

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

Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH SERVICE**

No. of hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of service:

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

Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_

Use back for additional space if needed.