

# CONFIRMATION

Candidate/Sponsor  
Activity Booklet



Candidate  
Booklet  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Candidate's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **How to Use this Activity Booklet**

You and your sponsor each have a copy of this booklet that is specific to your role in your relationship. Your sponsor's booklet has additional ideas for discussion to help guide you through these activities as you strive to become a better witness of Christian living and to embrace the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Our hope is that a unique bond will be made between the two of you over the next year.

If possible, you will want to meet with your sponsor face-to-face to work through the activity booklet. If your sponsor does not live in the area, this activity can be completed together over the phone, Facetime, Skype, or by e-mail (last resort).

Try to plan ahead and get your meeting times scheduled with your Sponsor to complete the four activities.

May the Lord bless you as you grow in your Catholic faith and prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

# Due Candidate/Sponsor Dates

There are four activities that will be completed during your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. These discussions can be done in person, through FaceTime or Skype, over the phone, and *at the least* through e-mail.

Below we have included due dates for the four activities for this school year. These are rough due dates, which means we hope that you are able to complete the following activity around that date. We will not require you to bring in your booklet after each of the due dates. We understand life is busy, so if you need the dates to provide you with the structure, then please utilize them.

All we ask, is that the activities are completed by the last class on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. On this day, you will be required to hand in your completed packet.

**Activity 1 – November 10**

**Activity 2 – January 26**

**Activity 3 – March 15**

**Activity 4 – April 26**

# 10 Commandments AND The Precepts of the Church

The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 2041*

**DUE:NOVEMBER 11**

## **The Ten Commandments**

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

## **The Precepts of the Catholic Church**

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The *Precepts of the Catholic Church* are a description of the **absolute minimum** actions required of Catholics regarding the Church. The Church uses these precepts to remind us that Christian life requires a commitment of prayer and active participation in the liturgy and sacraments. If we fall below this bare-minimum level, we can't rightly consider ourselves to be in full communion with the Catholic Church. Each of these precepts of the Catholic Church is a requirement. Together with the Ten Commandments, they represent the minimum level of moral living. Intentional violation of the precepts or the Commandments is a *grave matter*, meaning a mortal. Sin.

**Step 1:** Individually, think about and write down your responses to the following questions:

1) Which Commandments and/or precepts are some of the strongest in your life right now?

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2) Which Commandments and/or precepts are the most absent in your life right now or are the most difficult to follow?

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3) What can you do to grow in following the Commandments and precepts more closely?

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In order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation you must be in a state of grace. This most likely means receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once prior to the date of your Confirmation. Please consider continuing to build your relationship with your sponsor by planning a time when you and your sponsor can go to reconciliation together. Even if your sponsor is coming into town specifically for the Confirmation Mass, you still might be able to go to Confession with him/her the day before or the day of the Confirmation Mass.

**Step 2:** Discuss the responses with your sponsor.

Discussion Notes:

# Involvement in the Church ~ Ministry & Vocation



“...the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obligated to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” (*Lumen Gentium*)”

*Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 1285*

**DUE: JANUARY 27**

**Step 1:** Individually, think about and write down your responses to the following question:

1) In what ways are you currently involved in the church?

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**Step 2:** Read together the following list of some of the ministries at St. Catherine of Siena:

**Liturgical Ministries**

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Altar Servers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Hospitality Minister
- Lector
- Music Ministry (Choir)
- Sacristan

**Community and Social Ministries**

- Giving Tree
- Soap for Hope
- Loaves and Fishes
- Youth Ministry
- Centering Prayer
- Welcoming and Social Committee
- Peace and Justice Committee
- Pastoral Council

2) After Confirmation, what are some of the ways in which you will give and serve in the Church community (both in your parish and in the universal Church)?

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3) In what concrete ways do you plan to grow in your faith?

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4) Have you ever considered or prayed about whether you have a vocation to the priesthood or to religious life?

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**Step 3:** Discuss the responses with your sponsor. Take notes.

Discussion Notes:

# 3 Evangelization & Catholic Witness To the World

“The new evangelization in which the whole continent is engaged means that faith cannot be taken for granted, but must be explicitly proposed in all its breadth and richness.

To this end, it is more necessary than ever for all the faithful to move from a faith of habit, sustained perhaps by social context alone, to a faith which is conscious and personally lived. The renewal of faith will always be the best way to lead others to the Truth that is Christ.”

Bl. John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, Nos. 69 and 73

## **DUE: MARCH 17**

**Step 1:** How would you respond to the following objections raised by non-Catholics? Read the following objections and write a few ideas (not complete sentences) about how you would respond to the objection.

**Step 2:** Discuss the objections and responses in the following format.

**Sponsor:** Read the question posed by the “Non-Catholic”.

**Candidate:** Respond as best you can. Use your notes to guide your response. Once you have answered as completely as possible, listen and discuss the suggested responses given by your sponsor. Take notes on the discussion.

**Non-Catholic:** Why do Catholics worship Mary?

**Catholic Response:**

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**Non-Catholic:** Why do Catholics pray to statues?

**Catholic Response:**

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**Non-Catholic:** Why do Catholics believe in (fill in the blank)? That (word/term) is not in the Bible.

**Catholic Response:**

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**Other Apologetics Topics for Discussion**

(apologetics = speaking in defense)

- Sola Fide (Belief of some Christians that we are saved by faith alone.)
- Sola Scriptura (Belief of some Christians that the Bible alone is free from teaching error.)
- Purgatory
- Holy Eucharist
- The Papacy
- Sacraments

(For some additional information on some of the above topics, you can go to [www.Catholic.com](http://www.Catholic.com).)

# 4 Final Faith-Sharing

The purpose of the faith-sharing interview is to have the sponsor assist the parents in leading their candidate to love and serve God in daily life. To enrich the candidate's faith journey toward Confirmation, we ask you to kindly share your experience of your Confirmation and encourage this candidate to follow the basic teachings of the Catholic Church.

**DUE: MAY 5**

1. When did you receive the sacrament of Confirmation (approx. grade level in school or year)?  
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2. In what church (parish) were you confirmed?  
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3. What do you remember most about your Confirmation?  
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4. What was the name of your sponsor and does he/she still play an important part in your life? How?  
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5. When you were a teenager, the church encouraged you to fully participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy regularly. Why do you feel it is important for this candidate, as part of his/her on going conversion process to fully participate in the Sunday Liturgies and on regular basis Confirmation?  
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6. In Baptism and again in Confirmation, you were given the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What gifts do you find are most helpful to you to be the Christian you are today? Explain how these gifts have helped in your life, i.e. in family life, socially or professionally.

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7. As a sponsor for this candidate, what advice would you give him/her so that he or she will continue to journey in the Catholic faith after Confirmation and into adulthood?

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Final Thoughts: Name some things, 3-5 thoughts, (sessions, information, Sponsor/Candidate Activity, retreat, etc) that strengthened your understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation. How did your choosing of this sacrament change from when you began in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to now?

# Additional ideas to grow In your faith life and to Strengthen your relationship With your sponsor

Here are some ideas of additional activities that you and your sponsor can do:

**#1: REVIEW** Go back and review/discuss in more detail one of the topics in this packet. Pick one that you felt rushed to finish or one that you feel was reaching you in a unique way.

**#2: STUDY** Read together additional materials on one of the topics or another topic of our choosing, such as the life of a saint.

**#3: LISTEN** Listen as your sponsor shares more about his/her faith life and walk with God.

**#4: SHARE** Share more about your own life with your sponsor. Mention topics related to your faith or any other events or situations that are important to you.

**#5: PRAYER** Pray with your sponsor.