

# **OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH**

## **Confirmation Booklet**

### **For Candidates**

**With Special Sections for  
Parents and Sponsors**



**"I come to learn, I leave to serve."**

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

**(845) 365-2141 / [redirector@olshtappan.com](mailto:redirector@olshtappan.com)**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

What Confirmation means for you.

Confirmation is the Sacrament of growing up in Christ. God's love for you is renewed and He promises to be with you always.

During the Sacrament of Confirmation, Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon you in a very special way. You will hear the words of the Church spoken over you, calling upon the Holy Spirit to confirm your faith, to seal you with God's love and to strengthen you for your service to God and your neighbors. It is the sacrament of reception of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

You will then take your place among your fellow Christians around the world as adult citizens of the People of God. You will be called to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel and to live your life by the teachings of Jesus. You will indeed be called to be instruments of His peace.

This handbook will help you prepare for this holy sacrament.



### **CONFIRMATION COVENANT**

Your motto for this year should be a quote by Saint John Baptist de La Salle;

**"I come to learn, I leave to serve."**

as this is exactly what you will be doing over the next 9 months. You will be learning about responsibility and about finding your place in the Church and most importantly, in what way God has choose you to serve your God and your community.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is a major milestone in your life. It is a solemn occasion and one which requires careful and thoughtful preparation.

As a candidate for Confirmation at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church you will be required to enter into a covenant whereby you agree to prepare for this Sacrament in the following ways:



- To actively participate in religious education classes and other parish activities in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- To place your talents at the service of others.
- To pray for growth in faith, hope and love.
- To strive for greater maturity.
- To accept more responsibility in family, Church and community.
- To attend Mass each week and all Holy Days of Obligation.
- To open your heart and mind to the workings of the Holy Spirit during this time of preparation.

A covenant should not be entered into lightly as it means you are committing to something very important.

Commitment is a very important part of this process as once you commit to something, you open your heart and mind to all the possibilities that God has in store for you. Hence, you will begin your journey toward Confirmation with a special Commitment Mass.



### **COMMITMENT MASS**

**Saturday 5 pm Mass - October 24, 2015**

**Or**

**Sunday 10:30 am Mass - October 25, 2015**

You will be required to attend one of the Masses indicated above. This is a special ceremony conducted during the regular Sunday Masses at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

During this ceremony you, as the Confirmation Candidate, will be asked to open yourself up and commit to all the wonderful things God has in store for you as you journey toward Confirmation. In addition, you will ask your fellow parishioners to pray for you throughout this year as you prepare to receive this

special sacrament. To further engage our Church community, you will distribute prayer cards with your name on them. The people who pick your card will promise to pray especially for you throughout your confirmation preparation.

This commitment ceremony brings the whole Parish Community together to help you as you prepare to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and take on an adult role in the Church.

### **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

The Confirmation Retreat is a half day of spiritual renewal especially for you as the Confirmation Candidate. Placing yourself in God's hands, the retreat is designed to help you experience a renewed love for God and a renewed excitement about the sacrament for which you are preparing.

The Confirmation Retreat will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 from 12 Noon to 4:30 pm.

You are to be dressed respectfully in casual, neat clothing as you will attend Mass.



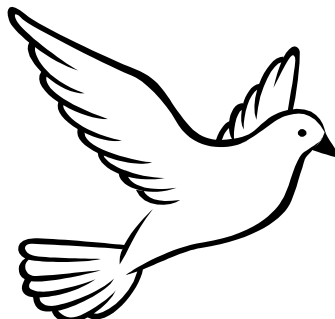
## **CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS**

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. This sacrament celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized and signifies the candidate becoming an adult in the Catholic Church. It is the final sacrament of initiation into the Catholic faith and may only be received once in a lifetime.



Careful preparation is necessary to receive this holy sacrament. The more you put into this preparation the more you will get out of this experience. As a candidate for Confirmation you will be required to:

- Commit yourself to the process and signify this by signing the Confirmation Covenant and live up to this commitment.
- Formally request candidacy from the Pastor of our Church in a one page typed letter.
- Choose a sponsor to help you travel this road toward adulthood in the Church and write a one page typed report on why this person was chosen. Also ensure that your sponsor has completed the Sponsor Certificate Form.
- Choose a Confirmation Name and write a one page typed report on the Saint associated with this name.
- Complete at least 15 hours of community service.
- Have at most 4 absences during the 2015 -2016 school year.



## **LETTER TO OUR PASTOR**

God gave each of us a free will. You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply – to worship, witness and serve as a confirmed Christian. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to Father Francis stating your desire.

Please follow these guidelines:

Begin your letter with "Dear Father Francis";

In the body of the letter include:

- Introduce yourself and tell something about your family / background.
- Formally request that you become a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation and give reasons why you would like to be confirmed.
- Explain how you have prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Be specific about your preparation; your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service to the community and to your family.
- Explain how you will continue, after Confirmation, to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

Conclude the letter and sign your name.



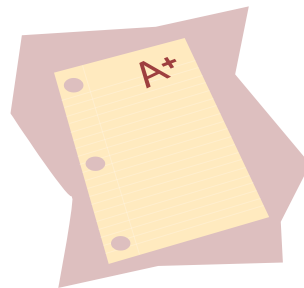
## **CONFIRMATION SPONSOR AND REPORT**

Your confirmation sponsor is someone who will be a spiritual guide supporting you on this journey of faith. At the culmination of this journey, your sponsor will be next to you to support you as you present yourself to the Bishop for Confirmation. Further, hopefully your sponsor will remain an active part of your life to be a spiritual guide for you.

It is a special honor to be a Confirmation Sponsor. Your sponsor must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic, at least 16 years old and must obtain the consent of the pastor of his/her home parish.

Deciding on your sponsor is important so you should choose your sponsor thoughtfully. You may want to consider the following:

- Your sponsor should be willing and able to participate in your formation for Confirmation.
- Your sponsor should be someone that you admire and respect and who actively lives out the beliefs of our Catholic faith.
- Your sponsor should be someone that you trust and feel comfortable turning to for help, advice and guidance, especially in regard to your spiritual life.
- Your sponsor should be someone who, through his/her example, shows you what it means to be Catholic and who will take an active role in your preparation for Confirmation.
- After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor DOES NOT END! You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service.



Once you decide on a sponsor write a one page typed paper discussing the following:

- What qualities of this person do you admire?
- What about this person shows you what it means to be Catholic?
- How has this person shown support and encouragement to you in your life;
- Why you think this person will be someone who will walk the journey of faith with you all your life;
- How does this person challenge you to grow in your faith and live a life of service?
- Why do you feel this person is the best choice to help you become the person God is calling you to be?

## **ALL SPONSORS MUST COMPLETE A SPONSOR CERTIFICATE CONFIRMATION NAME & SAINT REPORT**

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents choose your name. Now that you are about to be confirmed and become an adult in the Church, it is time for you to choose a name that you will take as a sign of your growth in faith.



The tradition of taking on a new name to show a new role has many examples in the Bible. Abram became "Abraham" when he was called to lead his people to believe in the one God and Simon became "Peter", which means rock, because he became the rock upon which Jesus founded His Church.

Your Confirmation name is a reflection of your new role as a mature Christian. Your choice must be a saint's name or a variation of a saint's name.



After you decide on a name, write a one page typed paper containing the following:

- Biographical information on the saint you chose (i.e. birthplace, home/family life, profession, death, etc.).
- What kind of life did he/she lead and how and why did this person become a saint;
- When do we celebrate your saint's Feast Day?
- State a few reasons as to why you chose this name.
- State a few reasons on how you would like to become more like this saint.

### **CONFIRMATION COMMUNITY SERVICE**

You have been blessed with many special qualities and talents. A sign of maturity is sharing these gifts with others, especially others who are less fortunate.



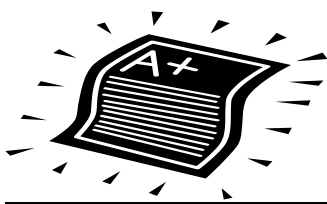
During this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we ask that you demonstrate this growth by freely giving of yourself in the service of others. This is a way of showing your love for God and your maturity as a Christian.



It is very important that you know your faith, but it is equally important that you put your faith into practice. Ask yourself how often you go out of your way to assist others or if you make yourself available to serve others as Christ asks of us?

As mature Christians we must have concern and reach out to the members of our community who are in need of our talents. In preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation each candidate is to perform 15 hours of community service. This service is to assist someone outside your immediate family and you should not receive any financial or material compensation.

Please account for at least 15 hours of community service on the "Confirmation Community Service" Form. All service must be documented (signed off on the form or accompanied by a signed letter on letterhead).



## **CONFIRMATION TEST**

A Confirmation Test is given as an instrument to build faith and understanding. It is very important that you study and pass the Parish's Confirmation Test.

A review packet will be distributed to both you and your parents prior to the test date. We ask your family to help you prepare for this exam.

If you need any special accommodation for taking this test, please contact the Director of Religious Education. The Confirmation Test is scheduled for Thursday evening May 5, 2016.

## **CONFIRMATION ATTIRE**

Confirmation robes will be ordered in January. They will include transfer letters which will spell out your chosen Confirmation name.



## **A NOTE TO PARENTS**

Parents are the primary teachers for their children and are their role models for a Christian life. Hence, you must be a vital part of your child's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Aside from helping your child with his or her religious education studies, supporting them in their community service assignments and attending Mass with them each Sunday, you as parents of a candidate for Confirmation must guide them on their journey of faith.

To help you prepare for this role you may want to ask yourself the following questions:

- What meaning does the Holy Spirit have in my life and how can I share this with my child?
- How have I called upon the Holy Spirit in my life and used the gifts that I received when I was confirmed?
- How am I called to holiness today?
- How do I see my role in helping my child celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation more meaningfully?
- As my child prepares for Confirmation, how am I called to personal renewal with the Holy Spirit?

To begin this journey, carefully discuss the Confirmation Covenant with your child and be sure he/she understands the commitment it represents.

## **A NOTE TO SPONSORS**

The Sponsor for a candidate for Confirmation is an honored and responsible role. You will need to support the candidate throughout their journey to Christian adulthood and into the future.

To succeed in this role you must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence in his or her life.

Your responsibilities as a sponsor include:

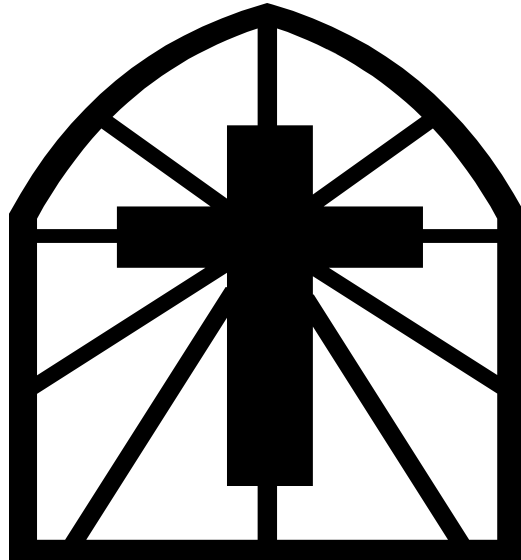
- Regularly communicating with your candidate.
- Praying for your candidate.
- Meeting with and helping your candidate prepare for Confirmation.
- Joining with the parish and your candidate in celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Continuing to support the newly confirmed discover more about our faith.

In preparation for this role, you may want to ask yourself the following:

- How do I see my role in helping my candidate celebrate the sacrament more meaningfully?
- What meaning does the Holy Spirit have for me in my life today?
- How am I called to holiness and to personal renewal with the Holy Spirit?
- How might I prepare myself to be a good and helpful sponsor?
- How have I lived up to my baptismal promises?
- How have I called upon the Holy Spirit in my life and used the gifts that I have been given?

To be eligible to be a Confirmation Sponsor:

- You must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic, at least 16 year of age.
- You must obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of your home parish.



## Remember

Confirmation is the **BEGINNING** of your adult relationship with God.

We must work at all relationships in order for them to grow and become strong.

In your busy day-to-day life do not forget your relationship with God

**Talk** to Him often via knee-mail (i.e. pray)!

**Visit** Him at least once a week at Sunday Mass!

## **REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY** **& DUE DATES**

- Week of October 4, 2015**
  - Mandatory Meeting in Chapel with Parents and Candidates during class time
  - Confirmation Sacrament Fee of \$60 to cover the cost of the robe, retreat, etc. is to be given to your teacher
  
- Due the Week of October 11, 2015**
  - Confirmation Covenant signed & given to your teacher
  - Father Francis letter requesting Confirmation
  
- Weekend of October 24 & 25, 2015**

Confirmation Commitment Mass Weekend – Must attend the 5 pm Saturday Mass **OR** the 10:30 am Sunday Mass at OLSH
  
- November 11, 2015**

Confirmation Retreat in Church/Gym – 12 Noon to 4:30 pm
  
- January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm or January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm 2016**

Mandatory Parent Meeting – attend only one
  
- Due the Week of January 10, 2015**
  - Community Service Form with Supporting Documentation
  - Confirmation Information Sheet
  - Saint Report and Sponsor Report
  - Confirmation Sponsor Certificate
  
- April 23, 2016** Confirmation Penance Ceremony  
All 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and Families MUST attend
  
- May 5, 2016**

Confirmation Test for ALL 8<sup>th</sup> graders – 6 pm in School
  
- Week of May 15<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Rehearsal**

7:30 - 9 pm in the Church
  
- May 21, 2016 - Confirmation Ceremonies**
  - 10 am Ceremony - Be in Gym WITH Sponsor by 9:15 am
  - 1 pm Ceremony – Be in Gym WITH Sponsor by 12:15 pm