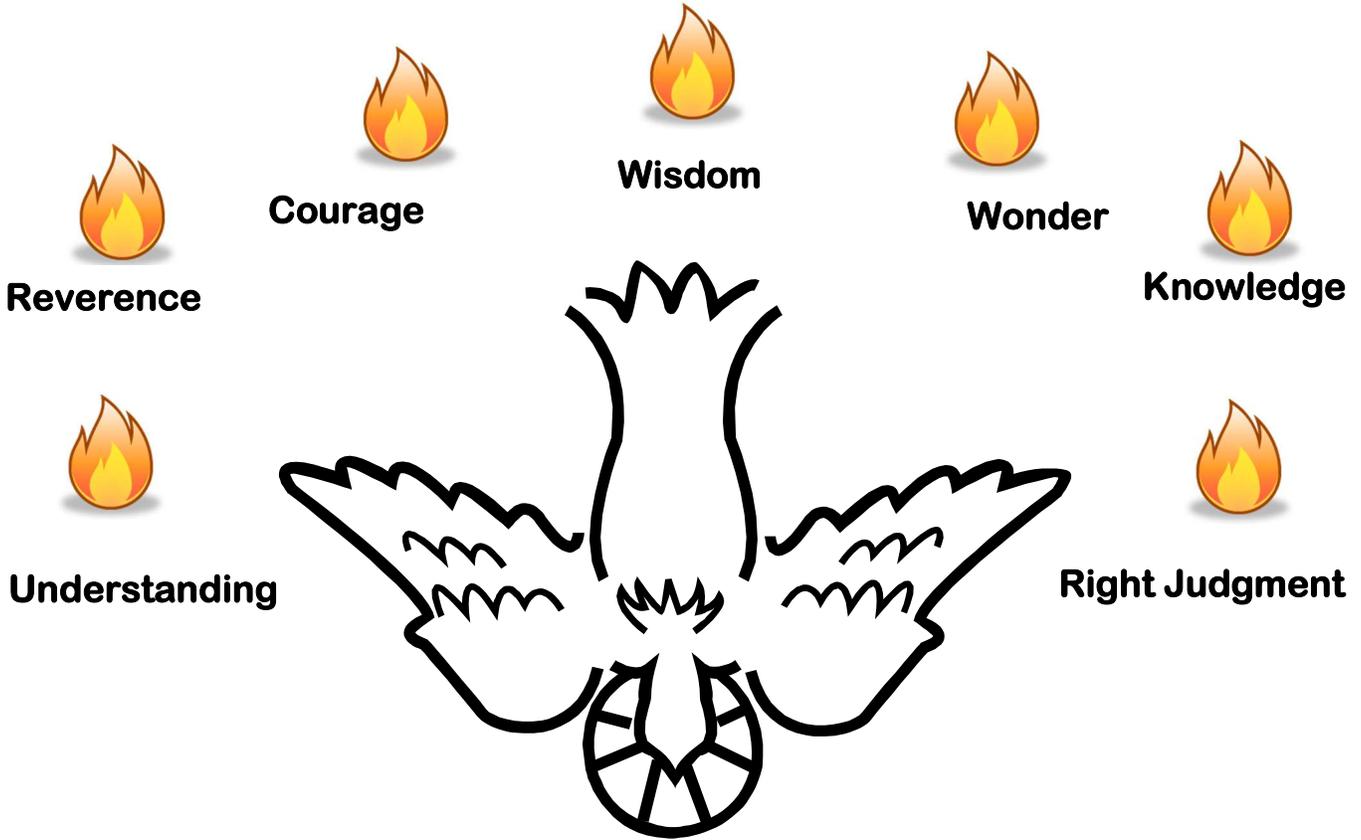


STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY



CONFIRMATION

2020-2021

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HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION GOALS

The purpose of our YOUTH MINISTRY is to nurture and deepen the faith of the candidates, their families and the faith community. Our goals are:

1. **TO BUILD A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THEIR LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AND THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.** We seek to:

- Promote activities that create a sense of mutual acceptance among our young people.
- Provide experiences that give young people a personal sense of community membership.
- Involve a significant number of adults in the process.
- Have an active sponsor for each Confirmation candidate (10th grade).
- Encourage parish members to support our youth.

2. **TO DEEPEN EXPERIENCES OF PERSONAL AND LITURGICAL PRAYER.** We work to:

- Help youth become more conscious of God's presence in their day-to-day living.
- Encourage use of a variety of prayer forms and methods.
- Pray with and for one another and the entire faith community.
- Promote participation in liturgical celebrations, especially in the Eucharist.
- Advance appreciation for and understanding of sacramental Reconciliation.

3. **TO OFFER THE CHALLENGE OF A CHRISTIAN MORAL LIFE BASED ON THE GOSPEL PRINCIPLES OF LOVE, SERVICE AND JUSTICE.** We offer our youth:

- Discussions that encourage responsibility for their moral decisions and actions.
- Activities designed to help high school youth examine the moral values and attitudes that guide their daily choices and those of their friends.
- Opportunities to use their talents and gifts in the service of others, especially the poor, the needy, the elderly, the disadvantaged.
- Opportunities to assume responsibility in a variety of ministries within parish life.

4. **TO INSTRUCT YOUTH ON THE MEANING OF CONFIRMATION.** Therefore we:

- Define Confirmation as a sacrament of initiation with special connections to Baptism and Eucharist.
- Study the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual and of the Church.
- Expect of our youth a basic understanding of the mission of Jesus.
- Expect of our youth a basic understanding of the Catholic Church: its relationship to other Christian and non-Christian religions, its sacramental system, its moral teachings, its doctrines, its history, its organizational structure.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

From the Diocesan Preparation Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

What is the Role of Parents in this process?

At the time of infant Baptism, parents accept the responsibility of being the primary teachers of the faith for their child. Today, their involvement in the Confirmation process is essential for the continued formation of the child's faith. Young people need to see their parents modeling their Catholic faith in their daily lives. Parents witness some of their involvement through the following ways: weekly participation in the Sunday Liturgy, faith sharing, continued faith formation for themselves, active in parish ministries and a spiritual life oriented by regular prayer habits.

What are Some Reasons for Waiting Until Adolescence to Celebrate Confirmation?

In the Diocese of Winona, Confirmation is celebrated in adolescence. We invite our youth to prepare for the sacrament in ways that enhance their experience of living their teen years in a faith-filled community. The components of our ministry to youth provide an excellent framework in which preparation for Confirmation can take place.

The Baptism of infants is the Church's loving embrace of the infant who will be formed into Catholic habits throughout his or her life through the Catholic family. When a child begins initiation into the Catholic life as an infant, the process of preparation begins then and continues as they grow and mature. That is because the baptized child absorbs faith and faith practices from the family and celebrates the other sacraments of initiation later in life. First Communion is celebrated around the age of seven, and Confirmation is currently celebrated during the High School years in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

It is unrealistic to expect all adolescents to be "ready" for Confirmation at the same time. Adolescence is a time of varied maturation, including faith formation and growth in the spiritual life. Our formation process seeks to be sensitive to the developmental needs of adolescents. Therefore, while we typically invite those in grades 10 and up to prepare for the sacrament, we certainly welcome all adolescents age 14 and up to prepare for the sacrament when they feel they are most ready.

The youth of our parishes are baptized and initiated through the Eucharist to join us at the Table of the Lord. Confirmation is an opportunity to strengthen the young person's experience of the Catholic Church community that gathers around the Table of the Lord. Let us be thoughtful of every moment we share our faith with them in word and action.

FAQ's continued

What are the goals of Youth Ministry and how do we seek to meet them through the Confirmation Preparation Process?

GOAL 1. TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR WORLD TODAY.

All ministry with adolescents must be directed toward presenting young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and inviting and challenging them to become his disciples. (*Renewing the Vision of Youth Ministry* p. 10)

Ministry with adolescents helps young people follow Jesus Christ and to live as his disciples today. Ministry empowers them to serve others and to work toward a world built on the vision and values of the reign of God. This first goal of ministry with youth thus emphasizes *transforming* and *servicing*.

Youth Ministry & Faith Formation serves Goal 1 when:

Adults walk with youth and give witness to gospel living.

Adults talk with youth about their relationship with Jesus, and their calling or vocation.

Adults and youth work together on challenging projects and ministries which bring the gospel to life.

GOAL 2. TO DRAW YOUNG PEOPLE TO RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE, MISSION, AND WORK OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY.

The second goal emphasizes *belonging* and *participating*. Active engagement of youth in the Christian community's life and mission provides an important context for growth and overcomes the danger of segregating them from the real centers of power, responsibility, and commitment in community life. Both the Christian community and the family, church of the home, provide a context for the healthy development of Catholic Christian values and identity. Both communities provide opportunities to develop positive relationships between adolescents and adult role models. This goal challenges us to provide the meaningful participation and integration youth require and calls the Church to support their family life.

Youth Ministry & Faith Formation serves Goal 2 when:

Parents and teens together commit to the process, receive support, and are held accountable. Some aspects of the process are multi-generational and involve people of all ages.

FAQ's continued

GOAL 3. TO FOSTER THE TOTAL PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF EACH YOUNG PERSON.

The third goal emphasizes *becoming*. The Church is concerned for the whole person, addressing the young people's spiritual needs in the context of their whole life. By promoting the internal and external assets of young people, youth ministry helps them develop deeper and more positive relationships with family, friends, teachers, the faith community, and Jesus Christ.

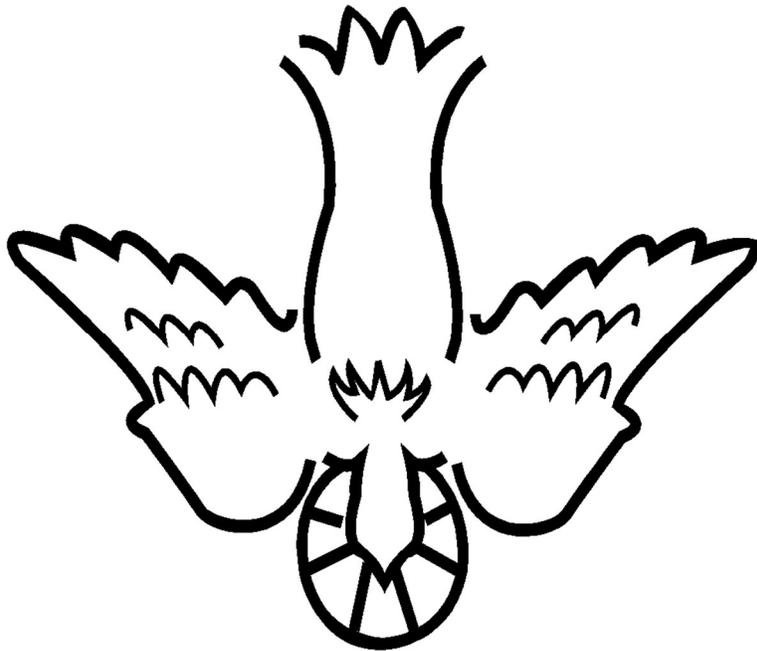
With proper pastoral care and guidance, youth can experience a sense of personal well-being, security and peace; grow spiritually through study, reflection, prayer, and discussion with others; and develop a deeper understanding of how Scripture and Catholic Christian tradition serve everyday life.

Youth Ministry & Faith Formation serves Goal 3 when:

Sunday Eucharist is the first and most important commitment.

Some aspects of the process are accomplished in small group settings.

The immediate preparation is set in a context of asset building and prevention efforts.



CANDIDATES LETTER OF REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION IS DUE MARCH 1st.

One of the Bishop's recommendations for Confirmation is that **each** candidate write a letter of request. This letter is addressed to Fr. Swainatha Pothireddy or Fr. James Starasinich, AND to Bishop Quinn. The purpose of the letter is to:

1. Introduce yourself and your family
2. Briefly share what you've done to prepare for the sacrament
3. State by you have chosen to be Confirmed

You may want to reflect further in your letter on questions such as the following:

- ◆ What has helped you grow closer to Jesus and our Catholic faith?
- ◆ What gifts do you think you can share with your faith community?
- ◆ Share how you have been of service in your parish and community
- ◆ How have you grown in your appreciation of the Eucharist?
- ◆ Share how your prayer life has helped you be a disciple of Jesus

Writing your letter can be a positive experience to help you organize and express your feelings and ideas about being confirmed. It should be done carefully; our pastors and Bishop Quinn read the letters and are very interested in what you have to say.

The letter should be **typed on good paper**. Begin the letter "Dear Bishop Quinn and Fr. Pothireddy or Fr. Starasinich." ***Sign the letter in writing with your full name (First and last).*** Mail the letter to:

Jenna Sammon
Religious Education Program
730 S. Cedar Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060

Please be sure to put your name and return address on the envelope.

Service as Christian Witness

Following the guidelines established by our Bishop and the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, our Faith formation includes Service as Christian Witness. We recommend that all candidates be involved in on-going service of some type either in their family, church or the community at large. This service provides our youth with a wonderful opportunity to mature, assume responsibility, share their time, energy and talents, and discover ways of putting their faith into practice. One of the most significant ways youth develop their faith is through service. The sponsor and candidate are encouraged to discern a shared ministry based on common interests. Experiencing ministry through this kind of apprenticeship helps the candidate discover Christian Service as a lifestyle. This ministry of service can be, but is not limited to, serving as a catechist or aide, helping Habitat for Humanity, volunteering at a local food shelf or nursing home, serving a meal at a soup kitchen, singing in a church choir or some other liturgical ministry. We have several guidelines and procedures that candidates are asked to follow:

1. We ask our youth to be involved in service in our parishes and the wider community.
2. Since this ministry is a call to a lifestyle, you may use service opportunities from the last 6 months and into the next year.
3. We recommend serving with your sponsor, or others from our faith community.
4. Your ministry of service should be over and above the jobs and responsibilities normally assumed by the candidate in his/her own home and for his/her own family.
5. No pay may be accepted in return for service.
6. SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN NEED IS THE KEY FACTOR.
7. Coordination of the Ministry of Christian service is the responsibility of the Director of Youth Ministry, any questions or concerns can be directed to him.

SPONSOR INVOLVEMENT

Sponsors represent in a personal way the witness and support of the parish community, and the support and prayers of the entire Church. Sponsors should be mature persons of faith who are highly convinced that their faith makes a difference in their lives. The sponsor should participate with the candidate in his/her preparation, as well as the celebration of the Sacrament. The primary roles of the sponsor are to assist the candidate in preparing for Confirmation and to help the confirmed person to live out his or her Christian life faithfully.

The sponsor of the Confirmation candidate should:

1. Be present at the Confirmation Mass in order to support and represent the expansion of the spiritual family to the one to be Confirmed.
2. Be a role model of Christian living for the Candidate, through daily prayer, virtue, and active participation in parish life and liturgy.
3. Nurture a close personal and spiritual relationship with the candidate during the Confirmation preparation time and throughout their lifetime.
4. Pray for the candidate regularly. Pray that he or she will not only come to know about the Faith but commit to lifting their candidate up in prayer every day.
5. The Sponsor is encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the Confirmation each year with a visit, a call or a card.
6. The sponsor is asked to write a letter of recommendation for their candidate and send it to the pastor.

❖ **9TH GRADE YOUTH are to choose a sponsor by April 1st**

Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a *sponsor*. The sponsor for Confirmation accompanies the candidate throughout the preparation and beyond on behalf of the Catholic faith community. As a sponsor you are chosen by the candidate, but must be eligible to be a sponsor according to Canon (Church) law. The following are the guidelines for eligibility of a Confirmation Sponsor.

- Must be a practicing Roman Catholic who is at least 16 years of age
- Must be a Baptized, Confirmed Catholic who leads a life in harmony with the Faith.
- The sponsor need not be of the same gender as the candidate.
- It is desired that the candidate's baptismal sponsor be their Confirmation sponsor, but not necessary.
- Neither the father nor mother of the candidate may be the sponsor.
- Sponsors should complete the Confirmation Sponsor's Agreement online or fill out the sheet in this booklet and return it to our REP/CYO office at 730 S Cedar Ave. Owatonna, MN 55060 no later than December 1st.

Confirmation Sponsor's Agreement

Please Print

(Last) (First)

Email Date of Birth

Parish Name and City;

- ❖ I affirm that I am a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic. I believe all that the Catholic Church teaches and proclaims to be revealed by God, and I lead a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith. As a practicing Catholic, I participate regularly in the Sacraments of the Church. I realize that I assume great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a sponsor. I have read and understand the requirements to be a sponsor and I testify that I fulfill the qualifications, according to canon law. I understand that my primary role as sponsor is to be a good model of Catholic Christian living for the candidate I am sponsoring.

Signature of Sponsor Date

Confirmation Candidate's Name.

(Last) (First)

Return this form to the REP/CYO office or complete online by December 1st.

SPONSOR'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR CONFIRMATION

The purpose of the sponsor's recommendation letter is:

1. To serve as a means of dialogue with your candidate.
2. To support his/her effort to grow in faith & in maturity.
3. To share with the pastor & director the good qualities you see developing in your candidate.
4. To support their request for Confirmation.

Hopefully, the sponsor has been mentoring the candidate throughout this time and assisting them in their Ministry of Christian Service. We invite you to discuss with them the challenges, struggles & growth that they are experiencing in their journey to Christian Discipleship. Share with them the good qualities you appreciate in them; talk with them about how they can develop those talents for their own happiness and for the good of others.

In the letter refer to the following:

- How you have seen your candidate grow in faith in the last year or two?
- In what way do you feel he/she has prepared well for Confirmation?
- What special qualities or talents do you appreciate & commend them for?

You might begin your letter with a sentence such as "I am proud to recommend (name of candidate) for Confirmation because..." or end it by writing, "And therefore I am happy to support (name of candidate) request for Confirmation.

Be sure to refer to the candidate by first and last name. Address the letter to The Confirmation Director:

Jenna Sammon
730 S. Cedar Ave
Owatonna, MN 55060

The letter is due by **March 1st**.

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

For Confirmation Preparation

Candidates Current Information (Please Print)

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

(Phone)

PLACE OF BAPTISM

(month / date / year of baptism)

(Church Name)

(Denomination)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

If you were NOT baptized at Sacred Heart or St. Joseph Parish, we need a copy of your baptismal certificate. Your sacramental records are kept on file at the Parish at which you were baptized. After your Confirmation, we need to send this information to that parish to keep your Sacramental record current. If you do not already have a copy, please call the parish where you were baptized and ask them to send you a copy. Return the copy to the Youth Ministry Office as soon as possible.

Turn in this form or complete online by Nov. 30th

CONFIRMATION NAME

The sacrament of Confirmation completes our initiation, which began at Baptism. In Baptism, candidates were given the name of a saint or of someone who modeled the faith. At Confirmation youth may choose an additional saint's name. A saint is a person of virtue who has been recognized by the universal Catholic Church. Candidates should research the Confirmation name they choose. Candidates should be ready to tell the Bishop: 1. About the saint and his/her life, i.e. where and when they lived, why they were named a saint. 2. Why the candidate chose the name. 3. How do they plan to imitate the life of the saint. Our bishop prefers that you choose the name of a **Saint or virtuous Biblical person** as your confirmation name. You may choose to use your Baptismal name if it is a Saint's name.

The Faith Formation Office has a library of Saints books, which can be checked out. You may also visit these web sites for info on saints:

www.catholic.org/saints

www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/faqs.asp

www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm,

www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm

10th Grade Candidates Information

Please Print

(LAST)

(FIRST)

Candidates Confirmation Name

Please Print

First

Middle

Confirmation

Last

Please print your name, as you want it to appear in the Confirmation booklet.

On a separate page:

Please write about the life of the saint you chose for your Confirmation name, include when and where he or she lived, important facts about their holy life, and how you will follow the example of this saint in your life.

This form needs to be turned in or completed online by March 1st

Your Saint paper needs to be hand-written or typed and turned in by March 1st.