

Sponsor Booklet Year I



ST. JAMES THE GREATER

2020-21

Confirmation Sponsor:

Congratulations on being chosen to be a Confirmation Sponsor! Someone thinks you are very special to him/her and are confident that you will guide them on this important two year Confirmation journey. Please complete the following items this year with your candidate.

- **Pray for candidate**
- **Pray with candidate**
- **Set up regular times to spend together**
- **Optional: Communal Reconciliation**
- **Complete 3 Candidate/Sponsor Activities found in this booklet.**

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you might have.

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Director of Religious Education**

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Confirmation Sponsor Calendar of Important Dates

9th Grade Schedule 2019-20

September

Sponsor Information Forms Due

October

Sponsor Activity #1 Due

December

Communal Reconciliation *Optional for Sponsor

January

Sponsor Activity #2 Due

March

Sponsor Activity #3 Due

Eau Claire Deanery Communal Reconciliation

Required by candidate but optional for sponsor to attend with them.



Which church did you attend?

Date of Reconciliation?

Who was the priest that led the service that evening?

Did you go alone or with someone else?

What did you think of the experience?

How likely are you to attend another City Wide Communal Reconciliation?

1 being never and 5 For sure

1 2 3 4 5

Confirmation Year I

Walking Together #1:

Interviewing Your Confirmation Sponsor



Now that you have chosen your sponsor, it is time to spend a little more time with him/her to really get to know more about his/her faith journey. Please set up a time to meet with your sponsor to “interview” him/her. It would be BEST to meet with your sponsor in person, but if this is not possible, you can interview him/her by phone or email (last resort!) You can meet at your house or your sponsor’s house; you could meet for breakfast, lunch or dinner; you could go for a walk together. BE CREATIVE!

Plan on this activity taking **at least one hour**. Invite your sponsor to ask you some questions too! You do not need to get through all of the questions, but feel free to do so!

Start your meeting by praying together! This may seem awkward at first so you could begin with a memorized prayer that you both say aloud.

At the end of your meeting, complete the Walking Together Activity Form #1 but not while you are meeting with your sponsor.



You don't need to write every answer down but just have a conversation.



1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA program? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult.
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
5. Do you have a favorite saint(s)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
6. How do you define the word “holy”? Do you know people in your life that you would describe as “holy”? Do you think anyone describes you as “holy”? How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
7. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic – perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith or a time when you struggled to believe in the teachings of your Catholic faith. What did you do to “keep our faith” or find answers to your questions during these times?
8. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? What do you think caused the change?

9. What is your understanding of what it means “to sin”? What does “forgiveness” mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?

10. One very special aspect of our Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell me about your own feelings and thoughts about and experiences with this Sacrament. Is it difficult for you to celebrate this Sacrament or was there a time when it was? What kind of preparations do you find helpful before you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

11. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, who do you usually pray to: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mary or a particular saint? Who or what do you usually pray for?

12. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work or community? Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.

13. How would you answer someone who told you that “Catholics worship Mary”? Who do you turn to or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?

14. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.

15. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God? Tell me about it and how you keep your faith in the end.

16. Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your Catholic faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?



17. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?

18. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Tell me why.

19. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism:

Wisdom

Understanding

Fear of the Lord (Awe)

Right Judgement (Counsel)

Courage (Fortitude)

Knowledge

Reverence (Piety)

are strengthened and increased within each of us. These seven special gifts represent all of the gifts and blessings that God gives us to lead a good and holy life. They are special graces that are given to us through the Holy Spirit to enable us to respond to God's call to holiness.

Reflecting back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you been blessed with already? Which gift do you need to use more of?

20. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?



St. James the Greater Confirmation - Walking Together Worksheet #1

Confirmation Candidate's Name _____

Date Sponsor Meeting #1 Occurred: _____/_____/_____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

If the interview took place by phone or email; parent may sign for the sponsor.

DIRECTIONS:

Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer questions 3, but you do not need to write anything.

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during your meeting?

2. Write about one story or experience that your sponsor shared that you felt showed that he/she was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation to live a life of holiness.

Confirmation – Year I

Mass Together #2:

Sponsor and Candidate Joint Activity

Attend Mass together at another parish. Complete the worksheet below together and return it to Kelly Beaudrie.

Confirmation Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Date we attended Mass together:: _____/_____/_____

Name of the Church: _____

Name of the Priest that said Mass: _____

How and why does attending Mass help our relationship with God?

Confirmation – Year I

Busted Halo Film Clips #3

Sponsor and Candidate Joint Activity



Visit <http://bustedhalo.com/category/sacraments101>

Together with your sponsor watch these 4 short film clips on Baptism 101, Eucharist 101 & 201 and Confirmation. Complete Worksheet #3

Sacraments 101 – Baptism (why we Baptize) 6 minutes 28 seconds

Sacraments 101: Eucharist (how we receive) 4 minutes 45 seconds

Sacraments 201: Eucharist (what we believe) 9 minutes 18 seconds

Confirmation 101: (why we're confirmed) 5 minutes 57 seconds

Confirmation – Year I

Sponsor and Candidate Joint Activity

Busted Halo Film Clips



1. What are the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation known as? The Sacraments of:
2. Do we baptize someone again if they are converting from a different Christian religion? Why or why not?
3. What is meant by an Emergency Baptism?

4. Is Jesus truly present in the Eucharist?

5. What words are exchanged in the Receiving of Eucharist?

6. What does Amen mean when we receive Eucharist?

7. What is the role of the Confirmation Sponsor?

8. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? A brief description of each is given in the film on Confirmation.

a.

b..

c..

d..

e.

f.

g.

9. What is the significance of taking a Confirmation name?