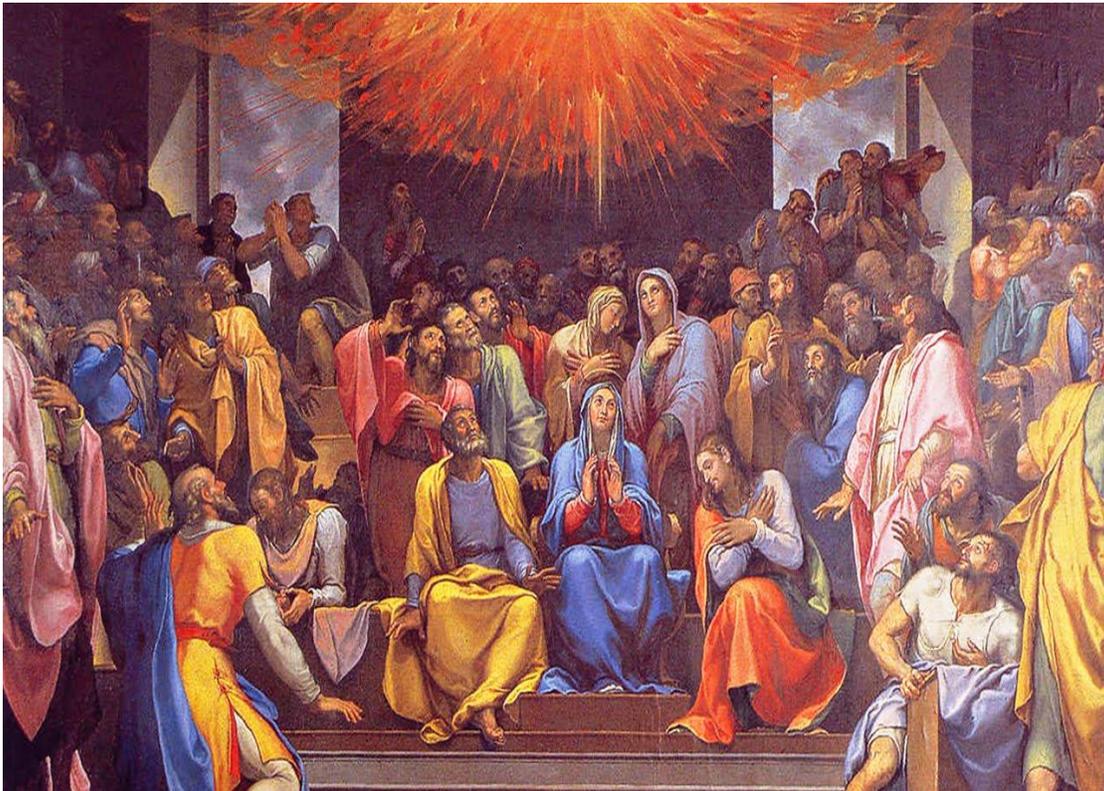


Candidate Name: _____ Sponsor's Name: _____

St. Lawrence Confirmation Sponsor's Guidebook 2021-22



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Confirmation Sponsor and Candidate Handbook

Dear Sponsor,

Welcome to the St. Lawrence Confirmation process. As a sponsor, you have three primary roles: to assist the candidate for Confirmation, to present the Candidate for Confirmation and to help the confirmed person to live out their Christian life faith fully. More importantly, you are also forming a bond of Christian fellowship with the candidate that will hopefully lead to a lifetime of prayer for one another. ***A sponsor is to be an example of Christian living and represent the Church by supporting the candidate, praying with the candidate, and challenging him or her to live a Christian life.*** As you work to prepare your candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, take this opportunity to discover more about yourself and learn more about the challenges and joys of being a Catholic; it is both an honor and a great responsibility to be a sponsor! During this year of preparation, the candidates were challenged to really begin to make the faith their own – through a commitment to prayer and weekly Mass and active participation in the parish. They were asked to prioritize their busy lives and see that God is the foundation of each day. It is emphasized throughout the year that God is meant to be a part of everything that we do, and that there is a direct connection between their openness to God and the graces that He wants to pour out into their lives. This year is so important in their faith, journey, and life; it will also be a time of many changes. Our team of catechists will pray that you too will have a year of great growth in your own faith.

This “Sponsor handbook” will help you prepare your candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. ***You will be asked to meet with the candidate on 5 separate occasions and go through the topics in this packet together. The questions will be answered by you, the sponsor, and you will be asked to give us your perception of the candidates’ readiness for the sacrament.*** Your responses are read thoroughly and taken seriously and they are a large part of the candidate’s overall preparation for the sacrament. Throughout the following pages there are also activities that you may choose to do with your candidate throughout this year to help each of you grow more together in the faith. **Thank you** for your time and witness in helping bring Christ to the person you are sponsoring, this is a very important part of living the Catholic faith. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you!

In Christ,

Ryan Hillman

Director of Evangelization
St. Lawrence-St. Boniface Pastorate of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

***Come Holy Spirit, kindle in our hearts,
the fire of your Love.***

The use of this material is solely for educational purposes and no profit shall be made in anyway from its use.

Sponsor's Expectations

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A SPONSOR?

According to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the sponsor is a man or woman who knows the candidate, helps them, and witnesses to their morals, faith, and intention. It is a responsibility in their life, to help candidates through doubts and anxieties, to their baptismal life. Their responsibility remains important when the new member has received the sacraments, and needs help to remain faithful to his or her baptismal promises. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Nos. 42, 43).

Helpful Suggestions:

- Share your own experiences.** Lead him or her closer to Jesus and His church by telling your candidate about your own spiritual journey.
- Spend time talking and listening.** Help your candidate grow in understanding & acceptance of Christ and the teaching of the Church. Discuss with your candidate the content of the Catholic Faith.
- Pray for your candidate regularly.** Pray that he or she will not only come to know about the Faith but also will encounter Christ. Pray every day for your candidate.
- Encourage her or him to grow in virtue and to set aside any habits that would prevent her or his soul from being fully open and ready to receive all the gifts that God wants to give them through the Sacrament of Confirmation.**
- Provide a “sounding board” for your candidate** to talk about his or her spiritual life, habits, hopes, fears and struggles.
- Be a good example of the Christian life of your candidate.**

Sponsor Checklist:

- Have at least 5 hours of discussion with your candidate between November and March.
- Complete** each of the 5 discussion topics in this handbook. Turn in the sponsor handbook to the Parish Office by **March 6th, 2022.**
- Come to the Confirmation Classes with your candidate.
- Complete and turn in the **Confirmation Sponsor Verification** form by **December 12th, 2021.**
- Periodically, check in with your candidate regarding his/her fulfillment of the candidate's expectations.
- CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL _____
- CONFIRMATION MASS _____
- Continue to pray and be a spiritual presence in the candidate's life!**



Session One – Creed

We begin our profession of faith by saying: “I believe” or “We believe.” Before expounding the Church’s faith, as confessed in the Creed, celebrated in the liturgy, and lived in observance of God’s commandments and in prayer, we must first ask what “to believe” means. Faith is man’s response to God, who reveals Himself and gives Himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #26).

Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions about discipleship. (Special note: The Catholic Youth Bible also has reflections on the scriptures that are good discussion starters.)

Mark 1:16-20 Mark 1:40-46 Mark 2:15-17

Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think God might be saying to you through this passage?

2. How do you respond to God?

3. How have you accepted Jesus’ challenge to be His disciple? How can you become a better disciple?

Activity (Do at least one of the following):

- Read the **Nicene Creed** together and discuss each line of it. Talk about why we say the Nicene Creed together at Mass.
- Discuss the different parts of the creed and what they mean to our faith as Catholics.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sponsors, please answer the questions that correspond to each session each time you meet with your candidate, your responses are taken seriously and reviewed prior to Confirmation.

Session One: Creed

1. Write down your impression of your candidate's present state of faith development in relation to being a disciple and acceptance of the creed.

2. What specific tasks/assignments did you ask your candidate to work on in relation to this topic?

3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?

Session Two – Prayer



Only when we humbly acknowledge, “we do not know how to pray as we ought,” are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2559).

Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

Matthew, chapters 5-7, Luke 6:46-49, Luke 10:29-37, Luke 12:22-32

Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think is the purpose of prayer? How often do you pray and what importance does prayer have in your life?

2. What are some obstacles that affect your prayer life? Brainstorm to find practical ways to overcome these obstacles.

3. How will your prayer life improve your participation in the weekly Eucharist?

Activity (Do at least one of the following):

- Attend Adoration together or;
- Go to Stations of the Cross or;
- Attend Mass together.
- Go to Reconciliation together.
- Pray a special devotion together – ie: rosary, novena, etc.



Session Three – Divine Liturgy

In every liturgical action the Holy Spirit is sent in order to bring us into communion with Christ and so to from his Body. The Holy Spirit is like the sap of the Father's vine, which bears fruit on its branches (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1108).

Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

Matthew 25:31-40 Luke 10:29-37, John 6, James 1:19-27, Mark 2:1-12 and read some of the Psalms 120-134 (Psalms of Ascent are meant to prepare God's people to experience God's presence)

Reflection Questions:

1. What is your attitude toward going to Mass? Has this always been your attitude? If not, how has it changed and why?

2. When we gather at Mass, we are not merely to watch or witness, but to participate and to be drawn into the great mystery of Jesus life, death and resurrection. What does it mean to be participate and to be drawn into the Mass? What are some step to help you do this?

3. At southern steps of the Ancient Jewish Temple Mount, there are 15 steps going up to the Temple, the stairs were built purposely uneven. They did this to keep one's approach to God's presence from becoming automatic or thoughtless or lax. What are some ways to prevent one from becoming automatic or thoughtless or lax when going to Mass?

Activity (Do at least one of the following):

Attend one of the following together and have reflection time after:

- Sunday or Saturday Mass of Holy Obligation
- Holy Day Mass
- Do something special together for one of the feast days.
- Do a special devotion together during the season of Advent/Lent.

Session Three: Divine Liturgy

1. Does the candidate have any trouble believing that Jesus is actually present in the Eucharist and in the community during the Liturgy?

2. What ways did you work on increasing the candidates understanding of the Mass?

3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?

Session Four – Service



The laity can also feel called, or be in fact called, to cooperate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for the sake of its growth and life. This can be done through the exercise of different kinds of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord has been pleased to bestow on them (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #910).

Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

Matthew 25:44-45 Isaiah 58:6-7 Luke 14:13-14

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the Bible discuss the topic of service?
2. What kinds of service projects are you involved in?
3. Would this be a service that you would want to continue? Why or why not?

Activity (Do at least one of the following):

- Discuss what parish ministries you can become involved with after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Example: Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Reader, Youth Ministry, etc.)
- Find opportunities for service within your family or neighborhood and work on a project together.

Session Four: Service

1. How were you able to help the candidate recognize some talents that they specifically have that may be of service to the parish, community, school, etc.?
2. In what way were you able to help the candidate to find a concrete way to put these talents to use?
3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?



Session Five – Discipleship

To be a confirmed member of the faith community requires a willingness to “go public” and to make Jesus visible to society at large by one’s own actions and behaviors. For youth and many adults, to witness essentially means that they will provide a good example to others by their words and actions. It takes a willingness to demonstrate to others what Jesus stands for and to oppose those evils that destroy the rights and dignity of others.

Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

Matthew 28:18-20 II Cor. 5:20 Acts 1:8 Romans 10:14-15 Matt. 10:7 2 Timothy 2:2

Reflection Questions:

1. What are some obstacles to being a disciple that you face in your school, home, peers, etc?

2. What are some ways that you can be a disciple to others by your words, actions, etc.?

3. Name some people who are a good disciple to you in your life?

4. The Church recognizes many who are great disciple to the faith, who is a saint you admire? What is it about their witness that is impressive to you?

Activity:

- Read some of the lives of the Saints together. (Help the candidate focus on a Saint who will be a good role model to emulate for their Confirmation name.) (Helpful website: Formed.org)
- Discuss concrete ways that the candidate can be a disciple in their home, school and or community. Help them learn Catholic apologetics. (Helpful website for apologetics: www.catholic.com)
- Encourage your candidate to attend one of the many events that inspire youth to witness to their faith: Example: **March for Life, Life Chain, youth group (CTEC), Antioch Retreat, Knights of Holy Temple for boys etc.**
- Go to Reconciliation together.

Session Five: Discipleship

1. What are some ways in which you were able to help your candidate realize their ability to be a disciple of their faith?
2. What were some of the ways you were able to focus your candidate on the examples of being a disciple of Jesus?
3. What follow up did you do in relation to this topic?

