



Confirmation
Candidate
Handbook
2018-2019

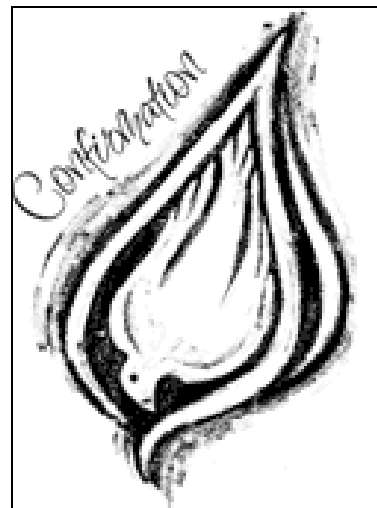
Dear Students,

I give you this guidebook as a tool to guide you through the Confirmation Preparation Process. You do not have to complete everything in it this week, rather it will take you through next Spring. I will do everything I can to be sure you are fully prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Spring, but I need you to work towards that preparation. If you attend Mass each week, work through this guidebook and what is asked of you, and fully participate, you should be prepared.

Know that it is my deepest desire that you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. Our church community wants to love you and support you in this relationship, so know that you can come and talk to me about ANYTHING and I will listen, pray with and for you, and do what I can out of love for you. I have journeyed with you these past few years. Know that I do so not only because of my job, but because I care about you and desire to serve God by serving you. As I do so, I will continue to challenge you to grow in holiness. This is why I, along with our small group leaders, ask you to have a Final Interview with one of us, so we can find out how God is working in your life and what we can do to help you prepare more fully for the Sacrament. My hope for you is that this process brings you great joy and grounds and deepens your relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

My prayers are with you,

Tiffany Topel
ttopel@stjohnbaptist.net
(920) 723-1105 cell
(920) 674-5433 office



Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor



Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor is an important step in preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. The person you choose as your sponsor is charged with the responsibility of walking with you through the Confirmation preparation period and beyond. Here are just a few helpful guidelines on how to choose your sponsor.

- **Have only one sponsor**

Choose only one individual to serve as your sponsor. You will want to keep in mind:

- ⇒ Your sponsor cannot be a parent. (However, a Confirmed sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc. may be considered.)
- ⇒ You are encouraged to consider a baptismal Godparent as a sponsor.
- ⇒ Your sponsor must have been Confirmed in the Catholic faith.
- ⇒ Your sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age and an *active, participating* member of a Catholic parish at this time.

- **Your sponsor should be someone you look up to as a role model of the Catholic faith.**

Choose an individual who you can witness living their faith, confide in, share your joys and struggles, and are comfortable talking to about issues of faith and life.

- **Your sponsor should be available to participate in the Confirmation program with you.**

They are welcome at any and all prep sessions, but required to join you for:

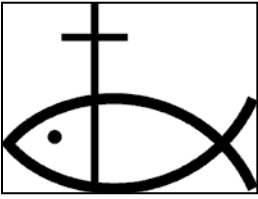
- **Feb, 17 or March 3** – Sponsor Candidate Session
- **Confirmation Mass** – In Spring...

*We will inform you of the dates **AS SOON** as we hear from the Bishop. It will most likely not be until late fall.

We also ask that the candidate and sponsor meet (one on one) at least twice starting in March until Confirmation, to talk about faith, life, Confirmation preparation etc.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN CHOOSING A SPONSOR OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL TIFFANY @ 674-5433 or email ttopel@stjohnbaptist.net

Please return the Information Form/Sponsor Form on or prior to November 1.



Choosing a Confirmation Saint Name

The tradition of taking a saint's name in Confirmation is an ancient practice in the church. The patron saint becomes a role model for the person, and an example of how the Gospel can be lived in a practical way. In many Catholic countries today, a saint's name day is celebrated instead of a birthday. Saints are heroes of the faith who lived their lives as examples of faith, hope, and love. We venerate them as we do members of our own families who have died and who we continue to honor with pictures in our homes.

Q: Why do we choose a Saint's name at Confirmation? What is the purpose?

Well you see the practice originally began in a small Midwestern town not too far from Fargo, North Dakota where all the young children by sheer coincidence had been named by their parents the same name, Gretchen. Now having an entire town with the generation of the children named, Gretchen, as lovely as that name is, was a bit confusing. They would call out their names in classrooms and all of them would raise their hands! It got out of control. So they came up with the idea that on their Confirmation they would each receive a different name, a name of a saint, and they would all be called by these new names and end the time of confusion. And so the town was saved and the people rejoiced.

Okay, now for the real answer. The receiving of a name at Confirmation has a number of different sources in the history of the Church. But the biggest one comes from the idea of a name being associated with a change of life. When Jesus told Simon that his new name was now Peter (Matthew 16:18), it was because his role was changing and he was going to be asked to take on a role of leadership. When Saul had his great conversion, the risen Lord gave him the name Paul (Acts 13:9). And there are a number of others that we see this happen to as well because there is a power in a name. If we look back at the Old Testament, to name someone was to have ownership of them, which is why when Moses asked God in the burning bush who was sending him to Pharaoh, God didn't give him his name, He gave him his title, "I am who am" (Exodus 3:14). So to take on a new name at confirmation also carries with it the idea that you are asking for the Lord to change you. To take ownership of you like He's never done before and to live your faith more fully and with more life than you ever could've imagined.

The name of the saint also should have some significance to you, that particular saint is an example of the type of holiness you would like. Some people take St. Francis because they want to be kind to animals, or some people take St. Joseph because they want to be as holy as he was, or some people take St. Monica because she had such patience with her children, and the list could go on. The idea is to pick somebody who says something about you. And when you stand before the Bishop the day of your Confirmation and you tell him your name, say it with a pride and with a conviction and with knowledge that the Holy Spirit is going to change you forever.

Most folks in choosing a Confirmation name saint fall into one of two camps; they have chosen a name they really like, and then go looking for a saint with that name to justify their choice, students look for a saint with their first or middle name. Ideally you should approach this from the other direction: **Learn about a bunch of saints.** Get to know them, learn their lives and ways, and their areas of tradition. Choose some one with whom you have an affinity; *you'll come to love the name.* The centuries-old tradition of studying the lives of the saints will *always* repay you more than you imagine.

The Sacrament of Confirmation gives us the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage us to live out our baptismal commitment to love and serve others, especially those most in need. We can either be confirmed with our original baptismal name or take another saint's name who will also be a patron saint for us. Research the saint's name you chose for Confirmation. Use the Internet for interesting information on your saint and to find a picture. The report should be at least one page of content.

INTERNET SOURCES

Use a search engine such as Google. Type in "Catholic saints."

For images or information about saints try the following:

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/2603/image.htm

www.catholic-forum.com/saints/gallerys.htm

www.americancatholic.com

www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp

www.daughtersofstpaul.com/saintday/index.html

www.catholic.org/saints

Confirmation Form

*Return this form to Tiffany Topel at St. John the Baptist Parish Center,
324 E. North St., Jefferson, 53549*

Please return on or before November 1st. Sacramental Fee: \$25.

Confirmand's full name: _____

Confirmation (saint) name: _____
(if you don't know yet, please just leave this line blank)

Sponsor's full name: _____

Sponsor's address: _____

Information for Parish Records:

Confirmand's date of birth: _____

Mother's full (maiden) name: _____

Father's full name: _____

Home address: _____

Name of parish and date of confirmand's baptism: _____

If the confirmand was NOT baptized at either St. John the Baptist or St. Lawrence parishes, please provide the NAME and ADDRESS of the parish where they were baptized. ATTACH A COPY of the baptismal certificate.

Please call Tiffany Topel at 674-5433 if there are any questions about the information requested above. IF YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTACH YOUR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE, YOU MAY SUBMIT THE ABOVE INFORMATION VIA EMAIL: ttopel@stjohnbaptist.net

OFFICE USE ONLY: _____ Recorded in Confirmation Book _____ Recorded in Baptismal Book

_____ Recorded on Parish Soft _____ Letter sent to parish (if applicable)

St. John the Baptist Confirmation 2019

SPONSOR FORM

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Per Canon Law 874: Sponsors must be sixteen years of age, confirmed Catholic and a person who leads “a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.” If they are **not from SFA parish**, they must list the name, address, and telephone number of the parish of which they are a member. Parents cannot sponsor their own teens.

To be filled out by the Confirmation Candidate

Name of person you have asked to be your sponsor _____

Your sponsor’s relationship to you (friend, aunt, brother, etc.) _____

Why do you want this person to be your sponsor?

To be filled out by the Sponsor

(Please print neatly)

Sponsor Name _____ (First/Middle/Last)

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone (____) _____

Email _____ Cell (____) _____

Are you registered at St. John the Baptist? Yes ___ No ___ (If no, please provide the information below:)

Parish Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone (____) _____

Are you a fully-initiated Catholic (received sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation)?
Yes ___ No ___

Are you a practicing Catholic (attending weekly Mass, in good standing with the church regarding the commandments and teachings of the church-especially marriage)?
Yes ___ No ___

(continued on next page)

Congratulations!!! You have been chosen to be a Confirmation Sponsor. This is a wonderful honor and a HUGE responsibility. Please begin praying for your Candidate now, spend some time answering the questions on this page, and return it to the parish office.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

You may use additional paper, if necessary.

In what capacity do you know your candidate (friend, relative, etc.)? Please describe.

How do you live out your own Catholic faith in your family, work, parish, etc?

Why do you want to be a sponsor?

What do you desire to pass on to your Candidate?

THIS FORM IS DUE BY November 1, 2018. Please return it to the Parish Office on or before this day. (St. John the Baptist; attn. Tiffany Topel; 324 E. North.; Jefferson, WI 53549)

**The Candidate/Sponsor Session will be offered on
Feb. 17 and March 3 in St. John's church.**

You should be able to commit to meeting or talking with your Confirmation candidate (one on one) at least two times beginning in Spring about faith, life, and how their preparation for Confirmation is going. During this time you will be going through a book with your candidate. They will be confirmed during the Spring of 2019. A date has yet to be determined by the Diocese of Madison.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community

Confirmation Guidelines

A minimum of 1 full year of involvement in the SFA religious education program OR St. John the Baptist Catholic School prior to beginning immediate preparation for Confirmation.

Parents are to attend the parent/student information meeting. As primary educators in the work of forming their children's faith parents will be asked to attend sessions with their candidate.

Personal desire on the part of the young person to be Confirmed, along with knowledge of the Catholic faith and a desire to live it, displayed in weekly mass attendance, service to others, and every day living.

Attendance at all sessions. Any missed confirmation prep or high school ministry sessions will need to be made up.

Attendance at two (2) formation nights outside regular small groups of the candidate's choosing (Lifenight or Discipleship Groups).

Participation in one (1) service event as planned by the Director of Youth Ministry. Candidates should also be active in parish life during this time.

Attendance at a retreat between the summer of 2018 and the summer of 2019.

Students are to ask someone to be their sponsor prior to November 1. A sponsor must be a confirmed, actively practicing Catholic, over 16 years of age, who is trying to live out their Catholic faith. A sponsor **may not** be the student's mother or father. When possible, the ideal would be to have the student's baptismal sponsor (Godparent) serve as sponsor again.

Sponsors (or a suitable stand-in) are to attend one designated catechetical session with their sponsored student, as well as the rehearsal.

Students will meet one on one for a brief interview with a member of the Confirmation Prep Team prior to Confirmation.