

September 20, 2007

Dear Parents,

Just as your child grows physically, intellectually, and emotionally, so too, he or she grows spiritually. As a parent responsible for the development of your child, you try to meet all of his or her changing needs. You foster and direct spiritual growth by the atmosphere in your home, the example of your life, and the celebration of the sacraments. You have seen that your child has been initiated into the faith through Baptism and the Eucharist. Now your young teenager is at the stage of strengthening his or her commitment to the faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation. *Confirmed in the Spirit* will assist you in giving your teen a better understanding of Confirmation, and will help him or her lead a more active, responsible Christian life.

The Spirit Sent to Free Us

The goal of this sacramental program is to help young people to be receptive and responsive to the graces and challenges of the Sacrament of Confirmation. They learn that it is a Sacrament of Initiation that deepens their relationship with the Church. They become more aware of the presence and action of the Spirit and his gifts within them, which empower them to live as Jesus did. They discover ways to fulfill the specific responsibilities that are theirs as Christians.

This program for Confirmation gives guidance to all those involved in the formation of the candidates and in the celebration of the sacrament so that Confirmation becomes a meaningful faith experience for the candidates, the family, and the parish community. At the same time, the program aims to equip the candidates with the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the lifelong process of conversion to Christ.

The Spirit Sent by Jesus

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be our advocate and helper. At Pentecost this spirit was poured out on the first believers, making them witnesses full of faith and courage. At Baptism the Holy Spirit comes upon us, and at Confirmation we are anointed in the strength of this Spirit and sent to carry on Christ's mission.

The Spirit in us is the same Spirit who anointed Jesus to redeem the world and bring about the kingdom of the Father through loving service. The Holy Spirit and his gifts help us to live our baptismal promises, grow into the likeness of Christ, and share his mission. We are united with other spirit-filled people in the Church, the Body of Christ. Together we spread the message of the Good News, we worship at the Eucharist, we support one another in community, and we give service to those in need.

Parenting for a Responsible Christian Life

As young teens struggle to clarify their own convictions, attitudes, and values, parents are their chief models. Faith is caught more than taught. In undertaking more seriously your role of preparing your teenager for Confirmation, consider these questions.

- Do I keep lines of communication open with my teenager?
- Do I make time for prayer both private and communal?
- Do I actively participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do I try to grow in knowledge of the faith and share it with my family?
- Do I give loving service to those inside and outside my family circle?
- Am I involved with parish activities as much as I could be?

We look forward to sharing with you this time of spiritual growth in the life of you child.

God Bless You always and in all ways,

George E. Pioli
Director, Faith Formation

GEP/ma

September 20, 2007

Dear Parents,

The Church teaches that parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. As your teen progresses through the text, there are opportunities for you to assume this responsibility.

Discuss the material the catechist has presented, as well as any questions your teen may have.

- Help in performing the Reach Out activities, especially those that pertain to the family.
- Attend and participate in parent meetings.
- Witness to your own faith in your words and actions.
- Pray with your children.

In addition to these, you can be involved in many ways in this preparation. The more you do, the more your faith and your child's faith will be strengthened.

- Read carefully the letter to parents, sponsors, and candidates.
- Attend the parent/sponsor meetings.
- Use the parent/sponsor faith-sharing sheets provided.
- Guide your teenager's choice of a name and a faith-filled sponsor.
- Support your son or daughter in planning and performing Christian service.
- Have your family join your candidate in praying the Confirmation Novena.

God Bless you always and in all ways,

George E. Pioli
Director, Faith Formation

GEP/ma

September 20, 2007

Dear Parents,

Faith lived and celebrated in the family makes a lasting impression. Prepare your teenager for full Christian living through the following activities.

Message

- Read the Sunday scripture readings together as a family.
- Invite a relative or friend who does not participate in Mass to go to church and breakfast with you.
- Save and donate money to a society devoted to spreading the faith.

Worship and Prayer

- Attend Sunday liturgy as a family. Plan to attend Mass on a special occasion, like an anniversary or birthday.
- As a family, attend a parish devotion or sacramental celebration such as a novena, a Eucharistic devotion, or a communal penance ceremony.
- Pray together as a family.

Community

- Help out at a parish social function or participate in it.
- Support a parishioner who needs encouragement, sympathy, or material help.
- Apologize for moments of impatience; put aside grudges which cause strained relationships.

Christian Service

- Volunteer as a family to serve at a hot-meals center or to clean the home of an elderly person.
- Offer to do someone's chores at home to help them out.
- Include in your family prayers those in need in the world.

God Bless you always and in all ways,

George E. Pioli
Director, Faith Formation

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE FOR FAMILIES
and
Any Adult needing Confirmation
2007-2008

Celebration of Confirmation:

April 27, 2008, 11:00 a.m. Liturgy

→ **PLEASE NOTE:** **ALL MEETINGS/SESSIONS ARE MANDATORY** ←

Preliminary Meeting:

Meeting with parents and Confirmation Team: Thursday, September 20, 2007, 7:30 p.m. School

Candidate Sessions:

- Session 1: Sunday, October 7, 2007, 10:30 a.m., School
- Session 2: Sunday, November 18, 2007, 10:30 a.m., School
- Session 3: Sunday, January 6, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School
- Session 4: Sunday, February 10, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School
- Session 5: Sunday, March 9, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School
- Session 6: Sunday, April 13, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School

NOTE: All of the above sessions will end with a prayer service in the School Dining Room

- **Confirmation Retreat:** Saturday, April 19, 2008, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Diffley Hall

Parish Sessions:

- Session 1: Sunday, October 7, 2007, 10:30 a.m. School (Baptism – Fr. Paul)
- Session 2: Sunday, November 18, 2007, 10:30 a.m., School (Gift of the Spirit – Kathy Proefke)
- Session 3: Sunday, January 6, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School (In the Strength of His Love – Kathy Filippelli)
- Session 4: Sunday, February 10, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School (Oil of Salvation – Pat Wiand)
- Session 5: Sunday, March 9, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School (More Like Christ –Fr. John)
- Session 6: Sunday, April 13, 2008, 10:30 a.m., School (In the Unity of Faith – Doug Reatini)

NOTE: All of the above sessions will end with a prayer service in the School Dining Room.

APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

STUDENT'S FULL NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ DATE OF BAPTISM: _____

CHURCH OF BAPTISM: _____

CHURCH OF BAPTISM ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE(S): _____

CONFIRMATION NAME/SAINT: _____

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR: _____

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

SPONSOR'S HOME PARISH: _____

PARISH ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

IS A PROXY REPRESENTING THE SPONSOR? (CIRCLE ONE) YES NO

IF YES, NAME OF PROXY _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

BP CERT _____
SP CERT _____
SAC FEE _____

Cf BOOK _____
BP BOOK _____

NOTIFY CH OF BP _____
PDS _____

The Role of the Sponsor

September 20, 2007

Dear Parents,

Each candidate, with the help of his or her parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the baptismal sponsor (godparents) also be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that men must be sponsors for boys and women must be sponsors for girls.

Church law states that the sponsor must be at least 16 years of age. He or she must be a confirmed Catholic and be living according to the Catholic faith. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to give assurance of his or her qualifications.

During the time of preparation, sponsors are encouraged to take an active role in the Confirmation program and meet with their candidates on a regular basis for faith sharing.

It is important that parents, candidates, and prospective sponsors consider carefully the qualifications and requirements given in this letter before a commitment to the Confirmation program is made.

Calendar of Events

A calendar for the Confirmation program has been included to help you in your planning. Note the occasions and times when parents, sponsors, and candidates must be present at an event. Please bring this calendar to the first meeting.

We hope that this early information on the Confirmation program will enable you to devote some time to preparing, discussing, and praying about it. Additional information will be provided as we begin the actual preparation. If you have any questions regarding the information here or any other aspect of the program, please contact us. We are willing to assist you in any way possible.

Know that you will be in the prayers of the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

God bless you always and all ways,

George E. Pioli
Director, Faith Formation

Confirmation Sponsor Guidelines

Our candidates are the responsibility of the whole Christian community. Christian Initiation is not left entirely to priests and catechists, but should be the care of the entire Christian community, especially the Sponsors.

Code of Canon Law

The person to be confirmed must have a Sponsor, preferably one of the baptismal godparents. The Sponsor's function is to take care that the person to be confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament.

Sponsors are responsible not only for leading candidates through the process of Confirmation, but also, later, helping them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements

- Sponsors must be Catholic and registered parishioners at a Catholic Church. If the sponsor is not registered with Holy Family, a letter from the Pastor at the Sponsor's church is required, confirming that the sponsor is a "Catholic in good standing". This is a common procedure, and a certificate can be obtained by calling the church office.
- Sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Sponsor must be sufficiently mature for the role (minimum age is 16).
- Sponsor must be a role model in living the faith as a Catholic Christian.
- Sponsor must be willing to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Program.

Sponsor:

Please complete this form and return to Faith Formation office.

Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Address _____

Sponsor's City/State/Zip _____

Sponsor's Phone(s) _____

Sponsor's Parish _____
City/State or Country

I accept the honor and responsibility of being a Confirmation Sponsor.

► Sponsor's Signature Date

If you are not a member of Holy Family Parish, St. Petersburg FL, **you must present a Sponsor certificate or letter from your home parish.** The certificate can be mailed or faxed to us at 727-521-2545.

Sponsor Certificate is attached _____.

Sponsor Certificate is being obtained (please explain) _____

Choosing of a Christian Name

Many people choose an additional saint's name at Confirmation. The preferred name, however, is the baptismal name because it expresses the relationship that exists between Baptism and Confirmation.

If a new name is taken, however, it should be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation.

A saint's name is chosen so that saint can serve as a patron and model for the one being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that person led.

Find out more about your patron's saint's life. Choose either your Baptismal (if you are not taking a new name) or your Confirmation patron.



Candidate's Full Name _____ Date Due: March 9, 2008

Name you have chosen as your Confirmation name _____

Patron Saint's Name _____ Feast Day _____

Saint's Place and Date of Birth _____

Find out something about this saint's story:

- Family _____

- Occupation and Life events _____

- Death _____

- What virtues did this saint practice in his/her life _____

- What aspect of this person's Christian life attracted you? _____

- How is this saint a model for Christians today _____

- Ask your parents, or whoever named you, how they picked the name you received at birth and baptism. Write (on the back) a brief story about what you found out.

This form is due in Faith Formation Office on or before March 9, 2008

