

CONFIRMATION 2010 ~ PARENT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Congratulations to you all, your children have taken this first step along the road towards their Confirmations. At Baptism you claimed for your children a Catholic identity and started for them a journey of faith. And now they will begin the process of claiming that identity and faith for themselves. The information in this document—provided in a timeline format—will hopefully help in supporting them as they carry out the responsibilities of their decision for Confirmation. For more detailed information and guidelines please consult the red *Candidate Information Guide* provided in the red folder. If you have any questions, contact Patrick Lynch at 239-5481, ext. 303 or email plynch@stgabriel.net.

- By **MARCH 25TH**, your child will need to identify his/her sponsor and complete the **SPONSOR FORM** (green sheet). This form is given to the Confirmation Coordinator (Patrick Lynch). The Parish will communicate with the sponsors by mail.
- Also due **MARCH 25TH**, the **REQUEST FOR BAPTISMAL RECORD FORM** (ivory sheet) with complete mailing address of place of baptism. This form will be sent to your child's place of baptism to request an official baptismal certificate. **YOU MUST STILL RETURN THIS FORM IF YOUR CHILD WAS BAPTIZED AT ST. GABRIEL.**
- **APRIL 3RD AT 2:00PM OR APRIL 5TH AT 7:00PM, SPONSOR MEETING**, this meeting is for sponsors only. At this meeting the sponsors will get a better understanding of what is expected of them and how to better connect with their candidate. This meeting is held in church.
- **APRIL 10TH, CALLED BY NAME** will be held at 9:30am immediately after the 8:30am Mass. At this prayer service the candidates will be called by name to the front of church for a special blessing. This rite shows before the parish community your child's intention to begin the Confirmation preparation process.
- **MAY 15TH AT 2:00PM OR MAY 17TH AT 7:00PM, THE FIRST CANDIDATE/SPONSOR GATHERING** will be held in church. This first gathering is meant to help your child and his/her Sponsor understand their roles better and bring them closer to understanding the meaning of Confirmation. This gathering is required. If a sponsor is unable to come, a parent may "stand in" for them.
- **SUMMER VACATION**, Your child should continue with his/her preparations, especially their Service Experiences.
- **SEPTEMBER 18TH AT 2:00PM OR SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 7:00PM, THE SECOND CANDIDATE/SPONSOR GATHERING** will be held in church. This second gathering will center on the questions arising as your child gets closer to Confirmation. This gathering is required. If a sponsor is unable to come, a parent may "stand in" for them.
- **LATE SEPTEMBER**, is the **CONFIRMATION RETREAT** for all Confirmation candidates. This day may extend into the late afternoon /early evening. More information will follow as the date gets closer.
- The week of **SEPTEMBER 25TH, RED FOLDERS ARE DUE**. Your child makes a decision concerning his/her readiness and desire for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If he/she chooses to request the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is made known by giving his/her Confirmation Mentor the red folder containing: The completed Parent Checklist and Affirmation (yellow sheet) signed by you affirming your child's preparation as demonstrated by the written contents of the red Confirmation folder; The *Service Experience Passport* (blue booklet) with the appropriate pages filled out and signed for each service experience; Completed Favorite Service Experience Reflection Sheet (buff sheet); The Reflection and Review of My Baptism (blue sheets); Confirmation Name Form (purple sheet) and the Confirmation Retreat Reflection Sheet (gray sheet).
- Also due with the red folder the week of **SEPTEMBER 25TH**, is your child's **LETTER TO THE ARCHBISHOP**. Your child is to write a letter to Archbishop Kurtz or Kelly (depending on who will be officiating Confirmation) formally requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please consult the *Candidate Information Guide* for detailed instructions.
- The week of **OCTOBER 2ND, CANDIDATE INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS** will be held. The Confirmation Mentors will have your child's red folder prior to the interview and will review it with him/her. They will assess your child's readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011
AT 7:00 P.M. AT ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH.**

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

EVERYONE

Pray for the Candidates as they prepare for this important step in their lives.

CANDIDATES

Learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation and its meaning in your daily life.

Thoughtfully and prayerfully discern your request for Confirmation.

Select a sponsor, attend Candidate/Sponsor gatherings and participate in service experiences together.

Attend the Rite of Intention: "Called by Name" prayer service on April 10th.

Meet with your Mentor periodically throughout the preparation period.

Prepare red folder and contents—including your letter to the Archbishop—to turn into your Mentor the week of September 25th.

Participate in an interview with your Mentor the week of October 2nd.

Participate in Confirmation Retreat in the Fall.

Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on November 5th.

Continue to live and be the Catholic that you have proclaimed.

SPONSORS

Be a mentor and model of the Catholic faith for the candidate.

Attend Sponsor Meeting and Candidate/Sponsor gatherings.

Participate in service experiences with the candidate.

Provide assistance with other service opportunities.

Witness with the candidates at the celebration of Confirmation.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION STAFF/MENTORS

Be a resource and support for Confirmation Candidates.

Interview assigned candidates and assess their readiness.

Prepare a list of accepted candidates for Confirmation after interviews.

Review letters to the Archbishop.

Participate in Confirmation Retreat.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Be a mentor and model of the Catholic faith for the candidate.

Help the candidate make a decision about his or her choice for Confirmation.

Provide assistance in service experiences.

Continue to participate in regular Sunday worship with the candidate.

Provide needed assistance in preparing folder for the interview meeting.

Complete the Confirmation Checklist to be signed by parent/guardian and returned in red folder.

Provide assistance in writing the letter to the Archbishop.

Celebrate the Sacrament with the candidate.

RELIGION TEACHERS/CATECHISTS

Provide opportunities to learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Provide opportunities to learn about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Provide opportunities to record and reflect on service experiences.

HOMEROOM TEACHERS

Provide guidance for candidates as they make decisions about Confirmation.

Be a resource and support for Confirmation Candidates.

Participate in Confirmation Retreat and the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.



CONFIRMATION 2011 ~ IDEAS FOR SERVICE EXPERIENCES

Listed below you will find some ideas for service experiences. This is not a complete or definitive list. Please feel free to find new ways to be of service to those in need.

Home and Family

Your experiences in this category will be for those people who are closest to you. Those that you love and you live your day to day life with.

Examples

- Helping a mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle.
- Babysitting for a relative.
- Cleaning and doing extra chores around the house.

Parish

Your experiences in this category will be for those within the Saint Gabriel the Archangel Community.

Examples

- Grounds Committee, 267-8234 (Sharon Miller)
- Sunday Morning Childcare during Mass, 459-0302 (Monica Pemberton), 239-0110 (Jamie Rumrill)
- Fish-Fry Clean-up, watch bulletin for details
- Parish Picnic, watch for sign-ups in July
- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 239-5481, ext. 314 (Betsy O'Neill)
- Vacation Bible School, watch for sign-ups
- For other opportunities, consult your stewardship booklet.

Community

Your experiences in this category will be for those people who may be in need in your neighborhood or friends of your family.

Examples

- Cutting an elderly neighbor's grass.
- Helping someone move.
- Getting groceries for a shut-in neighbor.

Social Justice

Your experiences in this category will be with those who are less fortunate and/or with a non-profit organization. The agencies below are listed as a guide. Please feel free to call local other organizations that may need assistance. Activity will vary at each place, please call in advance to get specific information on what may be required.

Examples

- Americana Community Center, 366-7813
- America's Second Harvest of Kentucky's Heartland, (270) 769-6997
- Cathedral of the Assumption Soup Kitchen, 582-2971
- Catholic Charities, 636-9263
- Dare to Care, 966-3821
- Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries, 762-9609
- Harbor House, 719-0072
- Home of the Innocents, 596-1031
- Kids Café, for a list of sites go to www.daretocare.org/kidscafesitelist.html
- Neighborhood House, 774-2322
- Operation Care, 633-1965
- St. John Center, 568-6758
- St. Vincent de Paul, 584-2480, ext. 233

REMEMBER: SERVICE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU DO WILLINGLY AND WITHOUT ACCEPTING PAYMENT.

CONFIRMATION 2011 ~ CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

PLEASE RETURN TO PATRICK LYNCH IN THE PARISH OFFICE BY MARCH 25TH, 2011

CANDIDATE'S NAME _____

SPONSOR'S NAME _____

PLEASE PRINT

Sponsor's Address (please provide complete mailing address)

City

State

Zip

A sponsor must be:

*Someone who serves as a good example for you, is an inspiration to you by the way they live
and practice their faith
Have attained their sixteenth birthday
Be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and is practicing their faith
Not be the parent of the one to be Confirmed.*

I choose this SPONSOR because: (give three specific reasons in clear, complete sentences)

1.

2.

3.

Parent's signature(s)

CONFIRMATION 2011 ~ PARENT CHECKLIST AND AFFIRMATION

THIS CHECKLIST AND AFFIRMATION, ALONG WITH THE RED FOLDERS, CONTAINING THE ITEMS BELOW, ARE DUE TO MENTORS THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2011.

By signing this document you are affirming that your child has made the decision to request the Sacrament of Confirmation, and that you support this decision. You will also be verifying that the following items have been satisfactorily completed and are included within his/her Red Folder that he/she will give his/her Mentor. Incomplete folders will be returned to Candidates for completion.

The following items must be included in your child's Red Folder when he/she turns it in:

- THIS COMPLETED CHECKLIST (yellow sheet) signed by you affirming your child's decision and verifying the contents of his/her Red Folder.
- Your child's *SERVICE EXPERIENCE PASSPORT* (blue booklet) with the appropriate pages filled out for each service experience. Be sure that each page has the signature of the supervising adult verifying your child's participation.
- FAVORITE SERVICE EXPERIENCE REFLECTION SHEET (buff sheets) for each requested area of ministry – Parish, Community, Home and Family and Social Justice.
- Your child's REFLECTION AND REVIEW OF MY BAPTISM (blue sheet)
- Your child's CONFIRMATION NAME FORM (purple sheet)
- Your child's CONFIRMATION RETREAT REFLECTION (gray sheet)
- Your child's LETTER TO THE ARCHBISHOP formally requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please consult the red *Candidate Information Guide* for detailed instructions.

With my signature below I affirm that my child has made the decision to request the Sacrament of Confirmation. I also affirm that each of the above items have been successfully completed and that they are contained within his/her Red Folder

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

CONFIRMATION 2011 ~ FAVORITE SERVICE EXPERIENCE REFLECTION

DUE: THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25TH (WITH RED FOLDER)

NAME _____

MY FAVORITE SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Refer to your blue Service Experience Passport and reflect on your participation. Then choose one of your favorite service experience and answer the questions below and on the back.

Please answer in detailed well written paragraphs.

1. Describe this service experience in detail.

2. Why was this service experience your favorite?

3. Describe someone you met during this service experience. What did you learn from them?

4. What did you learn about yourself through this service experience?

5. What difference did this experience make in your life?

6. What else would you like to share about this experience?

CONFIRMATION 2011 ~ CONFIRMATION RETREAT REFLECTION

DUE: THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25TH (WITH RED FOLDER)

NAME _____

THE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Think of all that you experienced on the Confirmation Retreat. Then answer the questions below.

Please answer in detailed well written paragraphs.

1. What did you learn on the Confirmation Retreat?

2. Which part of the day had the most meaning for you?

3. What did you learn about yourself?

4. Did the Confirmation Retreat help you to better understand your Confirmation? Why or why not.

5. What else would you like to share about the Confirmation Retreat?

CONFIRMATION 2011 ~ BEGINNING CATHOLIC INITIATION REFLECTION & REVIEW OF MY BAPTISM

DUE THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25TH (WITH RED FOLDER)

THE FULL NAME I WAS GIVEN AT BAPTISM WAS

INTERVIEW OF PARENTS:

1. Is my name connected to another family member or family tradition?
If yes, explain how and why.
2. Is my name connected to a saint? If yes explain how and why?
3. Is my name connected to a friend, an event, or some other situation?
If yes explain how and why.
4. Who participated in choosing my name and why?
5. Why did you choose to bring me to the Catholic Church for Baptism?
6. Where was I baptized? (If not at St. Gabriel, have you ever visited the Church of your Baptism?)

7. How old was I at the time of my Baptism?

8. What do you remember about the day of my Baptism?

9. Who was present for my celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism?
Name all you can remember.

10. Why did you choose each of my Godparents?

- Godmother

- Godfather

11. Did I have a special Baptismal gown? Where did it come from? Who has worn it besides me?

12. Do I have a Baptismal Candle? Where is it and what does it mean.

13. Do you have any other Baptismal mementos, pictures, memories that you can share.

INTERVIEW OF EACH GODPARENT

1. What does your role of Godparent mean to you?

- Godmother

- Godfather

2. How did you feel about being asked to be my Godparent?

- Godmother

- Godfather

CANDIDATE'S REFLECTION

How does your Baptism connect to the preparation you are making for Confirmation?