

CONFIRMATION

2012

Saturday, May 5, 2012

At 5:00 pm

September 2011

Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 5:00 PM and be administered by Bishop Roger Gries.

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The word initiation refers to the formal process of joining an organization or a chosen way of life. Together these three sacraments initiate Catholics into an ever growing relationship with Christ and his Church.

Through Baptism, we are reborn as we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit for the first time. We are born to a new life in faith. Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism. In Confirmation we receive a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit, which seals or perfects the grace of Baptism. Confirmation, as it is in Baptism, is so powerful that it imprints us with a special spiritual mark. That is why Confirmation, like Baptism, can be received only once.

Preparation for Confirmation is part of a total formational process which flows from Baptism and leads to ongoing discipleship.

The Confirmation process has three phases:

I - Preparation

II - Celebration

III - Mystagogy

- During all phases, systematic catechesis is ongoing. Faith formation prior to the immediate preparation phases enables the candidate to have sufficient knowledge about the Catholic faith to discern whether to proceed with further preparation.
- At least one year of ongoing catechesis directly preceding immediate preparation for the sacrament is required.
- Following the celebration of the sacrament, involvement in mystagogy and the life of the community continues the lifelong journey of faith development.

This handbook includes the information and forms needed to prepare a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please read it carefully and refer to the PSR/JYM and Eighth Grade Sacramental schedules for the dates and times of Confirmation sessions, retreat, parent meetings, liturgies and special events. If you have questions or concerns about preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please call or e-mail me at (330) 659-6321 or stvictorpsr@roadrunner.com.

Sincerely,
Mary Reboudo, CRE

I - PREPARATION

Preparation for Confirmation begins in grade seven with the “We Live Our Faith As Disciples” Program published by Sadlier and continues through grade eight with the “We Live Our Faith As Members of the Church” Program published by Sadlier and the Confirmation “Anointed in the Spirit” Program published by Saint Mary’s Press. Key topics are covered in the two year program to prepare candidates for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please make an effort to attend all scheduled JYM sessions and retreats.

EACH CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN PARISH LIFE INCLUDING:

LITURGIES: Candidates should attend Mass and receive Eucharist regularly. Participating actively and consciously in the celebration of the Mass is part of being a faithful Catholic Christian.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is celebrated in the Gathering Room on Sunday at either the 8:45 am or 11:30 am Mass during the PSR/JYM year. Liturgy of the Word with Children is a worship experience geared especially for children (ages 4-9). It mirrors the worship experience of the larger community, with a style that is engaging and interactive. It offers an experience for the children to hear the Scriptures in words they understand and to share their own understanding of God’s word. Each confirmation candidate, under the supervision of a parent or another adult, is asked to lead at least one CLW. Please check the Children’s Liturgy of the Word Schedule in the Gathering Room and sign up for a Sunday that is convenient for you. Materials and instructions will be mailed to you prior to your scheduled date to allow time for preparation.

Thanksgiving Day Mass – Thursday, November 24, 2011 at 9:00 AM: Candidates attending this Mass can also help out as altar servers or participate in the Offertory Procession.

Weekend Masses with Rite of Welcome and Commitment – Saturday, February 11, 2012 or Sunday, February 12, 2012: There will be a Rite of Welcome and Commitment at each of the three weekend Masses. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room which Mass you will attend: Saturday at 5:00 PM or Sunday at 8:45 AM or 11:30 AM

Ash Wednesday Mass – Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 7:00 PM: Candidates attending this Mass can also help out as altar servers or participate in the Offertory Procession.

Communal Penance Service – Monday, March 12, 2012 at 7:15 PM: It is recommended that confirmation candidates receive the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Mass following the Confirmation Retreat – Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 5:00 PM: Candidates attending this Mass can also help out as altar servers or participate in the Offertory Procession. Parents and sponsors are invited to join candidates for this Mass.

PARISH SOCIALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS: Participating in parish socials and special events helps build community in the parish and is an important part of parish life. It is recommended that candidates participate in at least three of the following events in order to experience the fullness of parish life.

Donut Sundays: Candidates along with at least one parent can volunteer their time at a Donut Sunday scheduled for the 11:30 Mass. There are sign-up sheets in the Donut Sunday Binder in the Gathering Room. Please sign-up if you would like to help with a Donut Sunday. Candidates volunteering for Donut Sunday should arrive prior to the 11:30 Mass to begin setting up and turn on the coffee pot. There are instructions for set up, serving and clean up in a folder in the Lending Library/Bridal Suite. Donuts and all supplies are furnished by St. Victor and will be in the Gathering Room and Lending Library/Bridal Suite. Please call Diane or Maggie Hill at 330-659-3630 if you have any questions.

**Family Night-Making Blankets – Saturday, October 8, 2011 after the 5:00 PM Mass
In the Parish Hall:** PSR/JYM families will be making no-sew fleece blankets for Pregnancy Care and Blanket Sunday. Refreshments will be served.

Advent Family Workshop & Dinner – Saturday, November 19, 2011

In the Parish Hall from 6:00-8:00 PM: Confirmation candidates are asked to help with making Advent Wreaths and clean up. Dinner will be provided for candidates participating in this event.

JYM Advent Bake Sale – Saturday, December 3, 2011 or Sunday, December 4, 2011

After Masses in the Gathering Room: Confirmation candidates are asked to make, package and price baked goods and sell them after one of three Weekend Masses. Proceeds will be donated to Christ Child Society.

JYM Ash Wednesday Soup Supper – Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 5:00 PM

In the Parish Hall followed by Mass at 7:00 PM: Confirmation candidates are asked to make meatless soups, serve them to parishioners and help with clean-up before the 7:00 PM Mass.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE: *So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master’, and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”* John 13:12-15; 15:12-14

By virtue of our baptism, we are called to be Disciples of Christ and to serve one another. Participating in a Christian Service Project gives candidates the opportunity to work for justice and to give of oneself, helping them to develop a good habit of giving generously and consistently to others. Candidates will be asked to participate in a service project that falls under one or more of the *Corporal Works of Mercy*.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feeding the hungry
Sheltering the homeless
Clothing the naked
Visiting the sick (and imprisoned)
Burying the dead

CONFIRMATION RETREAT AND MASS: Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM

(Retreat in the Parish Hall followed by the 5:00 pm Mass) The Confirmation Retreat is part of the Grade 8 curriculum and Confirmation Program. This retreat is geared toward deepening the candidates understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents and sponsors are invited to join candidates for Mass at 5:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION FAMILY FAITH SHARING EVENING - Monday, April 30, 2012 from 7:00–9:00 PM

There will be a Confirmation Family Faith Sharing Evening in the Parish Hall and a practice in the church that all candidates, parents and sponsors are required to attend. Parents can fill in for out-of-town sponsors.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME – WRITE TWO PARAGRAPHS ABOUT YOUR CHOICE

As a candidate for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, you have two options concerning the choice of a Confirmation name.

1. You may choose your present baptismal (patron saint) name. This shows the sacramental connection with the first and second part of your initiation into the Catholic Church – Baptism and First Eucharist. To stay with your baptismal name would demonstrate that you

feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to make this formal through Confirmation.

2. You may choose the name of a person or saint who inspires you. This would symbolize a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with that person or saint. This would be especially appropriate if you are now making a renewed commitment to your faith. Your commitment would be symbolized with the taking of a new name to show that you are in some ways a new person. This new name would be used after your present middle name and before your family name.

The name chosen would represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking, or would represent an attribute or strength you feel you need. It is important and necessary to know something about the person or saint before you decide on that name. The option of taking a new name is not to be used because you like the sound of the name, how it fits with your other names, or because it is the name of a nice friend or relative. Whether you are choosing to keep your present name or take a new name, write two paragraphs about your choice.

If you choose to keep your baptismal name, the first paragraph is to be about why you are choosing to keep your baptismal name. The second paragraph is to be about the person or saint for whom you are named and why.

If you choose to take a new name, the first paragraph is to be about the particular person or saint whose name you are choosing. The second paragraph is to be about why you are choosing this name. What significance or meaning does this saint hold for you? What do you hope to gain by modeling yourself after this person or saint?

There are books on the lives of the saints available in the Religious Education Office that candidates can borrow. Candidates are encouraged to discuss their choice of a confirmation name with parents.

Please forward your two-paragraph paper on the name you choose to the Religious Education Office or turn it in at JYM by April 1, 2012.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SAINTS NAME

Candidates can begin now thinking about what saint's name they will choose for Confirmation.

In order to heighten the association between baptism and confirmation, it is recommended, but not required, that the candidate retain the name of his or her baptismal patron saint. **Please complete the form below and forward it to the Religious Education Office by April 1, 2012.**

Candidate's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Candidate's Confirmation Name _____

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Each candidate, with the help of a parent, is responsible for choosing a sponsor.

The purpose of a sponsor is three-fold:

1. To be a representative of the Catholic faith community
2. To act as a role model and witness
3. To be of support to parents/guardians and the candidate on the faith journey

It is desirable, although not required, that the baptismal godparent be the confirmation sponsor to highlight the relationship of the sacrament to baptism.

- Each candidate is to have one sponsor
- A parent may NOT be the sponsor of his or her child
- A sponsor must be:
 1. At least 16 years old and sufficiently mature for this role
 2. A fully initiated Catholic (must have themselves been confirmed)
 3. A practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church
 4. If married, the sponsor's marriage must be valid – that is, the marriage must be in accord with Church law

Sponsors are required to submit a completed “Confirmation Sponsor Information Form” (attached) along with a letter of notification from their parish/pastor stating that they are a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Sponsors who belong to St. Victor Parish need only forward a completed “Confirmation Sponsor Information Form”. **Please forward this information to St. Victor Parish School of Religion – 3435 Everett Road – Richfield, Ohio 44286 by April 1, 2012.**

St. Victor Church Confirmation and RCIA Sponsor Information

Who are you Sponsoring?	
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NAME

First Name (Formal Name)	
Middle Name or Initial	
Current Last Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Home Phone Number	

Hours to call Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
Hours to call Cell Phone	
Work Phone Number	Ext.
Days/Hours to call Work Phone	
Email Address	

FORMAL RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Are you at least 16 years old?	Yes/No
Current Religious Affiliation	
Date of Baptism	
Denomination of Baptism	
Name of Church of Baptism	
City/State of Church of Baptism	
Your Current Church	
Date you received First Communion	
Date you received Confirmation	

MARRIAGES (If never married, leave blank and check here: ____)

Are you currently married?	Yes/No
Was the Marriage in church?	

Please Note: A letter of notification from the sponsor’s parish or pastor is required stating that they are a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Sponsors who belong to St. Victor Parish are not required to send a letter of notification.

II - CELEBRATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at the 5:00 PM Mass and be administered by Bishop Roger Gries. There will be a reception in the Gathering Room following Mass.

Practice for the Celebration of Confirmation will be included in the Family Faith Sharing Evening Monday, April 30, 2011 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Parents, candidates and sponsors are required to attend. Parents can fill in for out-of-town sponsors.

III - MYSTAGOGY

The Greek term “Mystagogy” implies a continuing of a journey. With the grace of Baptism and Confirmation, you will be ready to continue your lifelong journey in faith. You will be ready to grow ever more aware of the presence and power of Jesus in your life and to become ever more completely a part of the life of the Church. With all the baptized, you have been called to strive for holiness and to become saints.

Grade Eight Sacramental Schedule

Confirmation

Day	Date	Time	Event	Parents
SUN	09/18/11	10:00–11:00 am	Catechetical Sunday – Parent/Student Orientation Meeting in the Parish Hall	Yes
SUN	01/22/12	10:00-11:00 am	Grade 8 Parent Meeting in the Parish Hall	Yes
SAT	02/11/12	5:00 pm Mass	Rite of Welcome and Commitment at the 5:00 pm Mass	Yes
SUN	02/12/12	8:45 am Mass or 11:30 am Mass	Rite of Welcome and Commitment at the 8:45 and 11:30 am Masses	Yes
MON	03/12/12	7:15 pm	Communal Penance Service-Candidates are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation	
SAT	04/21/12	11:00 am until	Grade 8 Confirmation Retreat in Parish Hall	

		6:00 pm	followed by participation in the 5:00 pm Mass	
MON	04/30/12	7:00–9:00 pm	Confirmation Family Faith Sharing Evening and Practice for candidates, parents and sponsors in the Parish Hall	Yes
SAT	05/05/12	5:00–7:00 pm	Sacrament of Confirmation Celebrated at 5:00 pm Mass with a reception in the Gathering Room directly following	Yes