

2011-2012



St. Francis Borgia

Candidate's Prayer

Here I am, Lord, looking for your help and guidance as I prepare to be confirmed in the faith of your Christian Church. Please help me to understand Catholicism and how it both influences my life and how my life is influenced by it. Help me also, Lord, to keep faith during tough situations.

I trust in you, God, and I am wondering if I'm ready- I pray to you to be at my side as we journey together to deepen my faith and help me understand why I truly want to be confirmed.

Lord, I also seek your help in forgiving others, being open-minded, and not holding any grudges or judging people. Help me be more tolerant with my family and friends and to be more appreciative of them, even if they may not act the same towards me.

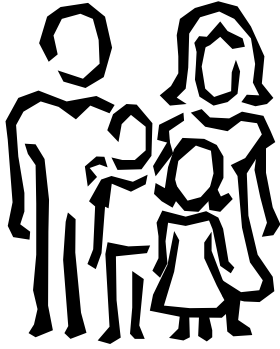
I know you are with me, God, because of the wonderful things in life you have blessed me with. I am thankful for my family and friends, laughter and fun, education, sports, and health-thanks for being alive! Amen.

-by Confirmation Class '07



Confirmation

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The Role of the Parents and Family

The Initiation of children into sacramental life is, for the most part, the responsibility of parents. With the help of catechetical institutions, they are to form and guide a spirit faith in their children. The National Catechetical Directory states: “As the primary educators of their children, parents along with the sponsor, are to be intimately involved in catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.” (#119NCD)

Parents should assist their children through the preparation process; discussing their fears and doubts, inquiring about their Mentor sessions, encouraging their attendance at all sessions, and helping them stay on top of due dates. In addition, as a demonstration of your own faith, it is expected that one or both parents/guardians involve yourself in the preparation process by attending those sessions to which the parents are invited, filling in for sponsors in the event they cannot attend a session they are required to, attend weekly Mass with your child, or join them in experiencing another Catholic parish. Parental assistance is also encouraged as small group aides or mentors and retreat chaperones!

The Role of the Sponsor

Sponsors are companions on the journey of faith and will have a real function of spiritual direction to perform for their candidates, and should be chosen accordingly.



Selecting a Sponsor

Requirements for sponsors:

- 1 Be at least 16 years old
- 2 Be a confirmed Catholic who has received the sacrament of Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith
- 3 Be other than your mother or father
- 4 Be designated by you

Characteristics to look for in a sponsor:

- Preferably be from the parish or from the immediate area so as to be available as a real companion to you on the journey
- Be able to relate in friendship with you
- Be a good listener, one with whom you can confide about your personal and spiritual life
- Be willing and able to share his/her own experience of faith
- Be willing to pray for you
- Be willing and able to make the time commitment to the Confirmation process
- Be willing to continue to walk your faith journey with you after Confirmation and invite you into fuller participation in parish life and service
- Be willing to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament

Your Confirmation sponsor must be chosen prior to the first small group session with sponsors (usually by the beginning of November). Their name and contact information must be recorded on the Sponsor Information form and submitted to the Director of Youth Ministry.

The Role of the Candidate

The Sacrament of Confirmation is received by those students who are at least 16 years of age, and who have been involved in either a Catholic school religion program or religious education program for the previous two years. For Catholics, the Sacrament of Confirmation represents (1) the full initiation of the recipient into the Catholic Church, (2) the completion of the work of the Holy Spirit begun at Baptism, and (3) a personal decision of the recipient to accept and live the Catholic Faith. It does not make one an “adult”, nor does it signal the completion of one’s religious life. Confirmation is initiation, not graduation.

We do not assume that all persons entering the program either fully know, understand, believe, or live all of the Christian teachings. In fact, many people have serious doubts or personal struggles, which they bring to the program. We accept and welcome any person, no matter where they are at in regard to their faith. Hopefully, throughout the experience of preparation, you will either come to a better understanding and willingly embrace the Catholic faith, or maturely decide that you are not yet ready or willing to be *fully* initiated into the Church. However, it is the candidate’s final choice whether or not to be confirmed. The parent/guardian can require that you attend the entire program up until the actual Sacrament of Confirmation. You should proceed when you are ready.

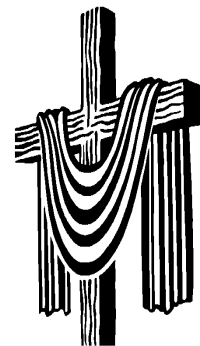
Mass

The central element of our prayer lives and our source of nourishment each week is the Mass. Candidates are expected to participate in weekly liturgy. It is at Mass that we learn from Scripture and Tradition, we experience the faith community in its most precious form, and we receive Christ into our lives once again. There is no better place to learn about and explore one’s faith than at Mass. Your participation in liturgical roles can help the Mass come alive for you, helping you gain a new perspective from your contribution. Candidates are invited to volunteer for various Mass ministries. Please contact the people listed below for information.

Choir/Instrumental	Lana Schumacher	375-0369	c2ldk@aol.com
Fire Choir	JoAnn Berk	375-6121	j.berk@sbcglobal.net
Lector	Wayne Sattler	377-0340	wandesattler@yahoo.com
Usher	Brian Goetz	376-9808	bgoetz4@wi.rr.com
Eucharistic Minister	Jan Konkol	375-1409	SFBEMHC@aol.com
6PM Mass Roles	Phil Sylvester	375-4498	philipsylvester@yahoo.com

Baptismal Certificate

A **copy** of each candidate’s Baptismal information is needed for our records. If baptized at Divine Word or St. Francis Borgia, simply fill in the date of your baptism and indicate which parish on the Confirmation Participation Form. If baptized elsewhere, and you do not have a copy of your Baptism Certificate at home, call the church of baptism and request that a baptismal certificate be sent to you. Please attach a copy of your Baptismal certificate (photocopies are fine) to your Confirmation Participation form in addition to completing the information. The completed form and your certificate must be turned in to the Director of Youth Ministry prior to entering the preparation process.



We are a light
to each other

Service

Since Jesus Himself modeled service for us, as members of the Body of Christ, and in His name, the candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are called to the service of YOUTH, FAMILY, PARISH, and WIDER COMMUNITY. Each candidate is expected to have provided a minimum of ten (10) hours of service in each of these areas **prior to** entering into the Confirmation preparation process.

Service that is done as a requirement by the high schools will be accepted by our Service Program as long as the service to our parish is provided and there is some focus on serving those in need. Please check with your high school service program coordinator for compliance regulations.

Please refer to the parish bulletin, website, and bulletin boards for updates on service opportunities. Also, you may search www.volunteerozaukee.org OR www.1-800-volunteer.org for community service opportunities.

Our service to our brothers and sisters in Christ should never cease. It is expected that each candidate is working on modeling their lives after Christ's own life and should be assisting those in need whenever they are able. Therefore, each candidate is expected to participate in a service project with his/her small group as part of the preparation program.

Attendance

Participation in all scheduled activities of the preparation program is expected. In the event of having to miss a formation session, the mentor must be courteously informed, and make-up assignment or session completed. In the event of excessive absence, a conference with the Candidate, the Candidate's parents, the Director of Youth Ministry and/or Pastor will be held.

Candidates are expected to bring their Catholic Faith Handbook and Bible or other instructional materials to each and every formation session.

Confirmation Retreat

Each candidate is required to participate in a Confirmation retreat in preparation for the sacrament. The retreat is a time to reflect on Christ and His message in terms of your own life. It is also a time to form friendships with other candidates. This special retreat is designed specifically for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Each candidate is expected to attend *one* of the following retreats. Registration due date is January 16, 2012.**

Confirmation Retreats:

Sat-Sun February 18-19, 2012
TYME OUT Youth Center, Nashotah
Fee: \$110.00

Sat-Sun March 3-4, 2012
TYME OUT Youth Center, Nashotah
Fee: \$110.00

Confirmation Name

Since Confirmation is the completion of your initiation as a Christian, your present baptismal name can be used to reaffirm the connection with Baptism and First Eucharist. However, you may decide to choose a saint's name to symbolize a new beginning in your faith life. Choosing a saint's name can represent your renewed commitment to your faith. Taking on a new name is *not* to be used because you like the sound of the name, how it fits in with your other names, or because it is the name of a nice friend or relative. Each candidate must research the significance of their Confirmation name.

Mentor Groups

You will have the opportunity to meet with adults from the parish community to discuss questions you may have about faith, Confirmation, or any aspect of your life. We hope you will share, question and work together with your mentors in your small group. Mentor groups meetings are either home-based or held at the parish. Name address and contact information will be provided to the candidates at the first session.

Parish Visit

The word *catholic* means “universal.” The church does not recognize national or ethnic boundaries; it is committed to proclaiming the message of Jesus to all people in all cultures and at all times. Additionally, catholic means that wherever Catholics gather they share a fundamental belief system and approach to worship – especially in the Eucharist – that immediately identifies and unites them regardless of the barriers of language and culture. Catholicism respects and embraces a wide variety of spiritualities and prayer forms.

Each candidate is expected to attend at least one Mass at a different Catholic church. The diversity of worship will help you to discover the richness of our Catholic faith. The parish visit date is determined by the small group mentor. Parents and sponsors are requested to help with driving to the parishes. If absent, candidates need to make up this session with a parent or sponsor.

Parishes you may visit:

All Saints	Holy Hill
St. Benedict the Moor	Newman Center at UWM
Cathedral of St. John	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Congregation of the Great Spirit	Basillica of St. Josephat

Common Questions

Source: Getting Confirmed: A Journey of Questions and Answers, Ligouri Publications: 2006.

Why do I need to do this?

You were presented to the Church by your parents and godparents at your Baptism in order to share the gift of Christian faith with you. You continue to learn more about Christianity as you participate in the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation and learn about Church history and sacred Scriptures in your formation. According to the Church, you are old enough to choose for yourself to accept the gift from God to be a part of the work of his Church. With this sacrament, you become a full-fledged member of the worldwide Church—not a member because your parents are members but because you are willing to accept the responsibility of living your faith.

Why are my parents making me do this?

Your parents promised to “accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church.” They are passing on their faith to you and fulfilling a promise that they made by seeing you through this preparation process. In a way, they have to do this in order to keep a promise that they made to each other, to the Church and to God.

What if I don’t get confirmed?

No one can make you get confirmed. If you choose not to receive this sacrament you leave your initiation incomplete. You reject in your life the seal of the Spirit of Christ. If you choose to wait, you may be confirmed as an adult.

A Letter to the Archbishop or Bishop

Each candidate is required to write a letter to the Archbishop or Bishop. Each letter should include:

- 1 Brief introduction of yourself
- 2 What being a part of the Catholic community means to you
- 3 How you have prepared to receive this sacrament
- 4 Some words about your personal faith growth; past, present and future
- 5 How you plan to be a part of the Catholic faith community after Confirmation
- 6 Why you desire this sacrament

Letters will be written in the latter portion of the preparation process and will be turned in a month or so prior to the Confirmation liturgy.

Evaluation/Discussion

A final step in the preparation process is completion of an evaluation and interview. A meeting is arranged prior to Confirmation. This opportunity for evaluation and discussion may be in the form of a group setting or one to one interview.

Confirmation

- ✠ welcomes us and deepens our belong to the faith community
- ✠ deepens our relationship to God, as Creator, Redeemer and Spirit
- ✠ strengthens us as disciples

God calls and invites; we respond. An open attitude communicates a “yes” to God’s invitation to a deeper relationship. This does not mean we know that we will always be faithful or that we are worthy of the gift. It does mean that we are open to be strengthened by God who calls us and loves us.

“...be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Anointing Rite for Confirmation