



**“I have called you by
name;
You are mine”**

- Isaiah 43:1

CONFIRMATION PACKET

2009-2010

Sacrament Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation

St. Charles Borromeo Church

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CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace.

- ❖ It unites us more firmly to Christ and increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- ❖ It renders our bond with the Church more perfect (whole)
- ❖ It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith by works and actions as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross

How do I know if I'm ready?

None of us are ever ready, worth or deserving of a sacrament, but,

- ❖ You need to be ready and open to how God will strengthen you and continue to be present in your life
- ❖ You can make an effort to be prepared to celebrate Confirmation in a way that shows sincerity
- ❖ You can participate all the way, making your responses come alive and keeping your eyes and ears ready to see what God is doing in your life

St. Charles Borromeo Sacramental & Catechetical Guidelines require that:

1. Families must be registered members of the parish.
2. Children must be enrolled in a Catholic school or Religious Formation program for two consecutive years prior to the celebration of a Sacrament of Initiation, for Confirmation, this means attendance in the 7th and 8th grade years.

What is required of me in this journey to Confirmation? You are asked to....

1. **Select a sponsor** who will walk with you and help you in your journey to celebrate Confirmation. Each candidate is asked to choose an adult member of the greater Catholic community to act as a sponsor during the Confirmation journey. The Sponsor represents the Catholic community and should be seen as a life-long role model and guide for the Candidate.
2. **Attend** Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
3. **Attend** all Sunday sacramental prep classes, rituals, and retreat as designated in the calendar.
4. **Celebrate** the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
5. **Research and write** a reflection on the life of a Catholic saint that will be your model during this process.
6. **Complete** 20 hours of stewardship (10 hours in the 7th grade and 10 hours in the 8th grade to be completed in 3 areas – family, parish, and community) and write a reflection on those service projects.
7. **Attend** an interview with the pastor.
8. **Write** a letter to the confirmation celebrant.
9. **Attend** the Confirmation rehearsal prior to the celebration of the Sacrament – Sponsors are encouraged to attend the Night of Reflection and rehearsal if available to do so. If not available, parents or other family member should plan to attend.

CANDIDATE AND PARISH COVENANT

CANDIDATE	PARISH
<p>I understand that deciding to enter the Confirmation preparation program is an important decision requiring study, prayer, and purposeful participation.</p>	<p>The parish will support you with the materials and information necessary for the preparation program.</p>
<p>I will do my best to take this decision seriously and will participate and support my companions on this journey by asking questions and sharing my thoughts and opinions.</p>	<p>The parish will provide you will classes, retreats, and various resources to help you in your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.</p>
<p>I have been told about and understand that a retreat is required. I agree to meet this requirement. If a serious problem should arise with attending the retreat, I will talk this over with the Confirmation Coordinator and we will come to a resolution together.</p>	<p>The program coordinators, catechists, parish staff, and the parish community will pray for you and your fellow companions so that you may continue to grow in the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>I understand that if I am going to miss a learning session, I will need to inform the Confirmation Coordinator. The Coordinator will provide me with the materials necessary to make up the session – this includes a written reflection due within one week of missing the session.</p>	<p>The program coordinators, catechists, and the program team are here to help you grow in your awareness of how the Holy Spirit is active in your life.</p>
<p>I have been informed of, understand, and agree to the service ministry portion of the program that includes 20 hours of service (10 in the 7th grade and 10 in the 8th grade in three separate areas – family, parish, and community), followed by a written reflection.</p>	<p>The parish community promises to support your endeavor with the most powerful force in the universe – Prayer.</p>
<p>I will do my best to pray every day to encourage my growth in and understanding of the Holy Spirit. Further, I will participate in Mass each week. I understand that doing so will help me celebrate more fully in the Sacrament of Confirmation.</p>	
<p>I understand that Confirmation is not the end of my faith journey, but the beginning of my life of service to God and my community.</p>	
<p>I understand that the Confirmation preparation program is entered into voluntarily. It is understood that those who attend do so because they want to.</p>	

CALENDAR

NOTE: CLASSES ARE FROM 1:00-3:00 IN THE PARISH OFFICE

AUGUST

23 Confirmation Parent Meeting 1:00

SEPTEMBER

19 Confirmation Retreat 8:00-12:00 Holy Family Shrine

20 Rite of Acceptance Mass 11:00

27 Confirmation Class

OCTOBER

11 Confirmation Class

NOVEMBER

15 Confirmation Class

DECEMBER

6 Confirmation Class

JANUARY

17 Confirmation Class

FEBRUARY

28 Confirmation Class

MARCH

7 Parish Commitment Ceremony - 11:00 Mass

14 Confirmation Class

17 Stewardship hours due

APRIL

17 Confirmation Interviews with Fr. Hunke

25 Night of Reflection 6:30

MAY

2 Confirmation rehearsal – TBA – St. John's in Valley, NE

5 Confirmation – 7:00 – St. John's in Valley, NE

SAINT REFLECTION

History behind the Confirmation Name

The tradition of selecting a saint's name for Confirmation grew out of a pre-Vatican II practice that asked Confirmandi to select a Saint's name to be invoked during the Rite of Confirmation. However, since Vatican II, this practice is no longer a requirement of the Rite of Confirmation. The Church strongly suggests that you use the name your parents gave to you at Baptism. The reason is that Confirmation is the fullness or completion of the Sacrament of Baptism.

The purpose of choosing a saint name is to remind you of the sacrament and its purpose. It is preferable that you use your baptismal name and recommit yourself to this name once you have studied its meaning and discovered some of the great people who have shared your name in Christian history.

If your name does not have a Christian basis, you may want to pick the name of a saint who represents the kind of Christian you wish to be. The saints in heaven are intercessors who pray with us and for us to God. They are companions on our journey. When you are in need, you may ask a friend to pray for you. Just as that friend prays for you, the saint you pick for Confirmation can be praying for you as you prepare for your Confirmation and throughout your life as you journey closer to God.

People pray to the saints to help us for many different reasons. We ask St. Christopher to pray for our safety when we travel, St. Anthony to help us when something or someone is lost, St. Monica if we have trouble with unanswered prayers, St. Martin to pray for the sick, St. John Vianney to pray for us when we are failing. Which of the saints would you ask to pray for you as you journey through life to live the life that God is asking of you?

The Saint Reflection

Whatever name you decide on, your own name or that of a favorite saint, we ask that you explore how this holy person, this saint, offers you witness to walk more closely with Christ during the Confirmation preparation process.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR SAINT REFLECTION

- Start with: For Confirmation I am taking/affirming the name.....
- Provide a brief **unplagiarized** summary of their life.
- What did they do with their lives that made them worth of sainthood?
- Why did you select this saint?
- How can the life of this saint be a model of faith and commitment to you throughout the Confirmation process?

Here are some good saint resources:

www.catholic.org/saints

www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/index_saints_en.html

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A SPONSOR

A Sponsor is ...

- A model of how a person of faith lives in today's world and is a symbol of the adult Christian Community.
- A friend who knows the candidate and can witness to the maturing faith of the candidate before the community.
- Your sponsor will be someone who will walk with you and offer you guidance as you prepare for your Confirmation. On your day of Confirmation, your sponsor will stand behind you and confidently present you to the bishop as a person ready to be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- A guide, confidant, and listener.
- A learner who is interested in his or her own growth as he/she walks the faith journey with the candidate
- One who will continue after Confirmation to walk the faith journey with the candidate and incite him/her into fuller participation in parish life and service
- Preferably one or both of your godparents to symbolize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation as sacraments of initiation.

According to Canon Law (Law of the Church)

- A sponsor must be 16 years of age or older. An exception may be determined by the pastor.
- A sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (one who has celebrated Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation)
- A sponsor must lead a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken.
- A sponsor must not be bound by any church penalty.
- A sponsor must **not** be a parent of the one to be Confirmed.

LETTER GUIDELINES

Letter should be addressed: Dear _____ (information will be given at
a later date)

And signed: Sincerely, (student's full name)

Letter should consist of three paragraphs with the following contents:

- First: Introduction and why the student wants to be confirmed
- Second: What the student has done to prepare for confirmation
- Third: Ways the student plans to continue living the life of the Catholic faith

- * Proofread letter carefully for spelling and grammar
- * Letter should be no longer than one page in length, double spaced, with a font size of 12.

Letters will be submitted to the Confirmation Celebrant prior to the ceremony.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

Hours due: March 17, 2010

The purpose of service hours is for the Candidates to explore the many gifts and talents God has given them, so they in turn are able to decide how to use these talents to serve Christ. The connection between Confirmation and service is this: That each confirmed Christian has a calling and a responsibility to serve as a living example of Jesus' teachings – to serve one another. God calls us to serve and we say, "Here I am, Lord!"

Requirements:

1. The students must complete a total of 10 hours in the 7th grade year and 10 hours in the 8th grade year. These hours will need to be completed over three separate areas – family, parish, and community.
2. Hours are due on or before Wednesday, March 17, 2010.
3. Candidates must document their hours on the Stewardship Reflection form when that service is completed. These forms are to be filled out **by the student** and will be available each week at the Religious Formation classes and also on the parish website at stcharlesomaha.org under the Religious Formation heading. The completed forms can be turned in to their catechist or the RF office.

GUIDELINES FOR STEWARDSHIP HOURS

- * Service should reflect work done beyond the usual chores and duties done at home
- * Service should not have any financial rewards
- * Service should be done with a willing heart and carried out in a generous spirit



CONFIRMATION RETREAT INFORMATION

The Confirmation retreat is designed to be a special day for the Candidates. It's a time to be with one another and reflect on the journey ahead. The Confirmation retreat is a **mandatory** part of Confirmation preparation. If the candidate is unable to attend the retreat, arrangements will be made for them to attend a retreat with another parish.

This year the Confirmation retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, September 19, 2009**, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Holy Family Shrine.

Directions to the Shrine:

WEST on "Q" Street to Hwy 31

Follow Hwy 31 SOUTH through Gretna to I-80

Stay on Hwy 31 and continue SOUTH past the Flying "J" to Pflug Road.

Turn WEST on Pflug Road for about a mile and turn NORTH into the parking lot for the Shrine.

Please have the students to the Shrine on time. We will begin promptly at 8:00.

Students may wish to bring a blanket with them, but please no cell phones, iPods, or other electronic devices. We will be outside for part of the morning so have them dress accordingly. Morning snack will be provided.

Though it is not necessary, parents and/or sponsors are welcome to attend with their candidate.

INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Candidate's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (parent's cell)

Parent email: _____

Grade and School as of Fall 2009 _____

Birth Date: _____

Baptism Date: _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Address of Church: _____

Phone number of Church: _____

Year of First Reconciliation: _____

Church of First Reconciliation: _____

Year of First Eucharist: _____

Church of First Eucharist: _____

Mother's Name (including maiden): _____

Father's Name: _____

Are you/your family registered members of St. Charles Borromeo? Yes No

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Candidate's signature:

Parent's signature:

*** ALL CANDIDATES MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE.**

RETREAT PERMISSION FORM

STUDENT'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Liability and Release Form

Your son/daughter is eligible to participate in a parish sponsored activity requiring transportation to a location away from the parish grounds. This activity will take place under the guidance and supervision of employees and volunteers from St. Charles Borromeo parish. A brief description of the activity is listed below:

ACTIVITY: CONFIRMATION RETREAT
LOCATION: HOLY FAMILY SHRINE
TIME: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

Method of Transportation:

Students are to meet at the Holy Family Shrine no later than 7:50 a.m. If you would like your child to participate in the above event, please complete, sign and return the following statement of consent and release of liability. As parent or legal guardian, you remain fully responsible for any legal responsibility which may result from personal actions taken by your child. **RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE** the above named parish, its representatives or assignees for any and all claims and liability arising out of strict liability or ordinary negligence of release, which causes the undersigned any injury or property damage and further agrees to hold release harmless and indemnify release from any claim, judgment, or expenses releasee may incur by participation in the described activity. We hereby consent to participation of our child in the event described above. We understand that certain listed events will take place away from church grounds on that stated date. We further consent to the conditions above on participation in this event, including the method of transportation.

Release of Liability Statement

We the parent(s) or legal guardian of _____ do hereby release from any liability, St. Charles Borromeo Church, any and all adult volunteers and church staff in the event of any accident en route, during and returning from the activity named above that our child chooses to attend.

Parent's Signature _____ Emergency # _____

I understand that I am a representative of St. Charles Borromeo Parish. I will conduct myself in a manner which will reflect a positive, Christian image of myself, the parish, and the youth program

Student's Signature _____ Grade Level _____

Emergency Medical Agreement

The following authorization is given in regard to the above named child.

Name of Physician _____ Office Phone _____

Are there any existing medical conditions that an emergency physician would need to know? (Allergies, drug reactions, etc.) Condition _____

Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

I authorized a representative of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church to take my child to the above named physician or facility for medical treatment in the event of an emergency in which neither parent nor the adult in whose care the minor has been entrusted can be reached. If the above named physician cannot respond I authorize any physician or medical center to treat my child. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached, whom should we notify?

Name _____ Phone _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____