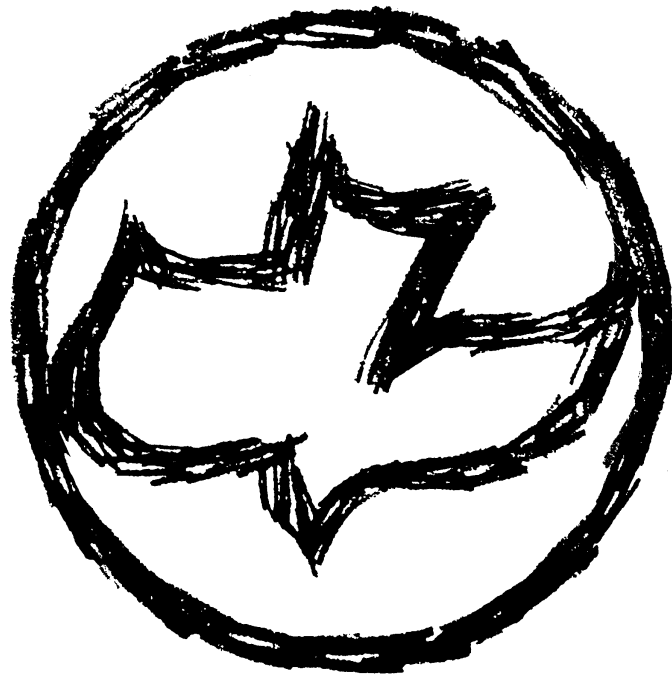


Preparing to Receive
The Sacrament of Confirmation

Church of Saint John Neumann

2008-2009



*Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:
Tuesday, May 5, 2009 ~ 7:00 p.m.
at the Cathedral of Saint Paul*

All forms and paperwork are available at www.sjn.org/youth.

Youth Confirmation Preparation Booklet ~ 2008-2009

Contents:

page(s): item(s):

- 4 SJN Policy Regarding Confirmation Preparation
- 5, 7 Schedules *(one copy for candidate & family; one copy for sponsor)*
- 6, 8 Explanations of the Preparation Process
- 9 The Journey through Confirmation
- 10 Suggested Resources for Candidates
- 11-12 Catholic Christian Teachings, Prayers, Etc.
- 13 Sponsor Form
- 15 Candidate & Sponsor Commitments
- 16 Suggestions for Sponsors
- 17-24 November, December, January, and February Pages
- 20 Instructions for Service Reflections (December & February)
- 22 Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- 25 Information Record
- 26 'Confirmation Name' Information
- 27 Letter of Intent & Letter of Support
- 29-30 Confirmation Preparation Process Overview:
Goal, Components, Theology, Timeline, Responsibilities

Youth Confirmation Preparation Policy

Preparation Year 2008-2009

Required to be a candidate:

- Participate in a formal faith formation program (for example: Family Taught, Clusters, TCC, “Beyond,” or parochial school) during the preparation year.
- Have participated in a formal faith formation program during the year prior to the preparation year.

A candidate who does not meet these prerequisites may be asked to wait until they are met.

Every candidate will:

- Attend all scheduled gatherings. If a gathering is missed, make-up materials will be provided and the sponsor should contact the director to notify that the make-up has been completed. See schedule for dates.
- Attend at least one retreat during the preparation year. The parish offers a retreat experience designed for the Confirmation preparation process.
- Turn in – on time – all paperwork. This includes the sponsor form, “monthly pages,” the candidate’s “letter of intent” written to the pastor, the sponsor’s “letter of support” written to the program director, and the Information Record. Deadlines for all paperwork are on the schedule and throughout the preparation booklet.
- Attend the Rite of Welcome and the Rite of Recognition.
- Regularly participate in Sunday Mass and other parish events and liturgies.

A candidate who does not fulfill these expectations may be asked to wait until the following year to prepare for Confirmation.

This policy and the sacramental preparation process are designed to provide the candidate with a complete and meaningful preparation for becoming a fully initiated and fully participating member of the Catholic community.

Questions may be directed to Jan Murphy at the parish office.



Saint John Neumann

Confirmation Preparation Schedule

2008-2009

~

Candidate / Family Copy

September 28 <i>(Sunday)</i>	6:00-7:00	Rite of Welcome (6:00 p.m. Mass)	SJN Worship Space
	7:15-8:30	Parent, Candidate, & Sponsor Gathering <i>Sponsor Form</i> (page 13) is due	" " " " " "
November 30 <i>(Sunday)</i>	7:15-8:30	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering "November Pages" (pages 17-18) are due	SJN Worship Space " " "
December 31		"December Page" (page 19) is due	Mail/Fax/E/Drop
January 18 <i>(Sunday)</i>	7:15-8:30	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering	SJN Worship Space
January 24-25		Retreat I (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
January 31		"January Page" (page 21) is due	Mail/Fax/E/Drop
February 21-22		Retreat II (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
February 28		"February Pages" (pages 23-24) are due	Mail/Fax/E/Drop
March 14-25		Retreat III (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
March 28-29		Retreat IV (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
March 31		"Information Record" (page 25) is due	Mail/Fax/E/Drop
		Candidate's <i>Letter of Intent</i> is due (<i>see p. 27</i>)	" " " "
		Sponsor's <i>Letter of Support</i> is due (<i>see p. 27</i>)	" " " "
(APRIL 12, EASTER)			
May 3 <i>(Sunday)</i>	5:00	Confirmation Final Gathering and Rehearsal	SJN Worship Space
	6:00 Mass	Rite of Sending	" " "
	7:00	Reception and Celebration	SJN Social Area
May 5 <i>(Tuesday Evening)</i>	7:00-8:45	THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION	Saint Paul Cathedral

. *all components of the preparation process are required of all candidates*

If a sponsor cannot attend a "Candidate and Sponsor" gathering, a parent or guardian of the candidate needs to attend.
Jan Murphy is Director of Confirmation Preparation for Saint John Neumann. Contact Jan at janm@sjn.org or (651) 454-2079 x2228.

Confirmation Preparation Process Explanations

2008-2009

- Rite of Welcome** *September 28.* Formal recognition by the parish community. Candidates present their Baptism Certificates signifying the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation. *Candidates will receive it back at the Reception following the Rite of Sending!* There is a **Candidate, Sponsor, and Parent Gathering** following the Rite of Welcome on September 28.
Important: Record the date and place of Baptism (found on the Baptism Certificate) on page 25!
- Initial Gathering** *September 28.* Preview of the Confirmation preparation process.
- Sponsor Form** *September 28.* Candidates receive and submit a page on which to write whom they have chosen as sponsors and why.
- Candidate/Sponsor Gatherings** *November 30 and January 18.* Both of these gatherings (take place in the Worship Space. If the sponsor cannot attend, a parent or other responsible/influential adult must come.
May 3. This final Gathering includes the Rehearsal and is required of all candidates and sponsors; again, if the sponsor cannot attend, another adult must be present in the sponsor's place.
- "Monthly Pages"** *Due as indicated on the Schedule.* Four months have reflection pages in the booklet to fill out reflectively and prayerfully and then turned in. The *November, January, and February Pages* have questions for the candidate and sponsor to explore and discuss together (*at a time/place of their own choosing*). The *December Page* is for the candidate only. "*Monthly Pages*" are due at the parish office **on time**, no later than the dates indicated both on the schedule and on the "*pages*" themselves. There are multiple methods for turning in the "*Pages*," as indicated on the schedule.
- Retreat** There are four *identical* weekend retreats held at Camp Friendship in Annandale, MN (dates on schedule) with no more than one-fourth of the candidates attending each one. The bus leaves SJN at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and returns to SJN at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. *Mass is during the retreat; sign-up takes place at the September 28 Gathering; important details are mailed two weeks before the retreat along with parking list and permission slip.*
Adults over 21 are needed to chaperone each retreat. Chaperones must have attended a Prohibited Behaviors Policy Orientation (offered throughout the year). Any retreat without enough chaperones will be cancelled.
- Information Record** *Due March 31.* Candidates submit this form with details for the official parish records both at SJN and at the church of baptism.
- Candidate's Letter of Intent** *Due March 31.* Candidates write a letter to Father Charlie Lachowitz to express their desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
The letter is delivered to Jan Murphy, who will forward all of the letters together.
- Sponsor's Letter of Support** *Due March 31.* Sponsors write a letter to Jan Murphy to express support and affirmation as their candidates prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Rehearsal** *May 3.* See *Candidate/Sponsor Gatherings*, above.
- Rite of Sending** *May 3.* Since the sacrament is received at the Cathedral in Saint Paul and not at Saint John Neumann, the parish will have a special recognition and celebration at SJN's 6:00 Mass.
- Reception** *May 3.* There will be a casual reception and celebration in the Social Area immediately following the Rite of Recognition.
- Sacrament of Confirmation** ***May 5. Candidates, sponsors, and families arrive at the Cathedral between 6:15 and 6:45 p.m. Detailed information will be mailed several weeks before Confirmation.***

All forms and paperwork are available at www.sjn.org/youth.

Saint John Neumann Confirmation Preparation Schedule

2008-2009

~

Sponsor Copy

September 28 <i>(Sunday)</i>	6:00-7:00 7:15-8:30	Rite of Welcome (6:00 p.m. Mass) Parent, Candidate, & Sponsor Gathering <i>Sponsor Form</i> (page 13) is due	SJN Worship Space " " " " " "
November 30 <i>(Sunday)</i>	7:15-8:30	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering "November Pages" (pages 17-18) are due	SJN Worship Space " " "
December 31		"December Page" (page 19) is due	Mail/Fax/E/Drop
January 18 <i>(Sunday)</i>	7:15-8:30	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering	SJN Worship Space
January 24-25		Retreat I (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
January 31		"January Page" (page 21) is due	Mail/Fax/E/Drop
February 21-22		Retreat II (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
February 28		"February Pages" (pages 23-24) are due	Mail/Fax/E/Drop
March 14-25		Retreat III (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
March 28-29		Retreat IV (50 candidates)	Camp Friendship
March 31		"Information Record" (page 25) is due Candidate's <i>Letter of Intent</i> is due (<i>see p. 27</i>) Sponsor's <i>Letter of Support</i> is due (<i>see p. 27</i>)	Mail/Fax/E/Drop " " " " " " " "
<i>(APRIL 12, EASTER)</i>			
May 3 <i>(Sunday)</i>	5:00 6:00 Mass 7:00	Confirmation Final Gathering and Rehearsal Rite of Sending Reception and Celebration	SJN Worship Space " " " SJN Social Area
May 5 <i>(Tuesday Evening)</i>	7:00-8:45	THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION	Saint Paul Cathedral

all components of the preparation process are required of all candidates

If a sponsor cannot attend a "Candidate and Sponsor" gathering, a parent or guardian of the candidate needs to attend.
Jan Murphy is Director of Confirmation Preparation for Saint John Neumann. Contact Jan at janm@sjn.org or (651) 454-2079 x2228.

Confirmation Preparation Process Explanations

2008-2009

- Rite of Welcome** *September 28.* Formal recognition by the parish community. Candidates present their Baptism Certificates signifying the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation. *Candidates will receive it back at the Reception following the Rite of Sending!* There is a **Candidate, Sponsor, and Parent Gathering** following the Rite of Welcome on September 28.
Important: Record the date and place of Baptism (found on the Baptism Certificate) on page 25!
- Initial Gathering** *September 28.* Preview of the Confirmation preparation process.
- Sponsor Form** *September 28.* Candidates receive and submit a page on which to write whom they have chosen as sponsors and why.
- Candidate/Sponsor Gatherings** *November 30 and January 18.* Both of these gatherings (take place in the Worship Space. If the sponsor cannot attend, a parent or other responsible/influential adult must come.
May 3. This final Gathering includes the Rehearsal and is required of all candidates and sponsors; again, if the sponsor cannot attend, another adult must be present in the sponsor's place.
- "Monthly Pages"** *Due as indicated on the Schedule.* Four months have reflection pages in the booklet to fill out reflectively and prayerfully and then turned in. The *November, January, and February Pages* have questions for the candidate and sponsor to explore and discuss together (*at a time/place of their own choosing*). The *December Page* is for the candidate only. "*Monthly Pages*" are due at the parish office **on time**, no later than the dates indicated both on the schedule and on the "*pages*" themselves. There are multiple methods for turning in the "*Pages*," as indicated on the schedule.
- Retreat** There are four *identical* weekend retreats held at Camp Friendship in Annandale, MN (dates on schedule) with no more than one-fourth of the candidates attending each one. The bus leaves SJN at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and returns to SJN at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. *Mass is during the retreat; sign-up takes place at the September 28 Gathering; important details are mailed two weeks before the retreat along with parking list and permission slip.*
Adults over 21 are needed to chaperone each retreat. Chaperones must have attended a Prohibited Behaviors Policy Orientation (offered throughout the year). Any retreat without enough chaperones will be cancelled.
- Information Record** *Due March 31.* Candidates submit this form with details for the official parish records both at SJN and at the church of baptism.
- Candidate's Letter of Intent** *Due March 31.* Candidates write a letter to Father Charlie Lachowitz to express their desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
The letter is delivered to Jan Murphy, who will forward all of the letters together.
- Sponsor's Letter of Support** *Due March 31.* Sponsors write a letter to Jan Murphy to express support and affirmation as their candidates prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Rehearsal** *May 3.* See *Candidate/Sponsor Gatherings*, above.
- Rite of Sending** *May 3.* Since the sacrament is received at the Cathedral in Saint Paul and not at Saint John Neumann, the parish will have a special recognition and celebration at SJN's 6:00 Mass.
- Reception** *May 3.* There will be a casual reception and celebration in the Social Area immediately following the Rite of Recognition.
- Sacrament of Confirmation** ***May 5. Candidates, sponsors, and families arrive at the Cathedral between 6:15 and 6:45 p.m. Detailed information will be mailed several weeks before Confirmation.***

All forms and paperwork are available at www.sjn.org/youth.

The Journey through Confirmation

You are on a faith journey that includes the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 5, 2009. The steps you are taking will include many varied experiences. You will have discussions, serve people in need, pray and worship alone and with others, learn about this sacrament, share your thoughts and ideas and opinions and wisdom with fellow candidates, grow in your relationship with God, and be molded by God's Spirit into a more fully participating member of the Catholic Church.

Our hope and our prayer is that you truly experience the Body of Christ and the Kingdom of God this year. We pray that you experience God's love in prayer and in your relationships with others. We pray that you feel at home in your faith community. We pray that you know God's peace and joy in your ongoing response to be who God has created you to be – and called you to become. We pray that you see life's deepest meaning as you serve others and turn your love and your faith into action.

We also hope that you experience what can seem to be the *lack* of the Kingdom of God. Where is it unseen? Where are God's work and truth being denied? Where is Jesus' Name not proclaimed? Where are fear, hatred, doubt, despair, and darkness? (Even in these places, God is present....)

And We pray that you dive into one of life's deepest invitations: How will you live as Jesus' disciple, empowered by the Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist to allow God to build the Kingdom in the world around you – and through you?

Confirmation will complete the process of fully initiating you as a member of the Body of Christ – and this is a membership that is far less about rights and benefits than about life, love, grace, mercy, compassion, celebration, evangelization, prayer, worship, justice, hope, and truth.

We look forward to being with you through all of the experiences that lead to that moment on May 5 when the Bishop will say to you, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." And when you respond with your "Amen" to him and to God, your journey will take a greater focus. Confirmation is neither beginning nor end – it is a step in the journey, a pause under a waterfall of gifts that never wash away. Nourished by the Eucharist, you will live every moment of your life as a disciple of Jesus, in a community of love, worship, and justice, bringing God's love, peace, joy, and hope to the people whose journeys intersect with your own, whether family, friend, or stranger.

As you commit to this portion of your journey, you may find yourself with questions and wonderings about God, about your faith, about the Catholic Church, and about your part in it all. When this happens, lean on your sponsor for support. Talk to parents, catechists, us, and other adults in your life. Let this community encourage you. Together, we will work and pray to make your Confirmation a meaningful and significant experience. God has great things in store for you and wonderful gifts to give you; let us discover these things and celebrate them as one community of faith, hope, and love.

*You are moving toward the moment when
God and the Church will Confirm in you
the presence, the gift, and the gifts
of the Holy Spirit.*

Peace to you as you prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation!

~ The Confirmation Preparation and Youth Ministry Team

Resources for Candidates

Books:

The Bible (The “New American Bible” is the translation used at Mass)
The Catechism of the Catholic Church
The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth (Saint Mary’s Press, www.smp.org)
Your Confirmation: A Journey of Questions & Answers (Liguori Press, www.liguori.org)
Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens (Upper Room Books, www.upperroom.org)

Websites:

www.vatican.va - The Vatican
www.scborromeo.org/ccc.htm - Online edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
www.usccb.org - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (scripture, teachings, etc.)
www.newadvent.org/cathen - Catholic Encyclopedia
www.holyspiritinteractive.net/youth - Holy Spirit Interactive (questions & answers, teachings, etc.)
www.catholicanswers.org - Catholic Answers
www.catholic.org - Catholic Online (prayers, saints, etc.)
www.archspm.org - Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
www.sjn.org - Saint John Neumann
www.sjn.org/youth - SJN’s Youth Ministry pages

Suggested Questions To Ask Your Sponsor:

How do you pray? When? Where? Why? Etc.
What does the Eucharist mean to you? Reconciliation?
What did your Confirmation mean to you?
How do you know there is a God? Do you ever doubt?
What do you do when you doubt?
Why is it so easy to forget God? Why is it so easy to sin?
How is your relationship with Jesus? What is it like?
How do I develop a deeper relationship with Jesus?
Why are you Catholic?
How does God help you through difficult times?
How can God help me through difficult times?
How is the Holy Spirit active in your life?
How can I know what God wants me to do with my life?

Be sure to show your sponsor and parents/guardians your appreciation for their time, prayer, commitment and love!

Catholic Christian Teachings:

- ❑ God loves us.
- ❑ God calls each and every one of us to have a personal friendship with him. It is up to us to accept God's invitation.
- ❑ God is three Persons in one God; there aren't three gods; there is one God who exists as three distinct Persons: Father (revealed to us as Yahweh), Son (revealed to us as Jesus), and Holy Spirit.
- ❑ Jesus is 100% human and 100% divine (God). That might seem to add up to 200%, but it just shows how unique Jesus is in all of history.
- ❑ Jesus died on the cross to take our sins away, to remove whatever separates us from knowing God now and living with God in eternity.
- ❑ If we love God, then we also love what God does and what God makes. God makes people, and loving them is part of loving God.
- ❑ Loving people with our hearts (emotional love), loving people by serving them (servant love), and loving people by praying for them and desiring the best for them (spiritual love) are all parts of the same love. We need all of them in order to truly love.
- ❑ God lives in us and through us.
- ❑ If we want peace in the world, we have to work for justice in the world.
- ❑ There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick.
- ❑ Baptism washes away "original sin." When receiving the sacrament a person receives the Holy Spirit and is welcomed into the Church family.
- ❑ Through Confirmation, God and the Church "confirm" the presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit in the person receiving the sacrament.
- ❑ The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus; there is no bread or wine remaining after the prayers of "consecration" (which means, "making sacred").
- ❑ A person receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation is forgiven (by God, through the priest) and welcomed back to the faith community (by God and the Church, through the priest).
- ❑ The Church is described as the People of God and the Body of Christ.
- ❑ The Pope is the bishop of the diocese of Rome.
- ❑ The Pope leads and serves the whole Church, including the Bishops. The Bishops lead and serve their local dioceses, including the pastors of the churches in their local dioceses. The pastors lead and serve their particular churches.
- ❑ The Church leadership provides true teachings regarding faith and morals.
- ❑ The Church has given us a set of teachings known as the Creed. "Creed" means, "I believe."
- ❑ We encounter God in the Church; we encounter God in the Bible; we encounter God in prayer and worship; we encounter God when we serve and work for justice.
- ❑ God never leaves us, no matter how deep the fear, and no matter how frightening the darkness. God is our ever present help and shield; God's love is constant.
- ❑ God is faithful, and God's love is true.

Catholic Christian Prayers, Teachings:

- ❑ **The Lord's Prayer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

- ❑ **Hail Mary:** Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- ❑ **Glory Be:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- ❑ **Act of Self-Dedication:** Take O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding
and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess you have given me:
I surrender it all to you to be disposed of according to your will. Give me only
your love and your grace; with these I will be rich enough, and will desire
nothing more. Amen.

- ❑ **Nicene Creed:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and our salvation He came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became human.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the scriptures:
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

- ❑ **The Ten Commandments:** 1) I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have other gods besides me.
2) You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3) Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.
4) Honor your father and your mother.
5) You shall not kill.
6) You shall not commit adultery.
7) You shall not steal.
8) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10) You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

(see Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21)



Saint John Neumann

Confirmation Sponsor Form

This will be collected at the Candidate, Parent, & Sponsor Gathering on September 28, 2008.

Candidate Information:

Full Name _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Sponsor Information:

Full Name _____

Full Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Questions for the Candidate:

What is your relationship with your sponsor? (How do you know each other?)

Why did you choose this person to be your sponsor?

How do you expect your sponsor to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus and your commitment to the church?



My Commitment as a Candidate

Confirmation Preparation 2008-2009

(Sponsor: Please keep this whole page.)

As I journey toward receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 5, 2009, I commit myself to prayer, to worship with my faith community, and to moral decisions that keep me on the path Jesus set for me.

Specifically, I commit to:

My Sponsor can hold me accountable by:

Signed,

(candidate)

d o n o t t u r n t h i s p a g e i n !

My Commitment as a Sponsor

Confirmation Preparation 2008-2009

(Sponsor: Please keep this whole page.)



As my Candidate journeys toward receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 5, 2009, I commit myself to pray for, to support, and to guide my Candidate. I commit to growing in my own faith and my own relationship with God, sharing these openly, honestly, and with conviction.

I will hold my Candidate accountable by:

Signed,

(sponsor)

Suggestions for Sponsors:



1) Get Together

- a) Go out for a snack or a meal.
- b) Take a walk, play in a park.
- c) Make a meal for your candidate.
- d)

2) Share Together

- a) Discuss a movie, a book, an article....
- b) Discuss the readings from Mass.
- c) Talk about what each of you believes about God and about life, and why; share the stories of your faith.
- d) Talk about your hopes and dreams.
- e) Share what God has done and is doing in your life.
- f)

3) Serve Together

- a) Create and organize a new service opportunity in your community.
- b) Discover and participate in local or regional service opportunities.
- c) Research local, regional, and global justice issues.
- d) Commit to praying together for justice in a specific area or issue.
- e)

4) Pray Together

- a) Go to Mass together.
- b) Share needs with each other and pray for the other person.
- c) Discuss and pray for current events and issues.
- d) Work through a daily or weekly devotional book together.
- e) Pray regularly for each other, even when apart.
- f) Attend special prayer and worship services offered by your and/or your candidate's parish.
- g)

5) Stay In Touch

- a) Attend community or school events your candidate is involved in; congratulate and affirm your candidate's performance.
- b) Send birthday, holiday, thank you, and encouragement cards.
- c) Send occasional affirmation notes.
- d) Send a card on the anniversary of the other's baptism.
- e) Send encouraging e-mails.
- f) Call your candidate to encourage, affirm, congratulate, offer support.
- g) Go out of your way to be sure your candidate knows your love and appreciation.
- h) Encourage your acquaintances to know and use your candidate's name.
- i) Continue your contact and your prayer long after the celebration of the sacrament.
- j)

November, 2008

Turn this sheet in at the November 30 Candidate & Sponsor Gathering

Candidate and Sponsor:

Get together any time during November. Discuss these questions, writing down your thoughts. This is for honest, prayerful reflection. The Candidate writes the responses.

- How do I define “Church”? What is my experience of Church?

- What do I expect of the Catholic Church? Are these expectations realistic? Does the Church live up to these expectations? In what ways?

- What does the Catholic Church expect of me? Are these expectations realistic? Do I live up to these expectations? In what ways?

- How does the Church support me in my life and faith? How would I like the Church to support me?

- How do I support the Church in its mission and ministries? What does God want me to do?

- Do I feel at home with my church community? What might need to happen, within myself and within the church as a whole, for me to feel completely at home with my church community?

*For as in one body we have many parts,
and all the parts do not have the same function,
so we, though many, are one body in Christ
and individually parts of one another.
{Romans 12:4-5}*

see back of page!

Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's E-Mail (if applicable): _____

November, 2008

Turn this sheet in at the November 30 Candidate & Sponsor Gathering

Candidate,

Please write in your responses before coming to the Gathering on November 30.

- If someone said I could receive the sacrament of Confirmation right now, what would my reaction be? Would I go ahead with it right now? Why or why not?

- What do I still need before I receive this sacrament?

- What will I do to make sure that I am fully prepared to receive Confirmation on April 29? In other words, what steps can I take to acquire the things I said I was lacking in the previous question?

- Who is primarily responsible for preparing me for this sacrament?

- What requests do I have of the church to help me prepare for Confirmation?

*Give thanks to the Lord, invoke God's name;
make known among the nations God's deeds.*

*Sing to God, sing God's praise,
proclaim all God's wondrous deeds.*

*Glory in God's holy name;
rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord!
Look to the Lord in God's strength;
seek to serve God constantly.*

remove page cleanly along perforation

December, 2008

Turn in this sheet before December 31

Candidate's Service Reflection – see back of page for details.

Serving Family ~ Serving God

Serving Community ~ Serving God

What I did:

When:

What I did:

When:

Why I chose this service:

Why I chose this service:

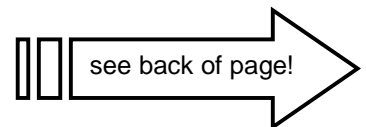
How this service affected others:

How this service affected others:

What I learned / How this service affected me:

What I learned / How this service affected me:

r e m o v e p a g e c l e a n l y a l o n g p e r f o r a t i o n



Candidate's Name: _____
Candidate's E-Mail (if applicable): _____

December, 2008

Thoughts to ponder before completing the Service Reflections:

What I did:

It's up to you; rather, it's up to God's Spirit moving through you! Pray about it. Do something that really has an impact on another person or a group of people. While you don't have to try to be a superhero, service is about stepping into the reality of what another person needs – and taking action.

When:

Serving others is a part of everyday life. Service "recorded" on this sheet should be done during December, or at least very close to December. In other words, please don't ask if service done during the summer "counts." It counts as far as Christian life, but not for the purposes of this particular reflection sheet.

Why I chose this service:

A member of the Confirmation Review Team will be reading this reflection sheet – give that person a good idea of why you chose what you did. What is going on with your family that it was a good idea for you to do this? What made you step up and take this sort of action in your community?

How this service affected others:

Your service was genuine; you made a difference. What happened? How does God fit into this? Will your service change anything about your family? Will your service change anything about the community? The world?

What I learned / How this service affected me:

Try to avoid using words like "I helped them" or "they were less fortunate" or "I'm lucky....". Go deeper. Again, how does God fit in? Will your service change anything about yourself?

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him and say, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?"

And the king will say to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least of mine, you did for me."

-Matthew 25:31-40

January, 2009

Turn in this sheet before January 31

Candidate and Sponsor: meet together to discuss this page. The candidate writes the responses.

Called to Bring God's Peace to God's People

What is God asking you to do?

Around the world, and in your neighborhood, people are suffering. Hunger. Homelessness. War. Oppression. Violence. Racism. Hatred. Drugs. Pornography. Persecution. Depression. Abuse. Loneliness. Fear. Disease. And so much more.

It seems to be a part of life, but it destroys life, erodes hope, challenges faith, etc.

You have some decisions to make. God is calling you to be an instrument of faith, hope, and love. As Christians we make peace and justice a priority, not an "extra." So, what *can* you do? What *should* you do? *What will you do?*

This month, explore some of these decisions. Use the questions below to reflect on what direction God is leading you to bring peace to God's people.

"If you want peace, work for justice." – Pope Paul VI

o **What have I done in the past (or what am I involved in now) to work for peace (or justice)?**

o **What issues am I most interested in? What area or areas of human need grab my attention?**

o **Spend some time praying about all this. Now, choose one area to explore further.**

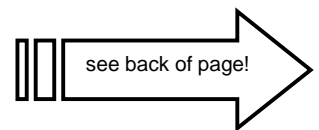
o **Write that area of human need here:** _____

o **What are the causes of this need?**

o **What does God want done about it?**

o **What am I able to do about it?**

o **What do I need to do or learn in order to be more effective in bringing God's peace to this situation?**



Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's E-Mail (if applicable): _____

Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

(Office of Social Justice, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis | www.osjspm.org)

Human Dignity

In a world warped by materialism and declining respect for human life, the Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

Community and the Common Good

In a global culture driven by excessive individualism, our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Our Church teaches that the role of the government and other institutions is to protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good.

Rights and Responsibilities

Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities -- to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

Participation

All people have a right to participate in the economic, political, and cultural life of society. It is a fundamental demand of justice and a requirement for human dignity that all people be assured a minimum level of participation in the community. Conversely, it is wrong for a person or a group to be excluded unfairly or to be unable to participate in society. In the words of the U.S. bishops, "The ultimate injustice is for a person or group to be treated actively or abandoned passively as if they were non-members of the human race. To treat people this way is effectively to say they simply do not count as human beings."

Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

In a marketplace where too often the quarterly bottom line takes precedence over the rights of workers, we believe that the economy must serve people, not the other way around. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected -- the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property and to economic initiative.

Stewardship of Creation

Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions which cannot be ignored.

Solidarity

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Solidarity means that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

Role of Government

Because we are social beings, the state is natural to the person. Therefore, the state has a positive moral function. It is an instrument to promote human dignity, protect human rights, and build the common good. Its purpose is to assist citizens in fulfilling their responsibility to others in society. Since, in a large and complex society these responsibilities cannot adequately be carried out on a one-to-one basis, citizens need the help of government in fulfilling these responsibilities and promoting the common good. According to the principle of subsidiarity, the functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible, as long as they can be performed adequately. If they cannot, then a higher level of government should intervene to provide help.

Promotion of Peace

Catholic teaching promotes peace as a positive, action-oriented concept. In the words of Pope John Paul II, "Peace is not just the absence of war. It involves mutual respect and confidence between peoples and nations. It involves collaboration and binding agreements." There is a close relationship in Catholic teaching between peace and justice. Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon right order among human beings.

February, 2009

Turn in this sheet before February 28

Candidate's Service Reflection

Serving Family ~ Serving God

Serving Community ~ Serving God

What I did:

When:

What I did:

When:

Why I chose this service:

Why I chose this service:

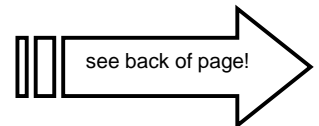
How this service affected others:

How this service affected others:

What I learned / How this service affected me:

What I learned / How this service affected me:

remove page cleanly along perforation



Candidate's Name: _____
Candidate's E-Mail (if applicable): _____

February, 2009

Turn in this sheet before February 28

Candidate and Sponsor:

Get together any time during February. Discuss these questions, jotting down a few thoughts. This is for honest, prayerful reflection. The Candidate writes the responses.

- Who is Jesus for me? What has been my experience of God?

- What do I expect of God? Are these expectations realistic? Does God “live up to” them? How?

- What does God expect of me? Are these expectations realistic? Do I live up to them? How?

- What is my prayer life like? How would I like it to be? How would God like it to be?

- I am now two or three months from receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. Will I be ready? What can I or should I do to fully prepare myself?

- What more, if anything, would I like from the church to help me prepare for Confirmation?

*God saved us and called us to a holy life,
not according to our works but according to God's own design
and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began,
but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus,
who destroyed death and brought life and immortality
to light through the gospel.*

Church of Saint John Neumann
Information Record for Confirmation

This form is due to Jan Murphy absolutely no later than March 31, 2009.

*The following information is required for the permanent record of Confirmation.
Please enter all information fully and clearly. Please print.*

Name of Confirmand: _____
First Middle Last

Confirmand's Age: _____ Confirmand's Birthdate: _____

Confirmation Name: This is the name that will be printed on your nametag at the Confirmation Liturgy. The Bishop will call you by this name. **It is recommended that you use your Baptismal Name (first name) as your Confirmation Name.** See the back of this page for additional information.

CONFIRMATION NAME: _____ Write *only* the CONFIRMATION NAME. For example, if the candidate's name is Elaine Mary Capofreddi and she wishes to use her *Baptismal* Name, she writes **Elaine** on the line, not Elaine Capofreddi or Elaine Mary or Elaine Mary Capofreddi. However, if she chooses to **not** use her Baptismal Name but instead chooses a *Confirmation* Name: *Bernadette* for *Saint Bernadette*, **the only thing she would write on the line above would be "Bernadette," not Elaine Bernadette or Elaine Mary Bernadette or Elaine Mary Bernadette Capofreddi (or even Saint Bernadette). Just simply, Bernadette.**

We send notice of Confirmation to the church where this person received Baptism:

PLACE OF BAPTISM:

Name of Church: _____

Full Address: _____

City State Zip Code

Date of Baptism: _____

*Complete this section even if you were baptized at Saint John Neumann.
INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED.*

HOME ADDRESS: _____
City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER: _____ PRIMARY E-MAIL: _____

PARENTS' NAMES: (We need the names listed on the baptismal certificate, whether birth-, adoptive-, or step-parents.)

Father: _____
First Last

Mother: _____
First Last (include maiden name)

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR: _____
First Last

Deliver to:
Jan Murphy
Church of Saint John Neumann
4030 Pilot Knob Road
Eagan, MN 55122
fax: 651.905.0389

Office Use Only: Minister: _____ Date: _____
Computer: _____
Record: _____

remove page cleanly along perforation

Confirmation Name

The following is excerpted from information provided by the Worship Center of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis:

Personal names are often taken for granted, yet parents often spend many hours deliberating when choosing a name for a newborn. Sometimes a child is named to honor a relative, and sometimes a child is named after a saint held in high esteem by the family. Sometimes a person has a special “nickname” used only by close relatives. Whatever the origin of our names, they become part of our history and our identity.

Names are important in our religious tradition as well. The prophet Isaiah, speaking in God’s name, proclaims to King Cyrus, “it is I, the Lord...who call you by your name” (Isaiah 45:3-4). After the resurrection, it was only when Jesus called Mary Magdalene by name that she recognized him (John 20:16).

Our names are used at our baptism and become part of our religious history. For many centuries it was customary to use only the names of saints at baptism, but the baptismal rite now permits other names as long as they are not incompatible with Christian faith.

Since Confirmation is now seen in relationship to baptism, any discussion of a “confirmation name” must be placed in the context of the relationship of confirmation to baptism. Confirmation is seen as a “seal” of the faith and grace given in baptism.

Since the rite contains no specific directive otherwise, it presumes that those to be confirmed will be addressed by the name at their baptism.

Choosing a separate confirmation name had been a centuries-old custom for those baptized as infants but confirmed later. But this practice emphasizes a separation between the two sacraments that is at variance with our renewed understanding of the inter-relationship of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist as the three sacraments of Christian initiation. And although popular in many places, a “confirmation name” is nowhere mentioned in either the old or new *Code of Canon Law*.

Thus there is no obligation to use a name at confirmation that is different from the name given at baptism.

Taking a new name can be symbolic of a new stage in life, and we must remember that there is a biblical history of individuals whose names changed: Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul. But the celebration of confirmation is a time to reaffirm one’s baptism and thus should not be seen so much as a new stage of Christian life but as an opportunity to deepen the graces of baptism.

Celebrating the sacrament of confirmation can be an opportunity for candidates to reflect on what baptism and union with Christ should mean in their lives. It can also be an occasion for the candidates to reflect on how they should live out their baptismal commitment in the future, imitating the holy men and women of previous ages.

There may, however, be appropriate and pastoral reasons for someone to choose another patron saint and use this saint’s name when being confirmed. This name, freely chosen and reflecting the candidate’s devotion to a saint, can be a sign of commitment to living as a Christian in today’s world under the patronage of someone they admire. ***Ideally, such a confirmation name would be used in addition to the baptismal name, not in place of it, and would be the name of a saint to whom the person being confirmed has a particular devotion.*** On the other hand, for most individuals, using the baptismal name alone can be a powerful reaffirmation of who they are as Christians.

The decision to choose a special patron (and name) at confirmation or to honor the name received at baptism should always be considered a secondary aspect of the celebration. What is ultimately being celebrated is God’s commitment to each baptized Christian through the gift of the Holy Spirit, a reality that should never be overshadowed, no matter what name is used!

March, 2009

Both “Letters” are due by March 31

(along with the Information Record)

Candidate’s Letter of Intent

This month, you will write a letter to Father Charlie, letting him know that you intend to receive Confirmation on May 5. **It is due to Jan Murphy no later than March 31.** Give the letter to Jan Murphy, who will then forward it to Father Charlie after recording that it has been turned in. **Do not give or send it directly to Father Charlie!**

The following is a semi-facetious sample letter.

Dear Father Charlie Lachowitz,

Hello! My name is Me, and I am writing to ask for your prayers as I receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA, Earth, Solar System, Milky Way, Universe.

I have fulfilled all of the requirements, including taking out the trash, memorizing the list of SJN members (I know all 493,172 names by heart!), playing nicely with my sponsor, and not running with scissors.

Through all of this work, I have really grown in my faith. God makes more sense to me now. I have spent more time praying, and I feel closer to God. Especially serving people – you know, making a difference in the world and making the world a different and better (more *just*) place. And especially after spending meaningful time with my awesome sponsor. And especially after the great Gatherings at church, when I learned so much from those amazing witness talks. And especially after the retreat – if I can sleep on those beds, I can do anything God will ever ask me to do.

I look forward to receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. If they’re from God, they’re gonna be good. They’ll help me live the way God wants me to. In fact, with those gifts God’s gonna change the world through me (and the other 199 of us!).

After God and the Church confirm the presence, gift, and gifts of the Holy Spirit in me, I will serve Saint John Neumann in many, many ways. I will be a lector. I will serve the poor. I will clean the bathrooms. I will organize the kitchen. I will read, respond to, and file all the paperwork Jan Murphy collects from us Confirmation Candidates. I will be involved in SJN’s social justice ministries. It will be good to be involved with the parish. It is a great way to keep God in focus.

It has been an honour working through this preparation with my sponsor. My sponsor is one heck of a great person and a magnificent gift to the world – really, the frosting on the cake, the top scoop on a triple cone (double-dipped in butterscotch, mind you). My sponsor is my mountaintop guru. I don’t know what life would be like without this person. Seriously!

Please pray for me and for all of us candidates as we receive Chocolate, um, I mean, Confirmation on May 5. Thank you.

Peace,

Me

Sponsor’s Letter of Support

Also due by March 31 is the Sponsor’s letter of support. She or he writes Jan Murphy a letter expressing support and affirmation as the candidate is about to receive Confirmation. **The candidate’s full name must be included very clearly and noticeably at the BEGINNING of the letter!**

Letters may be dropped off at the church or sent to:

Jan Murphy
Church of Saint John Neumann
4030 Pilot Knob Road
Eagan, MN 55122

Confirmation Preparation ~ Church of Saint John Neumann

Goal/Components/Theology/Timeline/Responsibilities

Goal: *Assist young people in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation by coordinating “a full experience of the Catholic Church” into which they are being initiated.*

“A Full Experience of the Catholic Church”

- **Worship**
 - Rites: Rite of Welcome, Rite of Sending (if before Confirmation), Rite of Confirmation, Rite of Recognition (if after Confirmation)
 - Opening and Closing Prayers during gatherings, prayer during the retreat
- **Community**
 - Initial Candidate/Sponsor/Parent Gathering, two additional Candidate & Sponsor Gatherings
 - Retreat (large group and small group community building)
 - Sponsor’s Letter of Support (candidate receives); Candidate’s Letter of Intent (connection with Pastor)
 - Rite of Welcome, Rite of Sending (or Recognition), Rite of Confirmation
 - Reception
- **Service/Charity**
 - 2 reflection sheets, each for one service to family and one service to parish and/or community
- **Justice**
 - 1 reflection sheet focusing on human needs to which God may be calling the candidate to respond
- **Catholic Christian Faith Formation**
 - Formal Faith Formation (parochial school, Family Taught, Cluster, or Teen Christian Community)
 - Gatherings
 - 1: What is Confirmation? 2: What does it mean to be Catholic? 3: Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - Retreat
 - What is this Catholic Christian life? What am I saying “yes” to?
 - Reflection Sheets (brief overview follows)
 - What are my expectations for this preparation process?
 - What is my experience of the Catholic Church?
 - How do I see my relationship with God?
 - Service & Justice
- **Mutual Discipleship**
 - Reflection sheets for candidate and sponsor to review together at their own convenience (Justice sheet is also for candidate and sponsor)
 - Encouragement for sponsors and candidates to find time together to pray, study, serve, etc.
 - Conversations and activities during the retreat
 - Sponsor’s Letter of Support

Brief Theology of the Sacraments of Initiation (with a focus on Confirmation)

- Sacraments of Initiation ~ the *teaching of*, the *learning and understanding of*, the *reception of*, and the *living out of* the sacrament of Confirmation must always be in context:
 - Baptism – Cleansed and Set Free, Welcomed and Brought into the Body, Filled with Spirit
 - Confirmation – Gifted, Empowered by the Spirit, Called to Serve and Evangelize
 - Eucharist – Nourished for Life and Love, Unified with the Body of Jesus the Christ, Sent to Serve
- God draws us into union with God’s self and empowers us to do what God does, which is love and service.
- Through the sacrament of Confirmation, God confirms the Gift and Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit in us.
- Through the sacrament of Confirmation, the Church confirms these in us through the Bishop (or designee).
- Confirmation takes place in us; its effects are both for us and for others, for the Kingdom and the glory of God. God’s love for us and our love for God are uncontainable; this love flows out in service and evangelization: as we are called and empowered (gifted) by the Spirit to respond to others’ real needs.

Approximate Preparation Timeline (not indicative of current year's dates)

- ❑ **Initial Gathering (Candidates, Parents, and Sponsors)**
 - Rite of Welcome
 - What is Confirmation? What is the preparation process? What is expected?
- ❑ **First "Monthly Page" // Candidate and Sponsor Gathering**
 - What is my experience of the Catholic Church? What does it mean to be Catholic?
- ❑ **Second "Monthly Page"**
 - Service reflection
- ❑ **Third "Monthly Page" // Candidate and Sponsor Gathering**
 - How am I called to bring about justice? Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - The first Retreat is usually in January (repeated four times, with ¼ of all candidates on each retreat)
- ❑ **Fourth "Monthly Page"**
 - Service reflection
 - How do I see my relationship with God?
- ❑ **Several Weeks before receiving Confirmation**
 - Candidate's Letter of Intent and Sponsor's Letter of Support
- ❑ **Several Days before receiving Confirmation**
 - Rehearsal (if schedule permits)
 - Rite of Sending and Reception (if parish Rite is celebrated before Confirmation)
- ❑ **Confirmation Day (and soon afterward)**
 - Rite of Confirmation
 - Rite of Recognition and Reception (if parish Rite is celebrated after Confirmation)
 - Invitation to Participate in Parish Ministries

Responsibilities

- ❑ **Candidate**
 - Pray. Study. Continue to develop a mature relationship with our Triune God.
 - Regularly participate in Sunday Mass and other parish liturgies and events.
 - Conscientiously complete all elements of the preparation process; turn in all paperwork on time.
- ❑ **Sponsor**
 - Pray for and support the candidate.
 - Guide the candidate through the preparation process in whatever ways are needed by the candidate.
 - Meet with the candidate as directed in the preparation materials, engaging the candidate in discussion regarding the questions provided.
 - Participate in all large-group gatherings (if sponsor cannot attend, parent or other meaningful and responsible adult must attend).
- ❑ **Parent**
 - Pray for and support the candidate.
 - Assist the sponsor in guiding the candidate through the preparation process.
- ❑ **Catechist**
 - Pray for and support the youth.
 - Share Catholic Christian faith with the youth as directed through the Faith Formation curriculum.
 - Be aware of the Confirmation preparation process, at least enough to answer scheduling questions.
- ❑ **Staff**
 - Pray for and support the candidates, sponsors, and parents.
 - Coordinate all elements of the preparation process.
 - Provide clear and effective communication.
- ❑ **Volunteers**
 - Assist candidate, sponsor, parent, catechist, and staff in reaching the goal of the preparation process.

All forms and paperwork are available at www.sjn.org/youth.

