



Confirmation Parent Packet

(2021-2022)

Spirit of God,
Descend upon us and our children. Confirm us in our faith and make us true to our calling as Christians. Bless our child who is preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Shower Your gifts and fruits upon our child and all those preparing to receive the special graces that You bestow. Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts.

DATES AND REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- _____ My child has attended Newman Faith Formation classes. See schedule.
- _____ My child has chosen a sponsor and completed and turned in the Sponsor Sheet. Due 12/12/21.
- _____ My child has chosen a saint name, and turned in the form, and completed their Saint project. Due 12/12/21.
- _____ If my child was not baptized or received First Holy Communion at Newman, I have turned in a baptismal certificate to Cheryl Lehman. If baptized at Newman, I have provided Cheryl with the month and year of the baptism. Due 12/12/21
- _____ My child will attend the Confirmation retreat. Children only from 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Sponsors arrive at 1PM for activity and rehearsal.
- _____ I have written and turned in letters for my child to Cheryl Lehman. Due 12/12/21. We will go over what these letters are at the parent meeting.
- _____ I have marked my calendar for the Confirmation Parent Meeting, Wednesday, September 22, in the Hoffman Room at 6pm. (one parent must attend) Parents only. **Your child does not attend this meeting.**
- _____ My child has completed an interview with Fr. Manno or Fr. Gonnella. This will happen during class time on Sunday mornings prior to Confirmation
- _____ My child has turned in their Service Hours Log Sheet. 35 hours between family, community and church.

Confirmation Mass Date: TBD
RETREAT DATE: TBD

Dear Confirmation Parents,

First, I want to thank you for making the decision to have your child receive the gift of the Sacrament of Confirmation. There has long been a misconception that Confirmation is merely some form of graduation ceremony for Catholics. As if, it is the “last step” or “hurdle” to being considered an “adult Catholic.” However, the Sacrament of Confirmation is so much more. It is a gift- a gift of God’s Grace poured out through the Church. It is a seal that completes Baptism- you are giving them a gift in encouraging them to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. By their being Confirmed, you are ensuring that all the graces of God and all the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit are available to them.

We know that for many of you it is difficult to get your children up on Sunday mornings for class, to get them to a retreat, and difficult for them to understand why this is so important. Know that we as a parish will do our best, not only to pray for your children, but to provide opportunities for them to come to understand why this is so important and to come to a place of desiring to receive this great gift.

Included in this packet is detailed information regarding the requirements and important dates that you will need to know. Please read through this packet carefully and mark your calendars with the dates provided. If there are dates that you know you will not be able to make, you will need to communicate with me so we can come up with a make-up project or time.

Because this Sacrament is so important, the Church requires that candidates be prepared accordingly. The expectation is that classes will be attended regularly. Work will need to be made up for all absences. Excessive absences will result in needing to meet with me and/or Fr. Manno.

We are excited to begin this year of preparation. Please feel free to call or email me at any time if you have any questions. My phone number is (815) 787-7770 ext. 129, or email at faithformation@newmanniu.org. I pray for God’s blessings on your family and all of the Confirmation Candidates in this coming year.

God bless,
Cheryl Lehman
Director of Faith Formation

HELPING YOUR CHILD CHOOSE A SPONSOR

Your child's sponsor is the special person chosen by him or her to represent the faith community at the Rite of Confirmation.

At Baptism, the Church community shares the responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given to your child. So too are we challenged to safeguard the grace given at Baptism. A sponsor journeys with the young person through the preparation for Confirmation, supporting and nurturing the faith of the young person.

The sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are intimately connected. Because of this, the Church encourages candidates for Confirmation to choose one of their baptismal godparents as a sponsor. At Baptism the godparents were witnesses to your son or daughter's sacrament which celebrated belonging- being welcome into a spiritual family. The presence of godparents ritualized and symbolized the presence of the community and her promise to support the newly baptized in a life of faith. A number of years later, your child preparing for Confirmation is taken on a journey of spiritual remembering- know and recognizing the presence of a God who has been, who is, and who always will be in one's life. This is a gift given at Baptism, celebrated at Eucharist, and now revisited in its completeness at Confirmation.

The sacred ground in a young person's life is marked by the footsteps of a loving community- of you the parents, of godparents, of nurturers of faith, of challengers to discipleship. It seems fitting that those who held the infant through the pouring forth of sacred water and the sealing with blessed oil would once again stand up as reminders to both the individual and community of the richness of belonging to the Body of Christ. You can guide your son or daughter in choosing a sponsor who is a person of faith.

As Church we are all challenged by what we witness in the laying on of hands and in the anointing with chrism- "hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." It may be a godparent or another adult in your child's life whose life is a witness to Christ and who will marvel at the privilege and opportunity of being a part of your family and your son or daughter's life by being a sponsor.

The *Code of Canon Law* and the *Rite of Confirmation* prescribe the requirements and duties of the sponsor:

As far as possible the person is to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament.

In Canon 893, para. 2 it states: "It is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at Baptism."

The two following statements from the *Rite of Confirmation* further illuminate the sponsor's function:

5. As a rule there should be a sponsor for each of those to be confirmed. These sponsors bring the candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the minister for the anointing, and will later help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.

6. Pastors will see that the sponsors, chosen by the candidates or their families, are spiritually fit to take on this responsibility and have these qualities:

- a. Sufficient maturity to fulfill their function;
- b. Membership in the Catholic Church and their own reception of Christian initiation through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- c. Freedom from any impediment of law to their fulfilling the office of sponsorship.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: You are Mine.”
Isaiah 43:1*

These words of God through the prophet Isaiah are powerful ones indeed. They tell us of a God who knows us so personally and deeply that he calls us by name.

At the beginning of the rite of Baptism the celebrant asks the parents: “What name do you give your child?” And parents spoke your name. From that moment on in the rite you were always called by this name.

Parents are encouraged to give their child the name of a saint (for at least one of the names). Why do you think the church suggests this? It is so that the child will have a special friend in heaven to be their guide throughout life.

In the rite of Confirmation you are again called by name. The Church encourages you to use the saint’s name given to you at Baptism as your Confirmation name to emphasize the strong connection between these two sacraments. If a candidate’s Baptismal name is not a saint’s name, they should choose one for Confirmation.

At the moment the sacrament of Confirmation is conferred, the candidate will stand before the bishop. The sponsor will place his or her right hand on the candidate’s shoulder and give their name to the bishop. He will then make the sign of the cross on your forehead with chrism saying, “(Confirmed Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Whether a candidate chooses to use their baptismal name or choose a new one, it is important to learn as much as they can about their patron saint. After all, they are asking this saint to be their friend and advocate for the rest of their life.

There are many sources of information available on the saints. We have some in the Faith Formation Office and the Church library that will help you. An Internet search could be very interesting. Finally, candidates and parents should talk about the decision. Candidates should not pick a name just because it sounds good or is popular. Take your time. Pray about it.

SAINT INFORMATION ONLINE:

www.saints.com

www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm

www.catholic.org/saints

BOOKS:

Butler’s Lives of the Saints

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS

All confirmation candidates are required to complete 35 hours of service activities. These activities can be a parish based project or a community based one. However, at least one project/activity needs to be completed within the parish. We ask that the candidate does not use family chores and duties to complete the service hours. (the expectation is 10 – community, 20 – family and 5 to the Newman Center)

The following is very important concerning service hours:

- Each candidate is responsible for keeping track of his or her own hours.
- The service hour sheet needs to be turned in by 12/15/19. Children may add any hours from the past year that they have kept track of.

If candidates need guidance on where to begin finding projects they need not go far. Following are some opportunities offered at our parish:

- Helping with snacks during Family Faith Formation (setting up and cleaning up)
- Hope Haven (cooking, serving or reading with the children)
- St. Vincent DePaul
- Nursing Home outreach (OakCrest Retirement Center, Dekalb Retirement Center)

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

As part of the process of preparing for active participation in the worship and apostolic life in the Church, Fr. Manno or Fr Gonnella will conduct a short interview with your child prior to Confirmation. Candidates may want to prepare for the interview by considering the following tenets of our faith.

What are the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are laws that tell us what God wants us to do. They help us to live healthy and happy lives. Can you explain them to someone who is unfamiliar with them?

1. You shall honor no other god but me.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
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.

What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

How many Sacraments are there? Can you list them and explain them to someone?

There are 7 Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join more closely Jesus Christ and His Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's Witnesses.

How does the bishop give Confirmation?

The bishop extends his hands over those who are to be confirmed, prays that they may receive the Holy Spirit and anoints the forehead of each with holy chrism in the form of a cross.

What is holy chrism?

Holy chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balm, consecrated by the bishop.

Are sponsors necessary in Confirmation?

Sponsors are necessary in Confirmation, and they must be of the same good character as those required at Baptism, for they take upon themselves the same duties and responsibilities.

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are as follows: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel (Right Judgment), Fortitude (Courage), Knowledge, Piety (Love), and Fear of the Lord (Reverence).

In addition, they should know why those chose their Confirmation Saint name and something about that saint.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR SHEET

Christ The Teacher University Parish/Newman Catholic Student Center
512 Normal Road
DeKalb, IL 60115
Phone: (815) 787-7770
Fax: (815) 758-2053

Please Print:

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Are you over 16 years of age? _____

Church and City of your Baptism: _____

Church and City of your Confirmation: _____

Parish where you are now registered: _____

City & State: _____

Sponsor signature _____

Please have this signed by the pastor or an associate from your current parish:

Pastor or Associate signature _____

CONFIRMATION NAME

Child's Full Name: _____
(as it will appear on the certificate)

The name I have chosen for Confirmation is:

(Please be sure the spelling is correct. This will be how your Saint name appears on your certificate)

SAINT PROJECT

I have written a 150 word explanation, created a poster, or prepared a verbal presentation of why I chose this saint to be my friend and advocate. It was approved by (catechist, DRE or Assistant to DRE):

