



St. Michael Parish Middle School Religious Education

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In the spring of 2018 you will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Open your mind and heart to this graced moment. Confirmation, like the other Sacraments of Initiation, marks the beginning of a journey toward deeper knowledge and love of God. For rest of your life, and sealed in the Holy Spirit, you will bear witness to our Catholic faith that loving and believing people have handed down generation after generation.

In preparing for Confirmation you are asked to choose one Sponsor. No one comes to faith alone. We see the witness others give, and others see the beginnings of holiness in us. Confirmation, like Baptism, requires a sponsor, a practicing Catholic who walks this final time of preparation with you, who will testify to your growing Catholic faith and at the same time, promise to serve as a model for continuing growth. Confirmation sponsors should already be such models. They are often chosen from among family members or friends who have already been leading the way since infancy, or members of our parish community who have been strong witnesses to their Catholic faith or even one of your godparents who made a commitment to your faith formation at your Baptism. We realize that this decision is an important one and that you may need some time to decide, so we ask that you begin considering your choice for a sponsor now so that the forms will be returned to the Religious Education Office **no later than Wednesday, December 6, 2017**.

After you have carefully chosen and whom you have asked to be your sponsor, fill in the ***Confirmation Information Form*** and return it **no later than December 6, 2017** to the Religious Education Office.

In past years there have been individuals who have had difficulty choosing a sponsor. If one of your difficulties is that you are not sure whether the sponsor you would like to choose would be able to attend the actual Confirmation Mass, then please know that it is possible to choose a sponsor and then have another confirmed adult Catholic act as a proxy for them at the Confirmation Mass. (The Sponsor's name will be recorded in the official Church records, not the proxy.) If you don't feel you know anyone who qualifies as a sponsor, we would be happy to help you find a parishioner who would be willing to walk this journey with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me and I will be happy to help in any way I can.

May God continue to bless you on your journey,

Mrs. Tammy Croll



The Role of the Confirmation Sponsor

The most important role of a Confirmation sponsor is to walk with you and guide you as you prepare to be sealed with the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament of Initiation.

Confirmation sponsors are like spiritual coaches or mentors. They affirm your strengths and point out ways you can grow and become better in the practice of faith. You share your faith journey together. A Confirmation sponsor participates in your preparation and presents you to the bishop during the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

How to Choose Your Sponsor

Choosing your sponsor for Confirmation is an important task. When you think about choosing someone think about choosing someone who is an active, practicing Catholic; someone who is enthusiastic about the Catholic faith; and someone who is easy to talk to and be around. Here are some suggestions to help you as you make your choice:

- Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Think about the qualities you want your sponsor to have.
- Think about people who are good examples for you.
- Ask yourself if one of your godparents would be a good sponsor.
- Talk with your parents, other family members, or your teachers about who would be a good choice.
- Remember, sponsors must be at least sixteen years old. They must be practicing Catholics and have already celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church. If married, they are validly married in the Catholic Church.
- Talk with the person you select and explain why you chose him or her and what their responsibilities will be.



Choosing a Confirmation Name

When you are confirmed you will be given the option to choose a separate Confirmation name. Although there is no obligation to select a Confirmation name that is different from the name you were given at Baptism, you should choose the name of a canonized saint for your Confirmation name. We will be studying the lives of some of the saints during your eighth grade Religion classes, so you will have plenty of time to decide on a name before Confirmation.

Importance of Names

Your parents probably spent many hours thinking about what they would name you. Your name may have been chosen to honor a relative or a saint who is revered by your family or culture. While it is customary to use the names of saints as baptismal names, the Church now permits other names at baptism as long as they are not incompatible with the Christian faith. However your baptismal name was chosen, it is now a part of your history and identity.

Names are important in our in our religious tradition as well. In the Old Testament, God promises David: "...and I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth" (1 Chronicles 17:8). The prophet Isaiah, speaking in God's name, proclaims to King Cyrus, "it is I, the Lord ... I call you by your name" (Isaiah 45:3-4). In the New Testament, Jesus tells the disciples that their names are written in heaven (see Luke 10:20) and both the Letter to the Philippians (4:3) and the Book of Revelation (21:12-14) refer to names being written in the Book of Life.

A Confirmation Name

Taking a new name at Confirmation can be symbolic of a new or deeper stage in your faith life. There are several Scripture stories of people whose names changed after they experience a conversion: Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul. Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity for you to reflect on how you want to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you choose a name other than your baptismal name, look to saints and holy people who are truly witnesses of faith for you. Choose the name of a saint you admire and whom you want to be your patron.



Confirmation Information Form

due

DECEMBER 6, 2017

According to Canon Law of the Catholic Church, a Confirmation Sponsor is a person who must:

- Be designated by the one to be confirmed and have the intention of fulfilling this function
- It further states that, “A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate (as a sponsor) except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness...”)
- Have completed the sixteenth year of age (born before April 1, 2002)
- Be a practicing Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and who leads a life of faith
- Not be the (biological) father or mother of the one to be confirmed
- If married, was validly married in the Catholic Church in accordance with Church Laws.

- *The sponsor may be male or female. Years ago, boys chose a male sponsor and girls chose a female sponsor. This is no longer necessary.*
- *If the sponsor you choose is not able to attend the actual Confirmation Mass, you may use a proxy. The proxy must be a Confirmed Catholic but may be one of your parents. The official Church records will still list your sponsor, not your proxy.*

Confirmation Information Form

St. Michael Parish 317 W. Willow Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

Please PRINT CLEARLY and complete BOTH Section 1 and Section 2 before returning this to the Religious Education Office by December 6, 2017.

Section 1: Candidate's Information

Confirmation Candidate's full BAPTISMAL Name (First, Middle, Last)				Gender (male or female)	
Home Address			City	State	Zip
Parent's Email Address				Best Phone (Parent's cell?)	
Baptized Roman Catholic? Yes _____ No _____				Birth date	
If NOT Baptized Roman Catholic:				Place of Birth (City and State)	
• Catholic Church where you made a Profession of Faith _____					
• City and State of that Catholic Church _____					
• Date you made your Profession of Faith _____					
Name of Church where Baptized			Father's First and Last Name		
Address of Church where Baptized			Mother's First, <u>Maiden</u> and Last Name		
City		State	Zip	Confirmation Name (If known, if not leave blank.)	
Month	Day	Year of Baptism		Date of Confirmation (to be filled in by the office)	

Section 2: Sponsor's Information (Information must be filled in completely before turning in)

Sponsor's Full Name (First, Middle, Last)			Relationship Candidate (Cannot be a Parent)		
Sponsor's Complete Address			City	State	Zip
Sponsor's Phone			Sponsor's Date of Birth <small>(Sponsor must have been born before 4/1/2002)</small>		
Sponsor's e-mail address					

I affirm that the Sponsor I have chosen has been Baptized Catholic (or made a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church), has received First Communion and has been Confirmed Catholic, is currently a practicing Catholic, and if married, was validly married in the Catholic Church.

Parent's Signature

Candidate's Signature

PLEASE RETURN TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE AFTER COMPLETELY FILLED IN. DUE DECEMBER 6, 2017.

