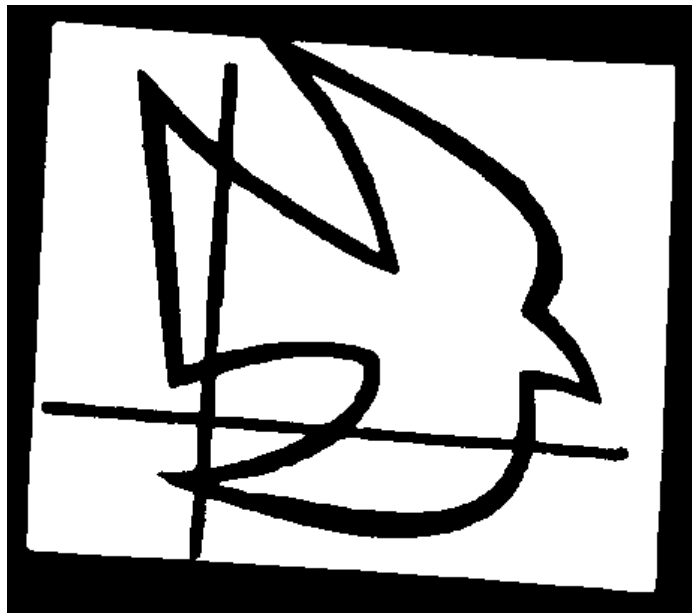


THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

 St. Bartholomew
Catholic Faith Community

CONFIRMATION

(CANDIDATES PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE YOU COME TO OUR FIRST GATHERING)

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the SACRAMENT that completes Baptism; in it the gifts of the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon us. Anyone who freely decides to live a life as God's child and asks for God's Spirit under the signs of the imposition of hands and anointing with CHRISM receives the strength to witness to God's love and might in a word and deed. He is now a full-fledged, responsible member of the Catholic Church (CCC 1285-1314).

When a coach sends a soccer player onto the playing field, he puts his hand on his shoulder and gives him final instructions. We can understand Confirmation in a similar way. A hand is placed upon us. We step out onto the field of life. Through the Holy Spirit we know what we have to do and we have been given the power to do it. He has motivated us. His mission resounds in our ears. We sense his help. We will not betray his trust or disappoint him; we will win the game for him. We just have to want to do and listen to him.

What does Sacred Scripture say about the Sacrament of Confirmation?

In the Old Testament, the People of God expected the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Messiah. Jesus lived his life in a special Spirit of love and of perfect unity with his Father in heaven. This spirit of Jesus was the "HOLY Spirit" for whom the people of Israel longed; this was the same Spirit who descended upon the disciples fifty days after Easter, on the feast of Pentecost. And it is again this is same Holy Spirit of Jesus who descends upon everyone who receives the sacrament of confirmation.

In the Acts of the Apostles, which were written a few decades after the death of Jesus, we see Peter and John traveling about to confirm new Christians by imposing hands on those who previously "had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus", so that their hearts might be filled with the Holy Spirit.

What happens in Confirmation?

In Confirmation the soul of a baptized Christian is imprinted with a permanent seal that can be received only once and marks this individual forever as a Christian. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the strength from above in which this individual puts the grace of his Baptism into practice through his life and acts as a "witness for Christ."

To be confirmed means to make a "covenant" with God. The confirmand says, "Yes, I believe in you, my God; give me your Holy Spirit, so that I might belong entirely to you and never be separated from you and may witness to you throughout my whole life, body and soul in my words and deeds, on good days and bad." And God says, "Yes, I believe in you, too, my child-and I will give you my Spirit, my very self. I will belong entirely to you. I will ever separate myself from you, in this life or eternally in the next. I will be in your body and your soul, in your words and deeds. Even if you forget me, I will still be there-on good days and bad".

Who can be confirmed, and what is required of a candidate for confirmation?

Any Catholic Christian who has received the Sacrament of Baptism and is in the "state of grace" can be admitted to Confirmation.

To be "in the state of grace" means not to have committed any serious sin (mortal sin). By a serious sin a person separates himself from God and can be reconciled with God only by making a good confession. A (young) Christian who is preparing for Confirmation finds himself in one of the most important phases of his life. He will do everything possible to grasp the faith with his heart and his understanding; he will pray alone and with others for the Holy Spirit; he will reconcile himself in every way with himself, with the people around him and with God. Confession is part of this, since it brings one closer to God even if one has not committed a mortal sin.

St. Bartholomew Youth Confirmation Policy

Requirements for Confirmation

- Be in 10th grade or older during the preparation year.
- Be enrolled in a formal faith formation program.
- Participate in two liturgical rituals.
 - Rite of Beginning
 - Rite of Sending
- Attend five gatherings with your sponsor or parent. If a gathering is missed, make-up materials will be provided. It is the candidate's responsibility to notify the Youth Minister when they cannot attend a gathering and then complete the make up materials in a timely manner.
- Serve your church, family, and community.
- Attend a retreat. The parish offers a one-day confirmation retreat. If a candidate can't make that date, they must attend another retreat approved by the parish.
- Turn in all paper work, including sponsor form, journal pages and the Information Record. Deadlines for all paperwork are on the schedule.
- Be interviewed by the youth minister.
- Participate regularly in Sunday mass.

Special thanks to Pat Howard, Director of Confirmation Preparation for St. John Neumann Parish in Eagan for his generous sharing of ideas in the creation of this program.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE

February 18	9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Retreat *Candidate only Rite of Beginning *Candidate, Sponsor and parents attend 5:00 mass	John XXIII Rm
March 4	6:30p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering* Sponsor Form is due	John XXIII Rm
March 11	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering*	John XXII Rm
March 18	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering* Information Record due	John XXII Rm
April 15	6:30 p.m. –8:00 p.m.	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering*	John XXIII Rm
April 22	6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.	Candidate and Sponsor Gathering*	John XXIII Rm
April 26	4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Candidate Interview *Service hour verification due * Confirmation Name paper due	St. Bart’s Lower Level
April 29	9:30 a.m.	Rite of Sending and Rehearsal *Parents and Sponsor are encouraged to attend	John XXII Rm
May 3	7:00 p.m.	The Sacrament of Confirmation	Basilica of St. Mary

All components of the program are required of all candidates. (Refer to policy, p. 2)

* If a sponsor cannot attend a “Candidate and Sponsor Gathering,” a parent of the candidate needs to attend.

THE SPONSOR

A sponsor is an adviser, friend and spiritual companion who accompanies the candidate in his or her faith development. The sponsor's role is a central component of the confirmation program.

It is important to understand the official role of the sacramental sponsor. In the early days of Christianity, when most of those who joined the church were adults, individual sponsors worked closely with the candidates to show them, on a day-to-day basis, how to live the Christian faith.

After a preparation period that lasted several years, the sponsors presented the candidates to the community and vouched for their readiness to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. But their work was not finished with the initiation rituals. The sponsors continued as companions to the new Christians after the ceremony, helping them to become more fully integrated into the prayer, ministry and social life of the church.

Over the centuries, the role of the sponsor came to be mostly symbolic. The relative or family friend who was chosen to be sponsor or godparent for a child had little to do with the actual faith life of the one sponsored other than being present at the sacramental celebration.

Since Vatican II there has been a renewed emphasis on reviving the role of the sponsor, especially in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and in the confirmation of those who were baptized as infants. In the latter case, it is recommended that the same person sponsor at both Baptism and Confirmation.

In an effort to return to the original role of the sacramental sponsor, it is most appropriate for the candidate's baptismal sponsor to take on the role as confirmation sponsor. When this is not possible, another person, preferably a member of the parish community, is chosen by the candidate to walk with them in their preparation for Confirmation and ongoing faith journey.

Qualifications of the Sponsor

The sacramental sponsor:

- Should be a mature person of faith and a confirmed Catholic in good standing
- Should reflect Catholic Christian values in word, worship, and service
- May be either male or female; ideally is the baptismal sponsor; should not be the parent of the candidate.
- Participate in liturgical events, program sessions, and retreats as requested
- Assist in the completion of journal pages
- Attend the rehearsal for, and the celebration of, the sacrament of Confirmation

If you are having a hard time finding a sponsor, please contact the Youth Minister.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

Due by March 4

Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor Information:

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?

- My sponsor has received the Confirmation Preparation Schedule.
- My sponsor understands their role.
- My sponsor meets the sponsor qualifications.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Sponsor's Signature

Date

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPONSORS

Please give this page to the sponsor.

1. Get Together

- Go out for a snack or meal.
- Go to a sporting event.
- Make a meal for your candidate.

2. Share Together

- Discuss a book, a movie, an article.
- Discuss the readings from Mass.
- Talk about each of your beliefs about God, life, and self.
- Talk about your hopes and dreams.
- Share what God has done and is doing in your life.

3. Pray Together

- Go to Mass together.
- Share your needs with each other and pray for the other person.
- Work through a daily or weekly devotional book together.
- Attend special events offered by your and/or your candidate's parish.

4. Serve Together

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

5. Stay in Touch

- Attend community or school events your candidate is involved in; congratulate and affirm their participation.
- Send birthday, holiday, thank you, and encouragement cards.
- Send occasional affirmation notes.
- Send encouraging e-mails.
- Go out of your way to be sure your candidate knows your love and support.
- Continue your contact and your prayer long after the celebration of the sacrament.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE EXPECTATIONS

“To love another person is to see the face of God.” *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo

The Confirmation preparation experience includes service as the core of Christian discipleship. This is a time to explore many levels of service. Some may be comfortable for you and some may be stretching your comfort zone. The levels of service are: Family, Church, and Community. There is no minimum or maximum time you need to devote to each area, but hopefully you will give generously. By the end of March, you need to have done service in each of those three areas and completed the March Page reflecting on those experiences. The person in charge of the service area or a parent needs to sign when you serve in an area.

The following is a list of suggestions and is not exhaustive. Feel free to think out of the box and come up with your own ideas. This time is yours to learn about service to others through ministry and self-sacrifice.

Family:

Service for the family must be activities that go above and beyond normal responsibilities of the candidate.

- Clean out the attic, garage or closets, and donate unused items.
- Do household cooking, grocery shopping or laundry.
- Baby sit younger siblings/cousins and donate the money.
- Shovel, rake or mow lawns for relatives.
- Visit grandparents or lonely relatives, or do special errands/ chores for them.

Church:

Service for the church can range from long-term commitments such as teaching Sunday School or single events, like decorating the church for liturgical seasons.

- Teach Sunday School ages 3-5 or Kindergarten at 10:30 a.m. Mass. Assist 1st Grade Faith Formation teacher on Wednesday nights at 4:30 p.m. Contact Jim DeShane (952) 473-6601, ext. 203 or Kari Elsen ext. 221.
- Tutor a student at St. Bartholomew's School or help in their after school program, Clubhouse. Contact school principal at 952-473-6189.
- Help with activity time or prayer/music at Wednesday night middle school faith formation, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. Contact Kari Elsen at (952) 473-6601, ext. 221
- Sing in the choir or play an instrument at Mass. Contact Richard Clarke (952) 473-6601, ext. 207.
- Help in the nursery during Sunday Mass. Call Jim DeShane.
- Serve as an altar server, lector, greeter or usher at Mass. Contact Richard Clarke.
- Decorate worship space for Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.
- Help with the St. Bart's World Trade Bazaar, November 17 and 18. Watch bulletin for details.
- Participate in the Youth Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 3:00 p.m. We need actors, singers, narrators, instrumentalists, help with costumes and lights. Practice is Sunday afternoons starting in Lent.
- Help with Images of Spring Auction. Details to follow.

Community:

Service for the community is probably the widest area of service. These activities should be focused on providing services for those in greatest need.

- **Families Moving Forward:** St. Bart's is partnering with Wayzata Community Church to host 3-4 homeless families. This is a unique opportunity to meet and serve families who are experiencing the struggle of homelessness. Visit with families, cook and serve dinner for 20, entertain small children, or cook and serve breakfast. If interested, call Marion Clark, 952-473-6601, ext. 202.
- **Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners:** Contact Susan Fetterer, Director of Volunteer Services, 952-473-2436.
- **IOCP Christmas Party** hosted by St. Bart's Parish. Many volunteers needed to help organize gifts, arrange rooms, decorate, and help with actually hosting the party. Details will be in the bulletin or call IOCP.
- **Area Nursing Homes:** ask for the volunteer office
St. Therese in New Hope – 763-531-5000
Hillcrest in Wayzata – 952-473-5466
Alterra-Claire Bridge of Plymouth – 763-476-8200
- **Area Hospitals** – ask for volunteer office
Methodist – 952-993-5086
North Memorial 763-520-5200
- **Simpson Housing Meal Server:** Be a part of the St. Bartholomew team that prepares and serves dinner to 70 guests at this overnight shelter in Minneapolis. Also needed are grocery shoppers to shop for dinner supplies. Open to anyone 12 years through adult. Contact Marion Clark, 952-473-6601, ext. 202.
- **Common Hope:** Organize and sort supplies for shipping to Guatemala or assist with light office work at Common Hope, an organization dedicated to empowering the poor of Guatemala. Volunteer one time or on a regular basis. Contact Common Hope at 651-917-0917.
- **Feed My Starving Children:** Help package a low-cost meal for malnourished children around the world. Parishioners five years and older can participate. Contact Marion Clark or register on your own, www.fmssc.org.
- **Catholic Charities:** Choose from a variety of volunteer services such as serving a meal at a homeless shelter, painting rooms, working with children. Call Catholic Charities at 612-664-8600 or fill out their online Volunteer Form at www.cccspm.org.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Your Confirmation Name

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt

March 2011

All of us need heroes! Whether it is in the area of athletics, or science, or politics, or even parenting (maybe especially parenting), all of us need role models that we can look up to and emulate.

As I was growing up, I frequently experienced attacks of asthma that would induce bronchitis and put me in bed for a week or so. My parents did not allow us, kids, to watch television, so I read books. Most frequently I read books on the lives of the saints. They became my heroes.

The late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once said, "The church's job is to make saints, and she is at her best when she gives them to us." Many people today, living amidst the secularism, materialism and hedonism of our times, question whether it's really possible to live a virtuous and holy life. Some think that Jesus holds up for us a theoretically high ideal which none of us can attain. But after reading the lives of the saints and the flesh-and-blood circumstances in which they lived and died, you cannot fail but know that the ideals to which Jesus calls us are real and attainable. They are because others, like ourselves, have been there and done it!

It is my wish that each Confirmation candidate will choose the name of a real, legitimate saint who is well known to that individual. It may be the saint of one's baptismal designation, or the saint's name your parents or grandparents carry, or a saint whose life you have read and whose example you wish to follow. But the name you choose should link you with the communion of saints in heaven with whom we worship God, the Father, every time we participate in the Mass.

If you are trying to find the right saint for you, the list provided will give you a good start (*see document "Saints of the Church" on website*). Other saints are found in Our Sunday Visitor's Encyclopedia of Saints, revised by Matthew, Margaret, and Stephen Bunson in 2003. A copy of this can be acquired through the Archdiocesan Office of Worship. Most internet websites provide incorrect or inadequate information about the saints. Be careful about the information you collect.

Choosing a name for Confirmation is an important step in the process of preparation. I ask each candidate to pray, study, and choose a saint in whom he or she can place their confidence not just for today, but for many years to come.

God bless you!

What's in a name?
Saint Reflection/Confirmation Name
Due April 26

In paragraph form, please answer the questions below regarding the Saint you chose for your Confirmation name.

1. What is your given baptismal name? (The name you were given by your parents- First and middle?) Is there a meaning behind the name you were given? I.e. named after a grandparent, Saint, etc?
2. What Saint's name have you chosen for your Confirmation name?
3. Tell the Saint's story/background using your own words. Please do not plagiarize.
4. Explain why you have chosen this particular Saint and what it means to you.
5. How do you plan on living out your life post Confirmation?

Please list the resources you have used for this reflection.

1-2 page double spaced typed

12 font

Times New Roman font

INFORMATION RECORD FOR CONFIRMATION CELEBRATED ON MAY 3, 2012

This form is due to Kari Elsen absolutely no later than March 18.

The following information is required for the permanent record of Confirmation.

Please enter all information fully and clearly.

Name of Confirmand: _____
First Middle Last

Your Age: _____ Your Birthdate: _____

Confirmation Name: This is the name that will be printed on your name tag 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, but you may choose a new Confirmation Name. See page 11 for additional information.

CONFIRMATION NAME: _____

We are required to send a notice of your Confirmation to the church where you were baptized. Complete this section even if you were baptized at St. Bartholomews. Incomplete forms will be returned. You also need to attach a copy of your Baptismal Certificate unless you were baptized at St. Bartholomews.

Place of Baptism:
Name of Church: _____

Full Address: _____

City State Zip

Confirmand's Address: _____

City State Zip

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, which may or may not be listed on the baptismal certificate.)

Confirmation Sponsor: _____
First Last

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Retreats offer people a time to get away from the normal structures of their day to day life to reflect on their faith. Through speakers, prayer, music, discussion, and games, retreatants are given the opportunity to discern the Spirit at work in their lives. A Confirmation Retreat serves the additional purposes of looking deeper at Catholicism and what Confirmation means for a person's life. For these reasons, a Confirmation Retreat is required of a candidate. The parish offers a day retreat on Saturday, Feb. 18. The retreat will be from 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. More information regarding location and activities will be mailed in early January.

If a Candidate cannot make that date, they must attend another retreat preapproved by the Youth Minister. NET Ministries puts on several Confirmation weekend retreats throughout the year. You can find more information through their website at www.netusa.org or by calling them at 651-450-6833. Candidates can also attend a TEC retreat, which is also a weekend retreat offered year round. Information can be found for TEC at www.twincitiestec.org or by calling 651-281-0085. You may also attend a Confirmation retreat at another Catholic parish with that parish's permission.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

On April 26, candidates are asked to complete a 10-15 minute interview with the Youth Minister. In the interview, the candidate will be asked about their intent to be confirmed as well as their reasons for making this decision. The interview is a chance for the candidate to ask questions and process experiences from the Confirmation process before they receive the sacrament. The Youth Minister also makes sure that all necessary paperwork and requirements are completed for the candidate at that time.