

**Confirmation Preparation**  
**A GUIDEBOOK FOR CONFIRMATION**  
**CANDIDATES, PARENTS and SPONSORS**  
**St. Joseph-Olney/Holy Cross-Wendelin**  
**St. Joseph-Stringtown**  
**Roman Catholic Churches**

*“...that their hearts may  
be encouraged as they  
are brought together in  
love, to have all the  
richness of fully assured  
understanding, for the  
knowledge of the  
mystery of God, Christ,  
in whom are hidden all  
the treasures of wisdom  
and knowledge.”*

**Col 2, 2-3**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome! We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It is the Sacrament in which one enters into full membership in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives us the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply as children of God, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian soul; for this reason, one can receive this sacrament only once.

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God. We see this in a practical way when we look back on our own lives and the lives of others, even the lives of saints. Therefore, it is our duty to seek the grace that God offers us in order to live our lives as Christians in the way that God intends.

### **Purpose and Goals**

Confirmation affirms the confirmed as believers continuing the lifelong journey of faith and service to the community. Its purpose is to confirm faith in, acceptance of, and hope in Jesus Christ, person, God, Savior, and Redeemer. Its goals are:

- to foster in youth a faith in Jesus as Lord through Scripture, prayer and life experience.
- to invite youth to fully participate in the traditions of the Catholic community both by worship and the development of a youth community and
- to empower the youth to adopt a lifestyle of service in God's Kingdom of justice and peace.

## Process

St. Joseph-Olney, Holy Cross-Wendelin and St. Joseph-Stringtown Confirmation Preparation specifically, includes the following four elements:

- **Prayer and Worship:** participating in the prayer life of the Church.  
Celebrating and working to deepen young people's relationship with Jesus Christ through the bestowal of grace, communal prayer and liturgical experiences; it awakens their awareness of the spirit at work in their lives; it incorporates young people more fully into the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist; it nurtures the personal prayer life of young people, and it fosters family rituals and prayer. In order to assist the candidate in becoming a person of prayer, a retreat is included. This retreat provides the young people an opportunity to reflect on their personal faith experiences, as well as grow in fellowship within the Youth Ministry community.
- **Catechesis/Generations of Faith:** continuing our learning.  
Helping adolescents to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Christian community and increasing their knowledge of the core content of their Catholic faith. The ministry of catechesis helps young people to enrich and expand their understanding of the Scriptures and the sacred tradition and their application to life today. Also, to live more faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ in their everyday lives. The ministry of catechesis fosters growth in Catholic faith in all three dimensions -- trusting (heart), knowing and believing (mind), and doing (will).
- **Community Life:** belonging to the Catholic Church at large and at St. Joseph-Olney, Holy Cross- Wendelin and St. Joseph-Stringtown specifically.  
Creating an environment which nurtures meaningful relationships among youth and between youth and adults characterized by Gospel values (ie. acceptance of all people, trust, respect, cooperation, honesty, taking responsibility, willingness to serve): helping young people to feel that they are an important part of the Church community; providing opportunities for social interaction and meaningful participation in the life of the Church and the civic community. The ministry of community life is not only what we do (activity), but who we are (identity) and how we interact (relationships)
- **Service and Justice:** witnessing Christ's life of service.  
Guiding young people in the development of a social consciousness and a commitment to life of justice and service grounded in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the scriptures and in Catholic social teaching; empowering young people (and their families) to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering, to serve those in need, to pursue peace, and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all people; infusing the concepts of justice and peace into all Youth Ministry efforts.

## WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED?

Confirmation candidates:

- \*are in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the year of Confirmation or older
- \*have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist.
- \*are practicing their faith
- \*are in the state of grace

- \*demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of a member of the Catholic Church
- \*are aware of the initiation aspect of the Sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion
- \*have a sincere desire to receive the sacrament** as well as an appreciation of sacramental life.
- \*register with their parish for the sacrament of Confirmation**

### **CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS- at a glance**

- Participate in weekly Mass
- Participate in classes
- choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with him/her.
- write a letter of intent
- choose a saint's name as your Confirmation name and complete a research-based project on the saint
- participate in Rite of Commitment Mass in October
- participate in the parent/candidate meeting
- participate in Confirmation retreat
- be regularly involved in social justice activities
- perform or attend at least one additional spiritual activity.
- write a letter to the Bishop.
- participate in the Confirmation rehearsal.
- participate in the Confirmation liturgy!

### **EXPECTATIONS IN DETAIL**

The following explains each of the Confirmation expectations in detail and in some cases, the reasons the requirements are important to the formation of the candidate. Please remember that while in many cases we list a minimum requirement for Confirmation, the candidates should be encouraged to make many of these activities a regular part of their religious practices.

#### **Participate in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week**

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents (along with the rest of the family) must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of confirmed Catholics. This is also an important way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place on the faith they are handing on to their children. Worshipping as a community we build up the Body of Christ. If your family has not been attending Mass regularly in the past, we are confident that by doing so you will notice many benefits by the time Confirmation approaches.

#### **Participate in Confirmation classes**

Attendance at the Confirmation classes is extremely important in preparing the candidates for reception of the sacrament. When a class is missed, the candidate loses time for fellowship and prayer as well as the material covered that day. We expect that you will make these gatherings a priority and therefore make a sincere effort to adjust your other obligations accordingly. Students are expected to be prepared for the

classes, which includes completing any assigned readings or homework. Contact your catechist immediately if critical circumstances will not allow you to attend a class. The catechist will determine an appropriate at-home assignment so that he/she doesn't fall behind in the lessons. Excessive absenteeism can affect the candidate's ability to enter fully into this important period of preparation.

### **Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with your sponsor**

The confirmation sponsor should be a person who has been a strong role-model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in your faith journey and will vouch for your readiness to receive the sacrament. The sponsor should therefore be able to meet regularly with the candidate, spend time building a bond with the teen, help him/her prepare for the sacrament through prayer, study, service and discussion and be in physical attendance at the rehearsal and the confirmation. Attendance by proxy is allowed in certain situations. Requests for proxy should be directed to the Pastor.

#### **The sponsor:**

- must be a practicing Roman Catholic who attends Mass regularly (Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation) and is living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- supports the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- must be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- must submit a verification letter, using the form found with this guide, from the parish where the sponsor attends church (other than St. Joseph-Olney, Holy Cross-Wendelin or St. Joseph-Stringtown.)
- should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment (The bishop prefers the sponsor to be at least 18 years of age.
- may be either male or female for any candidate
- may assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment
- must be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- may accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- may not be the parents of the candidate
- assists in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament  
presents the candidate to the minister of Confirmation

Preference is given to the candidate's Godparents, which most fully expresses the integral connection between Baptism and Confirmation. If you are using a proxy sponsor, he/she must also meet the above criteria. Along with this guide you will find a *Confirmation Sponsor Information Form*. **This form is due back by the before the Rite of Commitment mass.**

#### **Write a Letter of Intent**

Each candidate must write a letter of intent, addressed to the **Pastor, and the teacher preparing you for confirmation or the Coordinator of Religious Education**. The purpose of this letter is for the candidate to

demonstrate in writing his/her desire to be Confirmed, and willingness to make this commitment. Please use the following as a guide for the letter:

**First-** begin with your greeting: Dear Father Mark

**Second-** Introduce yourself and share some information about yourself, such as your family, your interests and hobbies, and a little about your background.

**Third-** state that you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and explain (in one or two paragraphs) why you want to be confirmed. It may help you to think about a) the ways in which this sacrament will strengthen your relationship with Jesus, b) the role of faith in your life, c) what it means to you to be a part of our parish community and/or d) how the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to be witnesses for Jesus (read and reflect on the *Acts of the Apostles*.)

**Fourth-** conclude your letter with a quotation from Scripture which will serve as your inspiration during your preparation for Confirmation. This can be a sentence or a few sentences. Include an explanation as to why you chose this passage.

**This letter must be turned in by the Rite of Commitment Mass.**

### **Choose a Confirmation name and complete a research based project about that saint**

In both the Old and New Testament, when God had a new mission for someone, He often gave them a new name. Even without a new name, your name has always told others who you are. God calls on each of us to fulfill a special mission. It may be converting nonbelievers, helping the poor, being a peacemaker or one of many other callings. Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission you began at Baptism, or the beginning of a new mission.

Therefore, there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

**First-** Because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at your Baptism, it is recommended that you give first preference to using your Baptismal name for Confirmation. This shows the integral link between Baptism and Confirmation (note: this applies only if your Baptismal name was a Saint's name.)

**Second-** Perhaps you see Confirmation as the beginning of a new mission for you and a fresh beginning in your faith journey. Then you may choose a new name for Confirmation. Your Confirmation name should be that of a saint you admire or the saint name of someone you know and look up to as a Christian role-model.

There are many helpful websites available to assist you in gathering information about the saints. Just a few are:

[www.catholicforum.com/saints](http://www.catholicforum.com/saints)

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

[www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp](http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp)

[www.theworkofgod.org/saints](http://www.theworkofgod.org/saints)

Once the candidate has chosen his/her Confirmation name, they must complete a biography of that saint using the form found with this guide. The saint biography is due by the last class before Christmas break.

### **Participate in the Rite of Commitment Mass**

All candidates, parents and if available, sponsors should plan to attend the Rite of Commitment, celebrated at the candidate's parish in October at mass. During the Mass the candidates will declare their intent to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation with the parish community as witness. In return the community agrees to support and pray for all those involved in this faith journey.

### **Participate in the Confirmation retreat**

Retreats provide a unique opportunity for the candidates to spend an extended time in discernment and reflect on the gifts of the Spirit and reflect on their relationship with God and their faith life. It is therefore required that each candidate attend the Confirmation retreat hosted by the parishes in their Confirmation year. (Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday, January 20 with a backup date of President Day on February 17, 2020).

### **Be regularly involved in social justice activities**

An awareness of the importance of and vital need for performing service to others is critical in preparing the candidates for Confirmation. Throughout Scripture we are called to love our neighbor and stand up for justice and peace.

Since service and justice are so important to whom we are as Catholic Christians, we ask that the candidates make his/her service projects a priority. Serving others is not something we do "to get it over with". It is something we do because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons and in all of God's creation. Therefore it is encouraged that the candidates get involved in a new service activity which is an ongoing and a regular commitment.

Some things to think about when considering your service are:

- What are people's needs or problems and what can I do to help?
- Who needs time, effort, work or service from me?
- What unique gifts or talents has God given me that can be used to serve others?

Once you identify where service is needed, make specific plans and follow through with those commitments.

*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. He replied to him, 'You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.'"* (Lk. 10: 27-28)

Each Candidate is asked to complete at least 6 service projects, totaling 33 hours. Two service projects connected with the parish and four projects connected to the community. There are many, many opportunities to serve at the church and in the community. Just a few examples are:

\*Assist with Liturgy of the Word for Children at Sunday Mass

\*Join the parish Lector, Usher/Greeter, Altar Server ministries  
Other opportunities will be provided to the Candidate.

### **Participate in at least one additional spiritual activity that is new to you**

Spending time in prayer and reflection does not end when we leave the church on Sunday. It is so important for the candidates to become aware of the many opportunities that are available for them to meditate, celebrate and further their relationship with God.

*The following is a partial list of spiritual activities:*

Attend daily Mass

Participate in Advent Evensong (Wendelin)

Attend Stations of the Cross during Lent

Participate in the Triduum services- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil

Attend Adoration and Prayer on Third Wednesday of the month (St. Joseph-Stringtown)

Pray the Rosary with your family and/or sponsor

Although the minimum requirement is to participate in one of these activities, we sincerely hope the candidate and his or her family will have an active and ongoing spiritual life! ***“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you”*** -James, 4, 8

### **Write a letter to the Bishop**

It has been customary for the Bishop to request that each candidate write a personal letter to him requesting Confirmation. The students will be given more information about this letter as Confirmation approaches. This letter will be due in March of 2020. Please consult the finalized schedule for the exact date.

### **Attend Confirmation Rehearsal**

All candidates and their sponsors (or a proxy) **must** attend the Confirmation rehearsal which is typically the Wednesday before Confirmation. The sponsors will also give witness to the candidates at this time.

### **Participate in the Liturgy and Rite of Confirmation**

Confirmation will be in the spring of 2020. The exact date will be announced.

*“All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.”* -Rite of Confirmation 25

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS**

*“As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.”*(NCD, no. 119)



**Because parents:**

Are the primary educators of their children  
Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life  
Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians

**Parents should expect to:**

- Worship with your families regularly
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate.
- Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective.
- Encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Pray for your child's spiritual growth every day.
- Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations.
- Emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.
- Assist in retreats, service work, meetings, classes, spiritual events and social events.
- Faithfully bring your teen (and when necessary yourself) to meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help your child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation

**ST. JOSEPH-OLNEY/HOLY CROSS-WENDELIN**  
**ST. JOSEPH-STRINGTOWN**  
**Confirmation Service Journal Entry**

Name: \_ Type of Service: \_ Parish \_ Community

Date \_ of project: \_

**Signature of adult in charge:** \_

Time of project: \_ Location: \_

1. What did you do? Describe your project in as much detail as possible.

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- How long did it take: \_

2. Why did you choose this service project? Give more than one answer:

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3. Explain how your project helped enrich the lives of other people:

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4. What kind of effect did this service project have on you? Describe how you felt toward yourself and the people involved:

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5. Describe a special moment or special person you encountered while performing this service;

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6. Would you do this type of service again? Why? Why Not?

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**Optional:** Can you suggest other projects that would be meaningful for you or others to do?

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Use reverse side, if needed.

# Sponsor Certification Form

## Candidate Information

Candidate's Name (Please Print):\_

Confirmation Year: Spring 20\_

## Sponsor Information

Sponsor's Name (Please Print):

Relation to Candidate:\_

I, am registered and participating member of the Parish of

I am practicing Roman Catholic who attends Mass regularly (Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation) and is living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

I am a fully initiated having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

I am sufficiently mature in my own faith commitment (The bishop prefers the sponsor to be at least 18 years of age.

I am reasonably informed on current church teachings

I am not a parent of the candidate

As a sponsor, I will live a life of faith consistent with the responsibilities of being a Godparent/Sponsor by active participation at Mass and participation in the sacraments and by my commitment to Jesus: to love God above all, to be an active member of my parish community and to serve my neighbor. I will actively support the person I sponsor by my continuing prayers, encouragement and the example of my daily Christian life.

Date

Sponsor's Signature

## CERTIFICATION BY THE SPONSOR'S PASTOR

(If the Sponsor is not a member of Holy Cross-Wendelin or St. Joseph-Stringtown)

Date

Pastor's Signature

(parish seal)

# Confirmation Sponsor Guide



## **St. Joseph-Olney/Holy Cross-Wendelin St. Joseph-Stringtown Roman Catholic Churches**

Dear Sponsor,

Thank you for agreeing to be a sponsor for this young person. It is a role that the Catholic Church takes very seriously. You have committed to play an important role in the maturing of your Candidate's faith. If you have never been a sponsor before, you might be asking yourself, "What is a sponsor, why does the Catholic Church require Confirmation candidates to have sponsors, and what is a sponsor's role?"

Faith and knowledge of our religious traditions develop in many ways. Parents, siblings, teachers, priests, coaches, catechists, friends, and other people who enter our lives all play a part in a person's religious formation. Some learning experiences take place in formal settings with books and instructors while other learning happens informally as an outgrowth of day to day happenings. Every opportunity to learn in your faith is vital because the Holy Spirit uses every means to lead us to greater faith.

As we move from childhood belief on the conviction of our parents, we start to develop our own call to be a Catholic Christian. We seek out mentors, adult models of faith who witness in their own life the message and meaning of their faith. Knowing that young persons need mentors, the Church creates a mentor for the Confirmation Candidate known as a sponsor. The role of the sponsor is two-fold: first, to be a witness of the Catholic faith, an example for your Candidate and secondly, to state to the Church the desire of your candidate in receiving Confirmation.

Over the next several months, as your Candidate travels the final leg of their journey towards Confirmation, you are asked to meet with your Candidate as much as possible. Get to know one another on the level of faith. Talk about what it means to be a Catholic and a Christian. This booklet was designed to help in this effort. Your Candidate's book is exactly the same as yours so that you may work through this together even if you live far away from your Candidate. We ask that both you and your Candidate look over the booklet and answer the questions BEFORE meeting. This will allow more time to share once you meet. There are no "correct" answers. The answers should be truthful and reflect from the heart. You do not have to feel responsible to teach anything or make sure your Candidate "gets the point." There may be some shy-ness or embarrassment at first, but it will diminish as you go on sharing. It is our prayer that these discussions will bring to mind personal experiences and stories that both of you can share, which will help you see how God is at work in both of your lives. Sharing these stories and personal experiences are not "getting to the point," - they are the point!

Above all else, enjoy this time together as you both grow in God's love.

Peace,

**This booklet is intended to help the sponsor of a Confirmation Candidate to truly walk alongside their Candidate during the final year of preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Candidate and Sponsor are encouraged to meet together on a regular basis to complete these exercises and discussions. These booklets are not to be turned back in. The information gained from them is confidential between the Candidate and Sponsor.**

\* Sponsor & Candidate read the Scripture verses and answer the questions. Discuss your responses with one another.

**For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body and all were made to drink of one Spirit. If one member (of the Body of Christ) suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. (1 Cor. 12:12-13, 26)**

What do you think this passage from St. Paul's letter to the Christians at Corinth is saying?

Who are the person(s) in your life right now who show you what it means to follow Jesus Christ and the Spirit?

Who are the people who support you as you try to follow Jesus Christ?

Who are your Christian "heroes?" These can be persons living or dead whom you admire and want to be like. These can also be canonized saints. Why?

God is calling you to become a saint, someone who follows the way of Jesus wholeheartedly. Pretend that is far into the future and you have died and gone to heaven.

What do you want it to say on your tombstone?

How will you be a hero to others who follow you?

\* Sponsor & Candidate read the Scripture verses and answer the questions. Discuss your responses with one another.

READ: John 13:1-9,12-17

**Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father, having loved those who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside His garments and wrapped Himself with a towel. Then He poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel around His waist.**

**He came to Simon Peter and Peter said to Him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward, you will understand." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him saying, "If I do not wash your feet, you shall have no part of me." Simon then said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and head!"**

**When Jesus had finished washing their feet and had put His garments back on and resumed His place at the table, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right for so I am. If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is the one sent greater than he who sends him. Blessed are you if you know what I have just said and you do it."**

What do you think is the main message of this Scripture passage?

Why do you think Jesus did what He did in this story?

How do I imitate Christ by serving others? Think about all aspects of your life—family, school, work, your parish, your city, county, state, country, other groups you belong to.

What gifts, abilities, or qualities do I have that I can use to help others come to know, love, and serve God?

Who are persons that I can name who have served me directly or indirectly in some way and have shown me the love and care of God by their actions?

\* Sponsor & Candidate answer the questions privately then share your responses with one another.

If someone asked you, “Why are you a Catholic?”, what would you say?

Provide at least 3 reasons.

1.

2.

3.

A question that I have about the Catholic faith is:



\* Sponsor & Candidate answer the questions privately then share your responses with one another.

What is your favorite story about Jesus? The Candidate and Sponsor should each tell or read the story to each other.

Why is this story your favorite?

What does it tell you about Jesus, or God, and about yourself?

What does it teach you?

If you could ask Jesus any one question or tell Him one thing, what would you ask or say? 7

\* Sponsor & Candidate answer the questions privately then share your responses with one another.

## **A Question to Consider...**

***What meaning does your baptism have for you today?***

## **With Your Family**

With the help of your parents or other loved ones, recall the day of your Baptism. Record a few important details.

Date of your Baptism:

Your Godfather's Name:

Your Godmother's Name:

Church where you were Baptized:

How old were you when you were Baptized?

Family members and important loved ones present to witness your Baptism:

# Confirmation Candidate Guide



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**When Jesus had finished washing their feet and had put His garments back on and resumed His place at the table, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right for so I am. If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is the one sent greater than he who sends him. Blessed are you if you know what I have just said and you do it."**

What do you think is the main message of this Scripture passage?

Why do you think Jesus did what He did in this story?

How do I imitate Christ by serving others? Think about all aspects of your life—family, school, work, your parish, your city, county, state, country, other groups you belong to.

What gifts, abilities, or qualities do I have that I can use to help others come to know, love, and serve God?

Who are persons that I can name who have served me directly or indirectly in some way and have shown me the love and care of God by their actions?

\* Sponsor & Candidate answer the questions privately then share your responses with one another.

If someone asked you, “Why are you a Catholic?”, what would you say?

Provide at least 3 reasons.

1.

2.

3.

A question that I have about the Catholic faith is:

\* Sponsor & Candidate answer the questions privately then share your responses with one another.

What is your favorite story about Jesus? The Candidate and Sponsor should each tell or read the story to each other.

Why is this story your favorite?

What does it tell you about Jesus, or God, and about yourself?

What does it teach you?

If you could ask Jesus any one question or tell Him one thing, what would you ask or say? 7

\* Sponsor & Candidate answer the questions privately then share your responses with one another.

## **A Question to Consider...**

***What meaning does your baptism have for you today?***

## **With Your Family**

With the help of your parents or other loved ones, recall the day of your Baptism. Record a few important details.

Date of your Baptism:

Your Godfather's Name:

Your Godmother's Name:

Church where you were Baptized:

How old were you when you were Baptized?

Family members and important loved ones present to witness your Baptism:



# **St. Joseph-Olney/Holy Cross-Wendelin St. Joseph-Stringtown Roman Catholic Churches**

## **Confirmation Preparation Covenant**







(To be completed at the Rite of Enrollment)

*This agreement sets forth the responsibilities and commitments that exist between our parish, our confirmation candidates, and their families. Through this agreement, we hope to provide the elements necessary or desired by the candidates wishing to complete their initiation into the Roman Catholic Church.*

***Each member of the covenant has, by their signature, morally bound themselves to the conditions of this agreement.***

### **Parish**

**We, as your parish promise to:**

-  Provide Sunday Mass to allow child and parent to worship with the entire community of Holy Cross-Wendelin and St. Joseph-Stringtown.
-  Provide timely and competent teaching suitable to prepare candidates for the reception of Confirmation.
-  Provide appropriate ceremonies and rites for the candidates, as well as Reconciliation, retreats, and communal celebrations.
-  Pray for the candidates.
-  Share in spiritual development of the candidate and live a Christian life by example.
-  Witness the preparation and attest to the readiness of candidates for Confirmation

**On behalf of the Faith Community of Holy Cross-Wendelin and St. Joseph-Stringtown Catholic Parish:**





Signature \_




Date \_

### **Parents**

*Parents are responsible for bringing or providing transportation for their child to all meetings (including classes, retreats, Reconciliation, and Mass). Church law requires that prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation being administered, the candidate be suitably instructed, properly disposed and capable of renewing their Baptismal promises. With this in mind, we make reference to the expected attendance at all Confirmation activities and classes. Parents are notified far enough in advance to plan schedules and calendars to avoid conflicts with Confirmation schedules. (A lack of willingness to participate will indicate a lack of desire for Confirmation and therefore may be postponed until the candidate is able to fully participate in the preparation process.)*

**I (We) as Parent(s) promise to:**

-  Attend all meetings specified for parent(s).
-  Attend Sunday Mass.
-  Provide Certification of Baptism for my (our) child to the Faith Formation Office.
-  Stewardship:
  - o Time: spend time building a relationship with God through prayer and treating God as beloved.
  - o Talent: share God given gifts and talents with the parish and greater community.

- o Treasure: recognize what has been given by God's grace and share it proportionally.
-  Pray for my(our)child.
-  Witness the preparation and assist the parish team in discerning the readiness of my(our) child for Confirmation.
-  Witness my(our) child's progress toward completion of class work and service hours by required class due dates.









**As parent(s) for the Candidate:**

Signature \_

Signature \_

Date \_

**I, the Candidate promise to:**

-  Attend Sunday Mass.
-  Attend all large group activities, classes, individual sessions, Masses, Reconciliation and Day of reflection.
-  Assume responsibility of completion of expectations for the preparation of reception of Confirmation.
-  Exhibit appropriate behavior at all times.
-  Stewardship:
  - o **Time:** discover how Mass/Eucharist, prayer, and sacraments can help me know God.
  - o **Talent:** share God given gifts and talents with the parish and greater community.
  - o **Treasure:** Proportional share material gifts.
-  Continue to grow towards a mature daily prayer life.
-  Continue to seek out ways to learn more about faith and develop a Christian life.
-  Willingly state that I, the candidate, am ready to participate fully in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If any member of the covenant fails to honor the spirit of this agreement, the covenant will be considered annulled upon consideration by parish staff.

**As Candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Signature \_

Date \_

# Confirmation Saint Report

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. As a candidate for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, consider the following when choosing a Confirmation name:

Pick a saint's name that would symbolize a new beginning in your faith and a connection with that particular saint.

In choosing a Confirmation name, you need to think about who you are. The particular saint's name chosen, would represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking, or would represent a strength or attribute you feel you need. It is important and necessary to learn something about the saint you choose before you decide on that name.

Once you have chosen your Confirmation name, you will need to complete a Confirmation Saint report on a separate sheet of paper using the following format:

Student Name:

The Saint I chose was:

Research and write the following:

When you decide on your Confirmation name, write a paragraph about the saint whose name you are choosing. Also, write a second paragraph about why you are choosing this saint. What symbolism or meaning does this saint hold for you? What do you hope to gain by modeling yourself after this saint?

When writing about the saints, try to think about and answer the following when you summarize his or her life: Why are you choosing this saint? Where and when was this saint born? What kinds of struggles did this saint have to endure? What miracles are attributed to this saint? If this saint is a patron saint, what is he or she the patron saint of?

How can this saint help you when you pray? How does this saint serve as a role model of the Catholic faith in your life?

Please note that simply printing out a web site page will not be accepted. Please take the time to research and learn about this saint who has special meaning in your life.

## Helpful Resources

Catholic Online Saints and Angels: [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

The Patron Saints index: [www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm)