Confirmation Sponsor/ Candidate Activity Packet

You are required to meet 4 times between the beginning of the year and your Confirmation.

At each meeting, you will complete a worksheet found in this packet which includes discussing the Candidate's preparation for Confirmation as well as doing one of the following activities at each meeting: fun event, Mass, service project (can count towards total service hours of Candidate), and a learning activity. These activities can be done in any order, but all of the activities should be completed over the course of the year. Each of these worksheets must be completed and turned in to the youth minister at each of the Confirmation classes. The worksheets can be turned in by hand or via email to youthminister@johnirelandschool.org.

If you have any questions, please contact the youth minister by emailing youthminister@johnirelandschool.com.

Learning Activity

1. Read the next page together on what Confirmation is.
2. Discuss and answer the questions below.

1. Candidate:
    a. Why do you want to get Confirmed?
2. Sponsor:
    a. How did you experience your Confirmation?
    b. What changed in your life?
    c. What would you do differently in hindsight?
    d. What do you wish you were taught about the Sacrament?
3. Both Candidate and Sponsor:
    a. What did you learn about this Sacrament from the reading?
    b. How can you live out your call to be witnesses to the world in your daily life?
    c. What questions do you have now about the Sacrament?

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray.
O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Incorporated in the Church through baptism, the faithful are destined by the baptismal character for the worship of the Christian religion; reborn as sons of God they must confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church. They are more perfectly bound to the Church by the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ."
(*Lumen Gentium 11)* The Sacrament of Confirmation bestows the person who received it with gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is not the end or a graduation of learning, but rather it is the beginning of your personal relationship with Christ and the Church. Most often for Baptism, your parents choose it for you, but this Sacrament, you choose for yourself.

The word "Confirmation" comes from the Latin *confirmatio* which means "to strengthen" or "to reinforce." This helps show us the purpose of the Sacrament of Confirmation: to reinforce or strengthen what was started at Baptism. In Baptism, you were brought into the family of God; now, in Confirmation you are being sent out into the world to be a witness of that family of God. This means living our faith authentically and sharing the Good News of Christ with others both through words and actions.

One of the biggest challenges we face is actually living out our faith in the world. Confirmation gives us the grace to do that through receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.
Wisdom- Helps us see life from God's perspective and make decisions aligned with His Will.
Understanding- Helps us deepen our grasp of the truths of the faith and apply them in our life.
Counsel- Guides us in making moral decisions and discerning what is right.
Fortitude- Gives us courage to stand up for our faith even in the face of opposition.
Knowledge- Helps us see God's goodness in creation.
Piety- Helps us have a deeper and more sincere relationship with God.
Fear of the Lord- Helps us have a profound respect and reverence for God.

In our day, living as a true disciple of Christ is not always easy, but it can be done in both small and large ways. This could be having integrity at work, being honest, or even not being afraid to share our faith. This also includes living more actively in the life of the Church by volunteering and having an active prayer life to continue to deepen your relationship with God.

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #1 Discussion Questions

Please write answers in the space below and turn in to the Youth Minister. If you need more room, use a blank piece of paper and staple to it.

Candidate Name:_____

Take a few minutes and share your faith story with each other.

Sponsor:

- How have you come to know God more personally?
- How have you seen God working in your life through the years?
- What has been the most impactful part of your faith life so far?
- Anything else you want to share you are welcome to do so.

Candidate:

- Do you feel close to God right now? Why or why not?
- What more do you think you can learn about your faith?
- What has been the most impactful part of your faith life so far?

Sponsor: What was your Confirmation experience like?

Candidate: How do you want this Confirmation program to make a difference in the way you relate to God?

Sponsor: What do you feel is the call of Christ in your life as an adult member of the Church? How do you live that call out and/or how don't you live that call out?

Candidate: With Confirmation this year, you will become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church. What does this mean to you? How do you want to live that out in your life?

Sponsor: What are you looking forward to most about this year with your candidate?

Candidate: What are you looking forward to most about this year with Confirmation Preparation? What do you hope is included in the preparation?

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #1 Activity

Pick 1 activity to do

□ Do something fun together. Write a brief description of what you did:

□ Go to Catholic Mass together. This can be a Sunday Mass or a Daily Mass. Where did you go?

- Church name and town: _____
- Before you go to Mass, discuss something you can both pray for during the offering and write this Mass intention below:

- What was something you learned from the homily?

□ Serve together. This CAN count towards the required service hours of the candidate. Write a brief description of how you served and the impact it had on you:

□ Learn Together. Read and discuss the Learning Activity on page 1 and 2 about what Confirmation is. Write some of the things you discussed and learned below:

Candidate Signature: _____ Date _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Date _____

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #2 Discussion Questions

Please write answers in the space below and turn in to the Youth Minister. If you need more room, use a blank piece of paper and staple to it.

Candidate Name:_____

Sponsor: How have you been living out your Catholic faith since the last meeting?

Candidate: How have you been living out your Catholic faith since the last meeting?

Sponsor: What are some of your strengths or gifts that God has given you? What are ways you have/ can use them to further the Kingdom of God?

Candidate: What are some of your strengths or gifts that God has given you? What are ways you can use them to further the Kingdom of God, both now and after Confirmation?

Candidate: What is something you are struggling with in your faith or a question about the Catholic Church that you wish you knew the answer to?

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #2 Activity

Pick 1 activity to do

□ Do something fun together. Write a brief description of what you did:

□ Go to Catholic Mass together. This can be a Sunday Mass or a Daily Mass. Where did you go?

- Church name and town: _____
- Before you go to Mass, discuss something you can both pray for during the offering and write this Mass intention below:

- What was something you learned from the homily?

□ Serve together. This CAN count towards the required service hours of the candidate. Write a brief description of how you served and the impact it had on you:

□ Learn Together. Read and discuss the Learning Activity on page 1 and 2 about what Confirmation is. Write some of the things you discussed and learned below:

Candidate Signature: _____ Date _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Date _____

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #3 Discussion Questions

Please write answers in the space below and turn in to the Youth Minister. If you need more room, use a blank piece of paper and staple to it.

Candidate Name:_____

Sponsor: How have you been living out your Catholic faith since the last meeting?

Candidate: How have you been living out your Catholic faith since the last meeting?

Candidate: What ways does our Culture make it difficult to live out your faith in your daily life?

Sponsor: What ways does our Culture make it difficult to live out your faith in your daily life?

Sponsor: How have you handled those difficulties? What would you suggest for the Candidate to help him/her live out the Catholic Faith daily?

Candidate: What is something you are learning about your faith that you are excited about?

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #3 Activity

Pick 1 activity to do

□ Do something fun together. Write a brief description of what you did:

□ Go to Catholic Mass together. This can be a Sunday Mass or a Daily Mass. Where did you go?

- Church name and town: _____
- Before you go to Mass, discuss something you can both pray for during the offering and write this Mass intention below:

- What was something you learned from the homily?

□ Serve together. This CAN count towards the required service hours of the candidate. Write a brief description of how you served and the impact it had on you:

□ Learn Together. Read and discuss the Learning Activity on page 1 and 2 about what Confirmation is. Write some of the things you discussed and learned below:

Candidate Signature: _____ Date _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Date _____

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #4 Discussion Questions

Please write answers in the space below and turn in to the Youth Minister. If you need more room, use a blank piece of paper and staple to it.

Candidate Name:_____

Sponsor: How have you seen your Candidate grow in their Catholic faith?

Candidate: How do you feel you have grown in your Catholic Faith?

Sponsor: When you are struggling in your faith or get complacent, what have you done to get back on track?

Candidate: What is your plan to continue to grow in your faith after Confirmation and after High school?

Sponsor: What are ways that you have continued to grow in your faith as an adult?

Candidate: What Confirmation saint did you pick and why?

Discuss the progress for the requirements for Confirmation:

- □ Weekly Sunday Mass attendance
- □ LifeTEEN attendance
- □ Turned in Sponsor form
- □ Chosen Saint and written saint paper
- □ Written letter to the Bishop
- □ Attended retreat in last 12 months
- □ Prayers known
- □ 10 Commandments known
- □ 7 Sacraments known
- □ Beatitudes known

Sponsor/Candidate Meeting #4 Activity

Pick 1 activity to do

□ Do something fun together. Write a brief description of what you did:

□ Go to Catholic Mass together. This can be a Sunday Mass or a Daily Mass. Where did you go?

- Church name and town: _____
- Before you go to Mass, discuss something you can both pray for during the offering and write this Mass intention below:

- What was something you learned from the homily?

□ Serve together. This CAN count towards the required service hours of the candidate. Write a brief description of how you served and the impact it had on you:

□ Learn Together. Read and discuss the Learning Activity on page 1 and 2 about what Confirmation is. Write some of the things you discussed and learned below:

Candidate Signature: _____ Date _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Date _____