

A white dove is shown in flight, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the cover. The dove is surrounded by a bright, glowing aura of yellow and orange light, which contrasts sharply with the dark red background. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with the text overlaid on the glowing area.

**Confirmation  
2018**

**The Church of  
Saint Catharine  
Religious Education  
Program**

**Information Booklet  
For Parents**



Dear Confirmation Parents/Guardians,

Just as your child grows physically, intellectually, and emotionally, so too, he or she grows spiritually. As a parent responsible for the development of your child, you try to meet all of his or her changing needs. You foster and direct spiritual growth by the atmosphere in your home, the example of your life, and the celebration of the sacraments. You have seen that your child has been initiated into the faith through Baptism and the Eucharist. Now your young teenager is at the stage of strengthening his or her commitment to the faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The goal of this sacramental program is to help young people be receptive and responsive to the graces and challenges of the Sacrament of Confirmation. They learn that it is a Sacrament of Initiation that deepens their relationship with the Church. They become more aware of the presence and action of the Spirit and his gifts within them, which empower them to live as Jesus did. They discover ways to fulfill the specific responsibilities that are theirs as Christians.

As young teens struggle to clarify their own convictions, attitudes, and values, parents are their chief models. Faith is caught more than taught. In undertaking more seriously your role of preparing your teenager for Confirmation, consider these questions:

- Do I keep lines of communication open with my teenager?
- Do I make time for prayer, both private and communal?
- Do I actively participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do I try to grow in knowledge of the faith and share it with my family?
- Do I give loving service to those inside and outside my family circle?
- Am I involved with parish activities as much as I could be?

A calendar for the Confirmation program, along with all pertinent information has been enclosed in this packet to help you in your planning. Please make note of all of the information that must be returned to us by **December 10, 2017**.

We hope that this early information about the Confirmation program will enable you to devote some time to preparing, discussing, and praying about it. Additional information will be provided as we begin the actual preparation. If you have any questions regarding the information here or any other aspect of the program, please contact us. We are here to assist you in any possible way.

Know that you and your child will be in the prayers of the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Blessings and Peace,

*Dominica Vullo*

Dominica Vullo  
Coordinator of Religious Education

## CALENDAR OF DATES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### The Dates for our 2017-2018 Confirmation Program are as follows:

#### September:

- Sunday, September 24

#### October:

- \*Wednesday, October 4 - Parent Meeting 7:00pm (All parents are asked to attend)
- Sunday, October 15

#### November:

- Sunday, November 19

#### December:

- Sunday, December 10

#### January:

- Sunday, January 21

#### February:

- Sunday, February 11

#### March:

- \*Saturday, March 10 (Mandatory Attendance ) 9:00am - 12:00pm.  
Pam Stenzel Presents: "Nobody Told Me" at St. John Vianney H.S. All parents asked to attend.  
(Information will be given at October parent meeting.)
- \*Sunday, March 18 – Make-Up in case of Inclement Weather  
(Mandatory Attendance, only if necessary)

#### April:

- \*Thursday, April 12 (Mandatory Attendance) 6:30pm - 8:30pm. St. Leo's Parish, (This is the Confirmation Retreat.) Presentation by: Chris Stefanic
- \*Monday, April 23 (Mandatory Attendance) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Penance Service (Time may change slightly)
- \*Thursday, April 26 – (Mandatory Attendance) 6:00pm/7:30 p.m. Confirmation Practice (Details to follow)
- \*Friday, April 27 - **Confirmation: 2:30pm & 6:00pm** (Details to follow)



***Absences:***

In the case of extreme emergency or illness, **only 1** absence will be allowed (which is the equivalent of 3 classes). Please contact us if there are any questions.

***Tardiness/Early Dismissal:***

All students must arrive on time and there are **no early dismissals** permitted.

***Forms:***

***Please return completed paper work to the Religious Education office by 12/10/2017. If there are any problems fulfilling these requirements, you must contact us before the due date.***

Required paper work includes:

1. Candidate's Information Form
2. Baptismal Certificate (only if your child was not baptized here at St. Catharine's)
3. Confirmation Saint Report
4. Confirmation Sponsor Information Form
5. Sponsor Eligibility Certificate
6. Volunteer Service Form (Due no later than Feb. 11)
7. Parent Letter
8. **Wallet sized picture (only child's face with full name on back)**



## Important Dates & Information continued:

**Confirmation Practice with Sponsors\*:** April 26, 2018

**Group A** 6:00 p.m. (2:30 Confirmation) see below

**Group B** 7:30 p.m. (6:00 Confirmation) see below

\*If your sponsor is not available for practice, please have someone else stand-in for your sponsor and you are responsible for showing the sponsor what to do on the day of Confirmation.

**Confirmation:**

**April 27, 2018**

**Confirmation Times:**

**Group A** 2:30 p.m. – Mrs. Hammer, Mrs. Umbrino, Mr. Sharpe, Mrs. Lamberti, Mrs. Peloro, Mr. Ratkoski & Mrs. Sharpe.

**Group B** 6:00 p.m. – Mr. Cardinale, Mr. Dalleggio, Mrs. DeCicco, Ms. DeFelice, Mr. Driscoll, Mrs. Orlando, Mrs. LaMountain & Mrs. Tascione.

***Students and Sponsors must arrive 40 minutes prior to the Confirmation ceremony, (i.e., 1:50 p.m. or 5:20 p.m.)***

**What do the Students Wear for the Ceremony?**

- Robes - red for the boys and white for the girls (we will provide)
- Boys – white dress shirt, tie and slacks and dress shoes (no sneakers, no suit jackets)
- Girls – a modest dress or skirt (No mini skirts)
- No corsages, wristlets or boutonnieres are to be worn.



**The Church of St. Catharine**  
**Candidate's Information Form For The Sacrament of**  
**Confirmation**

Candidate (Student) \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate's Height (estimate, for gown) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please check here if you need a special size \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Confirmation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Record of Baptism**

Church of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

If your child **did not receive Baptism here at St. Catharine's**, please attach a **copy** of the baptismal certificate to this form. (Do **not** attach the original certificate).

**Record of First Holy Communion**

Church of First Holy Communion \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of First Communion \_\_\_\_\_

# Confirmation Saint Report

**Due date: 12/10/2017**

*Once you choose a Saint, prepare a report on the life of that Saint that demonstrates how he/she exemplified the virtues of Christian witness. It should summarize the major facts, virtues, accomplishments, and their special relationship with God. The report should also explain why you selected your Saint. This isn't a collection of facts but how you plan to continue to take inspiration and example from your Saint's life.*

*Include a cover sheet with your name that features a picture of your Saint or other meaningful artwork. **Be creative!** (All students will be presenting their Saint reports to their classes.)*

- The Saint Name and Feast Day
- Is your Saint a Patron Saint and of what
- Where and when did your Saint live
- Family background
- What occupation
- What drew your Saint to Christ and the Church
- What your Saint did that was remarkable or inspiring
- The virtues she/he demonstrated
- What obstacles or adversaries the Saint overcame
- How he/she lived an exemplary life
- What aspects of this person's life attracted you
- What contributions he/she made to the Church and to society
- When the Saint was officially proclaimed a Saint or Beatified
- How this Saint can be a role model for Christians today



## **Website Resources:**

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.theworkofgod.org/Saints/>

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx> <http://www.catholic-saints.info/>

# Facts About Sponsors



## Role of the Sponsor:

The candidates, in consultation with their parents, choose a sponsor. The role of the sponsor is an important one. A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate, who is willing to share his/her own faith and who can be of help to the candidate on this spiritual journey to Confirmation. According to Canon Law, parents or step- parents cannot be chosen as sponsors.

The sponsor must be a companion on the journey of faith. He or she is present as a friend, specifically a Christian friend. Just as friends do things together, share themselves and their resources, support and encourage each other, so do sponsors in the area of Christian and church life. Sponsors are there when needed: to affirm, teach, advise, console, strengthen and guide. They personally introduce the candidate to the Church.

## Requirements: (According to church (Canon Law) and Diocesan Mandates)

- Sponsor must be **16 years of age**.
- Sponsor must be an **active, practicing Catholic in good-standing within their parish in the Catholic Church** and have been initiated in the three sacraments of **Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist**.
- Sponsor, if married, their **marriage must be recognized by the Church**.
- Sponsor may be the same sponsor the individual had at Baptism, or a new sponsor selected specifically for Confirmation.
- Sponsor may be either male or female for any candidate.
- Sponsor **may not** be a parent or stepparent.

If the sponsor is a member of St. Catharine's Church, please fill in the sponsor's information on the information sheet and we will confirm the eligibility requirements in our Parish Office.

If the sponsor is not a member of St. Catharine's Church, please be sure that the sponsor you have selected meets all of the requirements above.

Your sponsor **must** obtain a sponsor eligibility certificate from his/her parish and attach it directly to the Sponsor Eligibility Form. **Note:** No one can be a sponsor without meeting the above requirements. If time is of the essence, your sponsor can send this form directly to us at:

The Church of St. Catharine  
P.O. Box 655  
Holmdel, NJ 07733  
Fax: 732-842-9283

(Be sure to add the Confirmation candidate's name to the certificate.)

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS FACTS SHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS**





## The Joy of Service

You are requested to participate in a minimum of 10 hours of voluntary service. It is our hope that as you begin to serve others, you will find this service to be a privilege, not just a requirement for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

These services will help you to put your faith into action, not only now but as you grow in your faith.

We have enclosed suggestions for service projects on the following page. Please look them over and decide with your parents how you will joyfully complete your hours of service.

We have also included a service hour's tally sheet for you to keep a record of your hours. Once you have completed your service hours and have filled in your sheet, please return it to your teacher. Your service requirement should be completed by March.





# Suggestions for Service Projects:

*Jesus said, "Here I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27)*

Before making a commitment to a service project, think about the variety of ways in which you can use your talents and abilities to help others. These suggestions are only some of the ways other candidates have chosen to serve. Perhaps something on this list will help you decide the service you would like to perform. The list may give you some other ideas of what you would like to do. Perhaps you have your own special service in mind.

Before making your decision and commitment:

- Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance
- Talk to your parents and sponsor
- Find out the "real needs" of the people in your family, neighborhood, parish, school, or community

Join the choir

Serve Mass

Help prepare for a children's liturgy

Help in the CCD program

Visit the elderly at home or in a nursing home

Assist senior citizens with their chores

Baby-sit for someone who needs help

Organize a "clean-up" campaign in the parish, school, or local park

Organize or help with a recycling project

Help a needy family

Volunteer to work in a hospital

Tutor after school

Shop for an elderly neighbor or relative

Do yard work at the school or parish

Join a service group

Write cards or letters to hospitalized children or teens

Collect food for the poor

Help with a fund raising project for a charitable organization

Collect, clean, and repair clothing for the poor

Earn money for the missions by washing cars, babysitting, etc.

Work at a food bank

Serve as a teacher's aid

Perform special services for the handicapped

Prepare a meal or dessert for a family whose parent or child has died

Collect toys for poor children

Read to the blind

Make audiotapes for the blind or elderly

Make gifts or favors for hospitals or nursing homes

Prepare entertainment or holiday parties for nursing homes or child care centers

Collect and deliver magazines to the emergency waiting rooms, hospital waiting rooms, etc.

Coach or assist with young children's sports activities.

## *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created; and You will renew the face of the earth. O God, Who did teach the hearts of Your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Parent letter

**During the Confirmation Retreat Day, after the bulk of activities are completed, we will set aside some “quiet time” for the candidates to reflect on the events of the day. This time of quiet reflections will afford each candidate an opportunity to consider everything that has taken place that day, and from throughout the year of preparation for Confirmation.**

**We are asking the parents/guardians of the Confirmation candidates to write a brief letter to their child, telling their thoughts and feelings now that the child is about to make big changes, both in the Church as confirmed members and in secular life as high school students. These will be personal thoughts between you and your child that no one else will read.**

**Please write this letter, seal it inside an envelope with your child’s name on it, and attach it to this page. This letter will be given to your child during the Retreat.**





## Parent Check Off List:



### **Did you:**

- Read the Confirmation Booklet
- Complete Candidate's Information Form
- Attach Baptismal Certificate – if child was not baptized at St. Catharine's Parish
- Complete the Confirmation Saint Report
- Complete the Confirmation Sponsor Information
- Attach Sponsor Certificate – if sponsor does not belong to St. Catharine's Parish
- Complete the Volunteer Service sheet (Due No Later than February 11, 2018)
- Attach Parent letter - sealed in envelope, addressed to your child
- Attach a Wallet Sized Picture of child with full name on back

### **Then:**

- Mark your calendar with all important dates
- Make a copy of all important information for your records
- Bring in the appropriate forms to the Religious Education Office
- All paper work, except the Community Service Hours are Due 12/10/17.**

**You're Done. Amen.**

# The Sacrament of Confirmation

## ✓ What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and His Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses. We are accepted as fully initiated members of the Church and are expected to take up the challenge of becoming mature Disciples of Christ. We view Confirmation as a sealing of our baptism. It is an opportunity for us to say "yes" to the vows taken for us by our godparents in the sacrament of Baptism.

## ✓ What does the word confirmation mean?

Confirmation means, "making strong" or "strengthening". The work begun by our baptism is strengthened or completed by Confirmation.

## ✓ What are the special gifts of Confirmation that give strength?

Receiving the Holy Spirit and His seven gifts give us the strength to stand up for and defend our faith.

## ✓ What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- **Wisdom:** enables us to see that all of life can be reduced to one simple truth: love of God and neighbor.
- **Understanding:** to see beneath the surface of a problem or an issue and to recognize what is really involved.
- **Knowledge:** to get the facts straight. To be able to recognize the difference between truth and error.
- **Courage:** Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge enable us to be convinced of what is good. Courage gives us the strength to be able to hold on to and defend that which is good no matter how difficult or dangerous it might be.
- **Right Judgment:** gifted by God's Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge, we will be able to figure out how best to act in a tough situation.
- **Reverence:** this gift enables us to be sensitive to the love and holiness God offers us through Jesus and the Christian community.
- **Awe in God's Presence:** this gift enables us to have a keen awareness of just how special and awesome God really is.

## ✓ Who is the usual minister of Confirmation?

The Bishop is the usual minister of Confirmation. Sometimes, however, the Bishop will delegate a priest to administer Confirmation if he is not available to be present himself. In a large diocese it is impossible for the Bishop to be present at all the Confirmations.

## ✓ What is the reason for having a sponsor at Confirmation?

Your sponsor serves you in three ways. First, your sponsor serves as a role model for you in faith. Second, your sponsor is a companion on your faith journey, supporting you in prayer and in your search for the Holy Spirit. Finally, your sponsor witnesses for you before the entire Church. Standing by you as you are confirmed, he or she proclaims by that gesture, that you are ready and willing to accept the responsibilities and privileges of being a fully initiated member of the Catholic Christian Community.

✓ **What is the significance of a "Confirmation name"?**

Taking a new name for Confirmation enables us to honor our "patron" saint by living up to the ideals that made that saint holy and good. We choose a saint's name so that our patron saint can be a role model and to be someone to help and inspire us. If you choose not to take a new name, you can use your baptismal name.

✓ **What happens during the Confirmation ceremony?**

If the Sacrament of Confirmation is administered during Mass, the Mass will be the same as a regular Mass except after the Gospel, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered, and then the Mass will continue as usual. If the Sacrament of Confirmation is not administered during Mass, there will be the readings from Sacred Scripture and then the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered.

✓ **The Presentation of Candidates**

The presentation of candidates will take place following the Gospel. At this time the Pastor will present the Candidates for Confirmation to the Bishop, stating that they have completed the necessary preparation for Confirmation and are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. At which time, all of the Confirmation candidates will stand.

✓ **The Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

The renewal of Baptismal promises will take place following the Homily. The Bishop will ask you to stand and to renew the Baptismal promises that your parents and godparents made for you at your baptism.

✓ **Imposition of Hands**

The Imposition of Hands will take place following the renewal of the Baptismal promises. The Bishop will extend his hands over the candidates expressing the Biblical gesture by which the Holy Spirit is called upon.

✓ **The Anointing with Chrism**

We now come to the central action by which the Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred. With his thumb moistened with the Holy Chrism, the Bishop makes the Sign of the Cross on the candidate's forehead saying: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The newly confirmed responds: "Amen." Then the Bishop says: "Peace be with you." And the newly confirmed responds: "And with your spirit." While the Bishop is confirming you, your sponsor will be standing behind you with his/her right hand on your right shoulder. Following the anointing of each candidate, the Mass or ceremony will conclude as usual.

✓ **What is Chrism?**

The oil used to anoint the candidates is called Holy Chrism. It is a mixture of olive oil and perfume called balm or balsam; it is blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday.

✓ **What does the Sign of the Cross mean in Confirmation?**

The Sign of the Cross shows that we believe that our deliverance from sin and our restoration of God's grace comes only from Christ's death on the Cross. Impressed on our forehead, the Cross proclaims our willingness to share in the sufferings of Christ and to remain true and loyal to the forgiveness from sins.

✓ **What does it mean to be a witness to Christ?**

To be a witness to Christ means to know, to love, and to worship God in the way Christ wants us to. This means that we have to:

- Know what Christ taught by studying the Scriptures.
- Obey the Commandments of God and the examples of Jesus by keeping oneself pure and free from sin.
- Worship God properly by receiving and living out the Sacraments and by participating in the Mass each Sunday and Holy Days of obligation. Confirmation helps us to take very seriously these duties of knowing, obeying, and worshiping God.

✓ **What will be expected of you after you have received the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will be expected to be a witness of Christ, to proclaim your faith, to defend it, and to spread it whenever possible.

✓ **What are some of the ways you can promote the faith?**

You can promote your faith by prayer, worship and deed. Promoting and doing the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy, and by receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance as often as possible. "Living as Jesus taught us."