

The Sacrament of Confirmation

In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the awaited Messiah and on the entire messianic people. The whole life and mission of Jesus were carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit. The Apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and proclaimed "the mighty works of God" (Acts 2:11). They gave the gift of the same Spirit to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands. Down through the centuries, the Church has continued to live by the Spirit....

The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that of Pentecost. This outpouring impresses upon the soul an indelible character and produces a growth in the grace of Baptism.

from Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB



Candidates that are registered for Confirmation Preparation 2 are to complete the attached packet and return to the Faith Formation Office no later than **November 27, 2018**. Please complete and turn everything in together in an envelope.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Golinski at:

674-9145 or jgolinski@sjvop.org

The following is a checklist of items that need to be completed and turned in. Incomplete packets will not be excepted, please turn all of the following in one completed envelope.

- This form showing everything is included
- Confirmation Sponsor Identification Form –
 - Sponsor's Letter of Recommendation to be attached.
- Service Project
 - Attach a copy of your emailed approval. (approval is to be submitted by July 16, 2018)
 - Hours Tracking Worksheet with Reflection (please complete one form per project that you completed with a minimum of 10 hours.)
- The Choosing of a Christian Name
- Letter to the Bishop

Candidate's name: (first, last) _____

Candidate's address: _____

Telephone: _____

Parent email: _____

Candidate's email: _____

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR IDENTIFICATION FORM

The qualifications for a sponsor are as follows:

- Must be a member of the Catholic Church who is fully initiated by Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist
- Must be a mature person at least sixteen years old
- Be in good standing with the Church
- Be willing to share the faith with you, and be an example of good Christian living
- Not a parent
- A god-parents and a grandparent are acceptable.

SPONSOR'S NAME: _____
(Please Print First & Last Name)

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: _____
(Town/City, State & Zip Code)

SPONSOR'S PARISH:* _____
(Parish Name)

(Town/City and State)

***PLEASE NOTE: All sponsors must obtain a letter of recommendation from their parish, including sponsors from St. John Vianney. The letter will simply state that the sponsor is a member of the parish and is a practicing Catholic in good standing who qualifies as a worthy sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Letter of Recommendation is to be handed in with this completed form.**

SERVICE PROJECT: OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS

Engaging in a **SERVICE PROJECT** can give you an opportunity to discover more about yourself, as well as help you make the connection between what you do and the Gospel message of service. In helping others, you will discover new gifts and different interests that will help you better understand your place in the world and your responsibility to contribute your gifts to the human family. Each candidate for Confirmation is required to complete a minimum **10** hours of service as defined below.

Ideas for Service Projects:

Service opportunities are endless and offer many different options for you to engage in much-needed service to the community. **1/2 of your service (5hours) must be linked to the seven Corporal Works of Mercy which are:**

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Shelter the Homeless/Clothe the Naked
- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Prisoners
- Bury the Dead
- Give Alms to the Poor

We encourage you to visit www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings for ideas and suggestions. Some suggestions are listed below:

- Assisting SJV parish staff and volunteers:
 - Grounds work, maintenance work, set-up and take-down for the Parish Summer Fest in July, 2019, other parish events, etc. Contact Steve Mika, 674-9133.
 - Office help, stuffing bulletins, assisting with fundraisers
Contact Debbie Popple – 674-9133
 - Helping with Family Faith Formation Sunday morning program –
Contact Christina Young – 674-9145 (cyoung@sjvop.org)
- Various opportunities of outreach to those in need:
 - **St. Simon's Soup Kitchen**, 200 Cazenovia St, Buffalo.
Contact The Genesis Center at St. Simon's, 822-1901 ext. 40
 - **West Seneca Community Food Pantry**, 3951 Seneca St., West Seneca, 823-8376.
 - **St. Luke's Mission of Mercy**, 894-4476.
 - **St. Vincent de Paul**, 882-3360.
 - **Response to Love Center**, 894-7030.
 - **Buffalo City Mission**, 854-8181 ext. 404.
 - Journey's end, 882-4963
- For volunteer opportunities in **hospitals or nursing homes** within the Catholic Health System:
 - Visit website www.chsbuffalo.org .
 - Click on "giving" at top of page.
 - Click on "volunteer".
 - Select "Jr. volunteer application (ages 14 and 15)".
 - Complete online application, and you will be contacted for next step in process.

Need more ideas?? Call the FF Office 674-9145

The Choosing of a Christian Name

Many people choose an additional saint's name at Confirmation. The preferred name, however, is the baptismal name because it expresses the relationship that exists between Baptism and Confirmation. If a new name is taken, however, it should be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation. New names are often chosen because they express how we have been changed in Christ. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that person led.

Candidate's name: (first, last)

The Name you have chosen as your Confirmation Name:

_____ (Either your baptismal name or a version of the name of a patron saint).

Learn about your Saint – the Bishop may ask you about this saint at Confirmation so make sure you know this information.

Saint's Full Name: _____ Feast Day: _____

Patron Saint of: _____

Saint's Place of Birth: _____ When did they live? _____

Family: _____

Occupation: _____

Life and/or death (Why are they a saint?): _____

Why have you chosen this name? Are there any attributes of this saint that you feel you would like to emulate?

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

Each candidate for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to make a formal request to the Bishop to receive the Sacrament. This request is done in the form of an individual letter addressed directly to the bishop. ***The individual letters for each parish are collected and delivered to the Bishop as a group.***

The letter should be typed/computer printed or LEGIBLY handwritten in blue or black ink. This letter is to follow formal letter style (see next page for format), it should be on appropriate letter paper (not torn, spiral notebook paper), and it should be carefully checked for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The letter must have your handwritten signature.

All letters will be read by our Pastor and Director prior to being sent to the Bishop.

Please be thoughtful and reflective in writing this letter as a first step toward adult participation in our faith. Bishop Malone (or his designated celebrant) will read all of the letters prior to the celebration of the Confirmation liturgy. The Bishop has been known to bring a few of the letters with him and may refer to them during his homily.

Please see sample letter on the next page. Be sure the wording in the letter is your own, this is just a guideline.

Sample Letter

Open your letter with **Dear Bishop, Fr. Noonan, and Mrs. Golinski,**

In the **first paragraph**, identify yourself and mention that you are a member of St. John Vianney Parish. Explain that you are seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the **second paragraph**, explain why you want to be confirmed. Provide enough detail to fill a paragraph. (For example, what you have learned through the years in your classes, your experiences within the parish and at Mass, the inspiration/example you have received from your sponsor, your service opportunities).

In the **third paragraph**, mention who you have chosen as your Confirmation saint and why you have selected this particular saint.

For the **fourth paragraph**, here are some other items you might choose from (you do not have to mention them all):

- How will being confirmed make a difference in your life?
- What role has God, and your faith, played in your life?
- Are there people in your life who have influenced your decision to seek Confirmation?
- Explain how you intend to contribute to the parish in the future—not only by attending Mass, but also by volunteering or otherwise enriching the lives of others in the church?
- What are the unique gifts God has given you for the purpose of building up his Church and caring for our brothers and sisters?

Make the statement once again that for the reasons you have explained above, you are requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Close your letter with “Respectfully,” or “Sincerely,” and **SIGN YOUR NAME LEGIBLY** below.