

**The following items MUST be turn in prior to December 21, 2020.**

- Documentation of your Baptism and First Eucharist.** You may use the certificate you received when the sacrament was granted. If you do not have the certificate, you will need to contact the parish where you received these sacraments. If the sacrament was granted at OLOL, you must contact Chris at the rectory at (203) 757-6112. If the sacrament was not granted at OLOL, you will need to reach out to that parish and ask for documentation. DO NOT WAIT.
  
- A Sponsor Certificate.** A chosen sponsor will need to contact their parish rectory and request a certificate. The certificate indicates the chosen sponsor has fulfilled his/her responsibilities and may sponsor a candidate for Confirmation. Your chosen sponsor will need time to request and receive this certificate. (Some chosen sponsors may live out of state which will require additional time for you to receive the certificate.) DO NOT WAIT.
  
- A Reflection Paper.** The reflection paper must be typed. Please see guideline within the packet.
  
- Letter to Father Nathan.** The letter to Father Nathan must be typed. Please see guidelines within the packet. DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN THE LETTER.

### YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

#### Why a Sponsor?

From the earliest days of the Church, specific people chosen from the community supported those seeking communion with the Church. At your Baptism those significant people were your parents and godparents (your baptismal sponsors) who promised that you would be raised in the faith. They professed their faith because you could not speak for yourself. Your godparents promised to help your parents. In Confirmation you will speak for yourself and you will renew your Baptismal promises. The sponsor will stand with you and present you to the Bishop for Confirmation.

In choosing a sponsor, Church law gives us some requirements that must be met:

- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- A sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (one who has celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) who "leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken."
- If married, the marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church.
- A sponsor cannot be a parent of the one to be confirmed.

#### Role of Sponsor:

The person you ask to be your sponsor should know you well enough to be able to testify, by his or her presence before the community, that you are someone who wishes to be fully incorporated in the Church as a believing, practicing Catholic: that you are one who takes part faithfully in the Church's worship, witness, and mission. When you are anointed with the chrism during Confirmation, your sponsor will be beside you with a hand placed on your shoulder. This is a sign of your spiritual relationship.

If you have not yet chosen your sponsor, now is an excellent time to think about your choice. Ask yourself:

- Is this person someone with whom I feel comfortable?
- Does this person live near enough to me to be truly able to be a guide and support?
- Will this person be willing and able to be my sponsor – to take an active role in my faith life?

If the sponsor a parishioner of Our Lady of Loreto, he or she should call the office and set up an appointment to speak with Father Nathan.

If the sponsor is not a parishioner of Our Lady of Loreto, he or she must contact their home parish, and receive a Sponsor Certificate. This certificate attests to the fact that he or she attends mass regularly and is a qualified sponsor.

### Reflection Paper

#### *Your Confirmation Name*

One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. ***You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to exemplify.*** You might want to recommit yourself to your baptismal name, especially after you have reflected on its meaning and discovered some of the great people who shared your name in Christian history. After all, Confirmation is really the completion of the Baptism experience. Whether you decide to pick a new name or stay with your baptismal name, you will want to explore quite spiritually the root meaning of the name.

#### WHAT NAME WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Each candidate must reflect the saint whose name you have chosen for Confirmation. A reflection paper is required 150-200 words; give a brief account as to why you chose this particular saint.

**Remember, if you choose a name that multiple saints have, be specific as to which saint you are using!**

## LETTER TO FATHER NATHAN REQUESTING SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Now that you have determined to publicly affirm what you believe about Jesus and His Church, it is time for you to formally ask Father Nathan for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

(Letter Template)

[DATE]

Rev. Nathan Labarda  
Our Lady of Loreto Parish  
12 Ardsley Road  
Waterbury, CT 06708

Dear Father Nathan,

*[Explain that you have been preparing for Confirmation and that now you would like to request the Sacrament.]*

*Explain why you want to be Confirmed.*

*Describe how you have prepared for Confirmation.*

*Name the person (your sponsor) you have chosen to present you during the Confirmation Ceremony and tell why you chose this person.*

*Finally, tell how you hope to live the gifts of the Spirit as a member of the Parish of Our Lady of Loreto]*

[Parent's Signature]

[Candidate's Signature]

[Parent's Name]

[Candidate's Name]

**[Have your parents/guardian witness the letter with their signatures]**

This letter should be typed and placed in an envelope with the candidate's name on it.