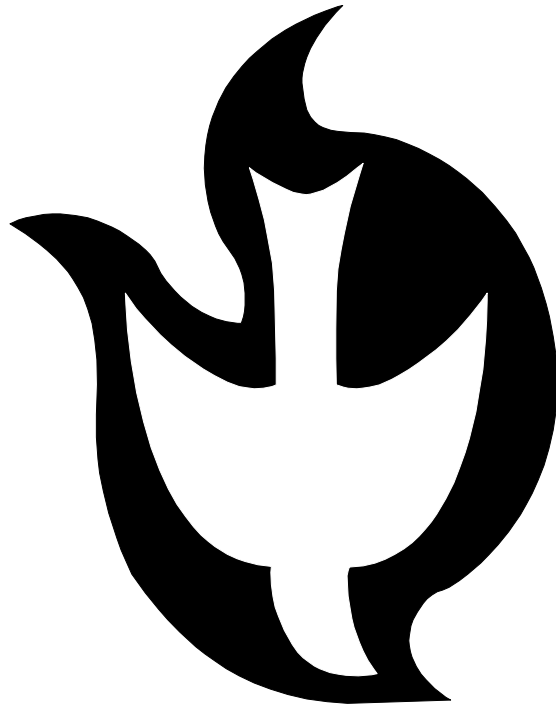


Candidate Name: _____

Date Due: Feb. 29, 2012

Confirmation Candidate Workbook



CONFIRMED
IN THE
SPIRIT



Office of Religious Education
115 East Delaware Ave.
Pennington, NJ 08534
(609) 737-2717
www.stjames-nj.org
e-mail stjamesedu@gmail.com

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

You will be spending this year preparing for Confirmation by focusing on the life of Jesus, the beginnings of the early Church, and the value of the Church's presence in our world today. This will help you reflect more deeply on how living by Jesus' values and being part of a faith community impact your relationship with family, friends, and others throughout your life.

By exploring the Gospels, which are at the heart of all Scripture, you will understand more fully God's saving action in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In your studies this year, you will have the opportunity to discuss questions that many young Catholics have today; seemingly simple questions, like, *Who is God?* or *How is Jesus alive in the world today?*

You will explore our core Truths, those important beliefs that make up our identity as Catholic Christians. Most importantly, this year teaches us what our obligation is as a disciple of Christ. *How do we live as the Body of Christ? What are we called to do?* By having the time and forum to talk about these things you will come to understand that Catholicism is a commitment to faith in God and service to bring about justice and peace to our world.

This packet provides you with the tools to carefully choose a sponsor, a Confirmation name, and information to help you decide how to put your faith into action. There are reflection questions to answer as you journey through the year, and a formal letter for you to write to our pastor, Msgr. Bacovin, requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This will be an exciting and busy year for you. It is important to know that you are not doing this alone. You have the St. James community supporting and praying for you, and the worldwide Christian community as your faith family. We, in the Religious Education office, are here to answer any of your questions and will help guide you through this special part of your faith journey.

Remember, Confirmation is not a graduation, rather it is the beginning of living the Christian life with all the passion and enthusiasm that God is calling for.

May God bless you throughout the coming year!

The Religious Education Office
Nancy Lucash, Director



SEVENTH GRADE ENROLLMENT PROMISE

I desire to affirm my faith and belief in Jesus Christ and His Church by completing my Sacraments of Initiation. Therefore, I agree to enter the program of preparation being offered to me by St. James Parish.

To the best of my ability, I will:

- **Actively participate in all the learning sessions for 7th and 8th grade**
- **Complete the in-class essays during my 7th grade year**
- **Complete the assigned homework for my 8th grade classes**
- **Attend the Penance Services provided for both 7th and 8th grades**
- **Complete the Student and Sponsor Packets on time**
- **Write a letter to my pastor requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation**
- **Attend and actively participate in the Confirmation Retreat**
- **Attend Spirit Night, provided by our CRASH youth group**
- **Attend all required practices for the Confirmation**

To the best of my ability, I will:

***Confirmation Reflection Questions
Fall Session***

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Each reflection is to be answered carefully and thoughtfully in paragraph form.
2. A minimum of **TWO** paragraphs (four sentences each) is required for each response.
3. You may use your book as a reference, BUT you may NOT copy anything directly from the book. You may also discuss the take home questions with your parents, but the answer must be in your own words.
4. Every reflection response has a specific due date.
5. All reflections will be read and assessed by Mrs. Lucash, who will decide if you have answered the reflection satisfactorily. You will be asked to redo any reflection that is not answered completely, using your best effort.
6. Your final reflection should be typed, include at least **FIVE** paragraphs, and be handed into our office or emailed to me (stjamesedu@gmail.com) by May 1st or 2nd.
7. Satisfactory completion of all six reflections is a requirement for registration in our Confirmation Preparation program, which is held just before Confirmation.

REFLECTION #1 (at home) – Scripture and Tradition

DUE DATE: Tues. Class - October 4; Wed. Class – October 5

We believe the God makes himself known to us through Scripture and Tradition.

What is our Scripture and how is it divided? Who wrote it? Whose message is it?

What does Scripture reveal to us about our God?

What do we mean by Tradition (with a capital T)? Give at least two examples of Tradition in our Church and explain why these examples are considered Tradition.

REFLECTION #2 (at home) – The Kingdom of God: Beatitudes

DUE DATE: Tues. Class - December 6; Wed. Class – December 21

The Beatitudes are at the very core of Jesus’ teaching and challenge us to be true disciples of Christ. Rewrite each Beatitude in your own words as it would pertain to you and your peers in today’s world.

REFLECTION #3 (at home) – The Resurrection of Jesus

DUE DATE: Tues. Class – January 10; Wed. Class – January 18

There would be no Christianity without the Resurrection. When does the Church celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection and why is it so important to our faith? What does it mean for us when we die?

- OVER -

REFLECTION #4 (in class writing) – Our Identity as “Church”

DUE DATE: Tues. Class – March 6; Wed. Class – March 21

“Church” is another word for the “People of God”. Explain the four “Marks of the Church” in your own words.

Through Baptism we become members of this community obligating us to follow the “Precepts of the Church”. Why does the Church have these rules/obligations and how do they help to make us “Church”?

REFLECTION #5 (in class writing) – Our Call to Bring about Social Justice

DUE DATE: Tues. Class – March 27; Wed. Class – April 11

Catholic Social Teaching teaches us to work for the “common good”. What does that mean?

Rewrite the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching in your own words explaining how you, as a seventh grader, can apply them to your life.

FINAL REFLECTION – The Nicene Creed

DUE DATE: Tues. Class - May 1; Wed. Class – May 2, by email or delivered to Religious Ed office.

PLEASE TYPE YOUR RESPONSE, IF POSSIBLE

*We pray the Nicene Creed at almost every Mass. That’s because it is very important to us as Christians. It is a “confirmation” of the total Truth of what we believe. Taking the five sections of the Creed, write a paragraph on each one, using your own words, to explain exactly what we believe as Christians. **DO NOT REWRITE THE WORDS OF THE CREED IN YOUR RESPONSE.***

**A Letter to Msgr. Ron Bacovin
Requesting Reception of
The Sacrament of Confirmation**

DUE DATE: April 11, 2012

Every candidate is asked to write a letter to Msgr. Bacovin, our pastor, requesting that he/she receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is the pastor who recommends the students to the Bishop's office to receive this sacrament. Upon his recommendation, you will be confirmed and be fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

*Your letter should respond to each question below. It is helpful to provide personal examples when explaining your answers so that Msgr. Bacovin gets to know you through your letter to him. Include your name, age, and date at the top right hand corner of your letter. Please use appropriate paper and **TYPE** your letter.*

Begin your letter with, "Dear Msgr. Bacovin,"

1. Write something about yourself. Who are you? What are you like? What is your family like? What kind of things do you enjoy doing? Include a picture, if you would like to.
2. What does it mean for you to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Request the sacrament for yourself. Indicate that this is your decision and why.
3. What have you done to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation? Examples: prayer, study, classes, faith in action. Explain your readiness to become a follower of Christ in an active way.
4. Being a Christian in today's world is often challenging. The Gospels tell us to live one way and society sometimes encourages us to make other choices. List an area where a person your age faces such challenges. Please write something about your example.
5. During the Confirmation ceremony, the Church will pray that you will receive the Holy Spirit as your "helper and guide." Everyone will pray that you will receive the spirit of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and a sense of wonder and awe in the presence of the Lord. Choose one of these "Gifts of the Spirit" and write how you will use this gift in your own life and for our Church.
6. Describe why you chose your Confirmation name.
7. Who did you choose to be your sponsor and why?
8. Add anything else you would like to say to Msgr. Ron about Confirmation or your Catholic faith.

Thank Msgr. Bacovin. Conclude and sign your letter.

Hand this letter into the Religious Ed. Office or mail it directly to Msgr. Bacovin addressed as follows:

*Msgr. Ronald Bacovin
115 E. Delaware Ave.
Pennington, NJ 08534*

Faith-in-Action

Beyond being able to speak or write about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, you must find opportunities to live out the call to discipleship.

A large part of calling yourself “Christian” involves acting on behalf of social justice; that is, working to create a more just world – an essential part of the Gospel message.

With this in mind, you are required to show, by your actions, that you understand the responsibilities of this Christian life you will be confirming next November.

Below are some suggestions of service. Feel free to call or stop by our office to discuss your ideas about faith in action or explore the suggestions in your textbook.

1. Help with Parish Projects (clothing drives, food collection, blood drives).
2. Ask the parish office for the name & address of a sick parishioner who might like a visitor. Call or write this person regularly.
3. Visit the elderly at Stony Brook or in a nursing home.
4. Shop for an elderly person on a regular basis.
5. Help a neighbor who cannot do regular household chores on his/her own.
6. Contact Joann Held (joannaheld@comcast.net) for numerous volunteer opportunities in the parish throughout the year.
7. Volunteer at Loaves & Fishes any last two Saturdays of the month at St. Mary’s Cathedral for two to three hours (10am – 1pm). An adult must accompany you.

To complete this requirement:

1. At least **15 hours** must be completed
2. The service should involve **helping/serving/visiting someone in need** without receiving any payment in return for your time.
3. The service should be **for a non-family member**, unless there are unusual circumstances.
4. Provide a **record** of your hours with the **signature of an adult in charge** of the service (not your parent)
5. Write a **one page reflection** on your service experience

ST. JAMES FAITH –IN-ACTION

Contacts & Information

ServiceWorx Mark O’Dea markfodea@verizon.net
737-8655

1 or 2 weeks in July, 8:30-4:15. Begin at St. James; AM-travel to worksite;
PM – fellowship sharing

Mt. Carmel Guild Gerry Brennan gerrybrenn@aol.com
Patt Potter pattpotter@msn.com

Collection of food, sorting food around Thanksgiving

St. Lawrence Rehab. Activity Director
896-1494
Bingo Helpers needed: Wednesday & Friday, 6:15pm; Saturday, 2:30pm
Individual students can go in pairs or trio; or in small groups.
Small groups of 7-8 kids require 1 adult to chaperone the group.

Other Church Functions during the year Joann Held is often in need of
volunteers for various activities. Please contact her to be put on her call list.

Decorating the Church Regina Montemarano rpmonte1@aol.com
737-6374

Confirmation, Christmas, Easter, First Communion

Loaves & Fishes Saturday, March 17th, 10:30 – 1:30pm
Sign up after Masses a few weeks prior

Clothing Drive Ed Curley edcurley@verizon.net

Blood Drive Cindy Persichilli persichillic@aol.com
Dates: usually around New Year’s Eve and 4th of July

Stella Maris Beach Clean-up *date to be determined* \$20 per participant
Limited # of participants. Parent drivers are needed. Lunch included.

First Communion Retreat Saturday, April 28th; limited to 10 student volunteers
For the two activities above: stjamesedu@gmail.com

Altar Server and/or Children’s Choir You may only count up to six hours in these ministries toward your
total faith in action commitment.

MY FAITH-IN-ACTION RECORD

DUE DATE: FIRST CLASS – SEPT. 2012

NAME _____

Has performed _____ hours of Faith-In-Action at _____.

Type of service performed: _____

Signature

Date

Student Reflection: _____



Has performed _____ hours of Faith-In-Action at _____.

Type of service performed: _____

Signature

Date

Student Reflection: _____



Has performed _____ hours of Faith-In-Action at _____.

Type of service performed: _____

Signature

Date

Student Reflection: _____

Name _____

**Faith-in-Action
Reflection**

DUE at the first class of 8th grade religious education

Keep this page to write your Faith in Action thoughts once you've completed your service. In writing your reflection, consider these questions as a guide. Hand this in with your completed Service Record.

Describe my faith in action, what did I do?

How did this service help others?

Did I get anything out of doing this?

How did my actions help me better understand the needs of others?

How have I changed as a result of doing this faith in action?

Remove this page from packet & hand in by Feb. 29, 2012

Confirmation Preparation Obligations:

1. **Attend classes** regularly to become informed and prepared for the sacrament
2. Choose your **sponsor** and have him/her complete the Sponsor Workbook
3. Choose your **Confirmation name** and be prepared to give a reason for your choice
4. **Letter** to Msgr. Bacovin requesting Confirmation
5. Perform 15 hours of **faith in action**, record the hours, and write a reflection

Sponsor

You will be selecting a sponsor to walk with you as you continue your faith journey. Think carefully about who you choose because this person should be someone who is capable of offering you spiritual guidance and support as you question and explore the meaning of your faith. Your sponsor should have the time to share his/her faith experiences and serve as an example of Christian living.

On the day of your Confirmation your sponsor will literally stand behind you and confidently present you to the bishop as a person ready to commit to a life of love and service in the Catholic community.

To help you select your sponsor there is some information you need to keep in mind:

Sponsor Requirements:

1. *At least sixteen years old*
2. *Completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)*
3. *An active member of a Catholic parish community*
4. *Must be present for the Confirmation practice and celebration*
5. *Must not be prohibited by Church Law from exercising the role of Sponsor.*

A Sponsor can be:

1. *Your baptismal sponsor, if desired*
2. *Either male or female*

Note: A sponsor cannot be your parent.

My Sponsor's Name is: _____

Confirmation Name

The next decision you must consider is your "Confirmation name". Traditionally, you choose a saint who possesses qualities that you admire. That saint's name becomes part of your name at the Confirmation celebration. It is a way to learn about a person in the past who has been recognized as a model of Christian living and gives you an example to follow. Until recently, this was a very big part of the Confirmation process but lately the Church has begun encouraging candidates to consider using their Baptismal name (your given name).

When you make your decision, read about the saint you have chosen and be prepared to explain your choice in your letter to Msgr. Bacovin. For you to know, there are many books on the saints in our office and in the Resource Room. You can also check this website: www.catholic.org and click on "Saints and Angels". If you choose to use your own name, find a saint that has your name or a similar one.

My Confirmation Name is: _____