

# **St. John the Baptist**



**Confirmation  
Handbook  
2008-09**



**Christ the King Parish  
2008-09**

**TO:** Confirmation Candidates  
Parents/guardians  
Confirmation Sponsors

**FROM:** Rev. Charles Stoetzel, Pastor  
Richard H. Hoffmann, DRE  
Dan Kitzhaber, Youth Minister

**RE:** Confirmation Program 2008-09

You, or someone close to you, is preparing to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. This booklet will help you to understand the process used here at Christ the King, as well as the Diocesan/Church guidelines for your further understanding and information.

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church. We begin our journey when we receive baptism, and enter into “new life;” participate more fully when we receive the Eucharist as children; and finally receive the Holy Spirit more completely in Confirmation, as a fully initiated member of the Church of Jesus Christ, the Roman Catholic Church.



# Confirmation

## ~ 2008-09 ~

### PERTINENT INFORMATION:

Confirmation preparation is separate from on-going catechesis, which needs to continue throughout our lives. The sacramental preparation consists of 6 large group sessions which actively involve the candidate with their sponsor and parents. Of these sessions, three are designed for the candidate and sponsor; three are for candidate and parents. In the event a sponsor cannot attend, parents are welcome to fill-in. **It is expected that all candidates attend every session with a parent or sponsor.** In the event of illness or other emergency, please call regarding your absence. If a session is missed, you will need to obtain make up materials.

The 8th grade students will continue participating in CCD or Catholic School just as they have previously and as needs to happen after they celebrate Confirmation. Questions regarding CCD should be directed to Richard Hoffman, DRE.

This booklet is to be used by you throughout the entire year. All forms needed are included in this booklet. You will use the enclosed information, especially the checklist, at each meeting all year long.

### INFORMATION PHONE NUMBERS:

CK 659-4480 SJ 384-4989

Richard H. Hoffmann, DRE, CK ext. #3, SJ ext. #3

Dan Kitzhaber, Youth Minister, CK ext #4, SJ ext. #3

**What happens at Confirmation?** In the Sacrament of confirmation, the Apostles and the Bishops, who are their successors, hand on to the baptized the special gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ the Lord and poured out upon the Apostles at Pentecost. Thus the initiation in the Christian life is completed so that believers are strengthened by power from Heaven, made true witnesses of Christ in word and deed, and bound more closely to the Church.”

Decree of Pope Paul VI, 8/22/71 *The rites, Rite of Confirmation p. 289*

**The Role of PARENTS:** “The initiation of children (youth) into the Sacramental life is for the most part the responsibility and concern of Christian parents. They are to form and gradually increase a spirit of faith in their children, and, with the help of catechetical institutions, prepare them for the fruitful reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. The role of the parents is also expressed by their active participation in the celebration of the Sacraments.”

*The Rites, p. 298*

Parents will be expected to aid their son/daughter in preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation.

*-Please **pray** with/for you son or daughter and all of the other candidates.*

*-Discuss with your son or daughter the Sacrament of Confirmation, their willingness to devote themselves to preparation for the Sacrament.*

*-Make your life as a Catholic an example for your son or daughter, and be available to assist in his/her preparation by offering your full support, (forms, providing aid in service projects, serving as an advisor or chaperone, etc.).*

*-Be aware of the Confirmation program guidelines and feel free to contact us with your comments, questions, etc. We hope you will become acquainted with his/her teachers and mentors.*

*-Help you daughter/son choose a Confirmation name and sponsor.*

**The role of CANDIDATES:** This can be one of the most exciting times along your faith journey! For this to happen, be open to the Holy Spirit by **actively** participating in all the sessions. You will also be participating in a retreat which immerses you into Christ and His Church, a service project which allows you to live out the Works of Mercy, and growing in your knowledge and hopefully love of/for Christ. (Use the Checklist you'll receive to help you keep track.)

**Retreat & Day of Reflection:**

- Aug. 23—Leaven to Heaven Rally in Blair
- Mar. 7—Day of Reflection in LaCrosse.

**Sacramental Preparation—Candidates/Parents Sessions:**

Wed, Sept. 17, 6:20-7:45pm	Baptism—are you saved??
Wed, Nov., 12, 6:20-7:45pm	Conversion—A new identity in Christ
Wed, Jan., 14, 6:20-7:45pm	Chastity, Modesty & Life

**Sacramental Preparation - Sponsor /Candidates Brunches:**

Sun, Oct.. 12, 10-11:30am	Service, Virtue, & Mary
Sun, Dec. 14, 10-11:30am	Church—what did Jesus set up?
Sun, Feb. 15. 10-11:30am	Eucharist—why is Mass important?

*At each brunch 1/3 of the candidates take turns bringing quick breads, fruit, muffins or other breakfast items to compliment the ham & eggs.*

Feb. 23, Mar 2,3,4,5	Interview with Fr. Stoetzel after school
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Sat., March 28, 9:00 am	Practice @ St. John's
Sun., March 29, 5:00 pm	Celebration of Confirmation at St. John the Baptist

**The role of the SPONSORS:** A sponsor has the privilege of guiding the candidate to a closer relationship with Christ and the Church he founded—the Roman Catholic Church. He or she must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, be 16 years of age and may not be a parent.

*If you wish, one of your Baptismal sponsors may be chosen to be your Confirmation sponsor, provided a Christian relationship exists. This situation is most appropriate, and would stress the Sacraments of Initiation, and the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1311; Code of Canon Law, , # 893

***Please make a commitment to  
PRAY DAILY for your candidate!***

## **COMPONENTS:**

**Catechism Reviews:** Each month candidates will receive a worksheet which helps them become familiar with key Catholic teachings using the Catechism and Bible. Sponsors are asked to help their candidate with this.

**Works of Mercy & Virtue:** At the start of the school year each candidate receives two tables which list the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy on one and moral virtues on the other. During the course of the school year, candidates will need to complete the table showing how they have become more like Christ by practicing the works of mercy and growing in virtue.

**Homily Notes:** Each month the candidates will be asked to take notes on a given homily. This is to help the candidate to focus on the message of the homily given at Mass. It is encouraged to ask clarifying questions of the priest following Mass if needed.

**Holy Hour:** It is so important for us to spend time with Christ and realize the gift of Himself He has given to us. A devotion dating back to the earliest of time is Adoring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament for an extended period of time. During the Holy Hour of Adoration, you have the opportunity to simply be still and LISTEN to God. It is “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.” and NOT “Listen Lord, your servant is speaking.”

**Retreats:** Throughout history, retreats have proven to be a very effective means of helping people draw closer to Christ, thus there are two retreats for all candidates during the year immediately prior to Confirmation.

**Service Projects:** In addition to tracking growth in virtue and participation in works of mercy, candidates are asked to sign up for and participate in at least 2 group service projects during the year. Sign up will be in October. Most events occur in Nov. & Dec.

**Confirmation Preparation Agreement:** All Candidates, Sponsors and Parents will sign an agreement which lists the expectations for all candidates wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates will be held accountable to this list at the time of their interview.

**Confirmation Name Report:** Candidates will choose a name for Confirmation (which may be the same as Baptism) as a new identity in Christ. They will write a one page report due in Dec. on the name they choose including information about the saint and why the name was chosen.

*The  
Seven Gifts  
of the  
Holy Spirit*

*Wisdom*

*Understanding*

*Knowledge*

*Counsel*

*Fortitude*

*Piety*

*Fear of the Lord*