



Confirmation
Information
Packet

2015-2016

Saint Bartholomew Church
Office of Religious Education
470 Ryders Lane
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
732 390 0354
www.stbartseb.com

Confirmation Prayer

GOD, OUR FATHER, WE ASK YOU TO BLESS ALL CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOW PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVE IN THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. MAY THE GIFTS WITHIN EACH ONE BE TOUCHED BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND BECOME BLESSINGS FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY, FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD. BLESS, TOO, ALL PARENTS, SPONSORS, TEACHERS AND CATECHISTS, AND OTHERS WHO STRIVE TO BE THE REFLECTION OF YOUR SON'S LOVE. THIS WE ASK THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

CONFIRMATION:

General Information

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In 1972, the church published the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connections between the three sacraments of Christian Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

-1 Cor. 2:10

In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.

In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers. Through these sacramental rites the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

The Rite of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation:

- Is usually celebrated during Mass
- Begins after the Liturgy of the Word
- Is presided over by the bishop or a designated auxiliary or pastor.

He has given us the pledge of His Spirit.
- 2 Cor. 5:5

There are four parts to the rite:

- Renewal of Baptismal Vows
- Laying on of Hands
- Anointing with Chrism Oil
- Sign of Peace

Role of the Sponsor

Sponsors:

- Support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- Must belong to the Catholic church and be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- May be either male or female for any candidate
- Must obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of their parish
- May be a baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation
- Must help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
- May assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment
- Must be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- May accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- May **not** be the parents of the candidate
- Can encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship
- May assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- Presents the candidate to the minister of Confirmation

Candidates Preparing for Confirmation

Candidates:

- Must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- Must be in the state of grace at the time of Confirmation
- Must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions
- Should attend Mass and receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- Are responsible for completing all required home study and service projects and spiritual encounters.
- Must be aware of the initiation aspect of the sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion
- Must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program of prayer, preparation and Reconciliation, etc.

*All who are led by the Spirit
are children of God.*

-Rom. 8:14

Responsibilities of Parents

Parents:

- Are the primary educators of their children
- Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians
- Worship with their families regularly
- Nurture their child in faith
- Should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
- Are asked to attend meetings that are planned to help their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation
- Are not permitted as Confirmation sponsors for their own child
- Are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service
- Can emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation
- Should stress the initiation aspect of the sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- Should help their child in understanding that the Confirmation Service is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service as a Catholic.
- Encourage your child's development of a spiritual relationship with Jesus.

Candidate's Personal and Spiritual Preparation

Spiritual Encounters

Each candidate will be expected to participate in four Spiritual Encounters in preparation for the reception of Confirmation. While the preparation meetings are devoted to learning about the Catholic faith and exploring your spirituality, it is important to worship with your parish family. Not only will these opportunities reinforce themes and topics discussed in class but will encourage a sense of community and tradition.

- Parents and sponsors are encouraged to attend with the candidate
- These Encounters do not include your regular Sunday Mass Obligation.
- Each Spiritual Encounter must include the Sacramental used during the event. (Sacramentals are sacred signs or symbols, objects or actions used during the service.)
- Participation in the Spiritual Encounters may be here at St. Bartholomew or another Catholic Church in our diocese.

- The weekly bulletin and parish website lists many offerings of Spiritual opportunities.
- A listing will also be provided to you with some suggestions or opportunities.
- Candidates must complete an evaluation for each spiritual encounter attended.
- All Spiritual Encounter Evaluations are due to the Office of Religious Education by **May1**.

SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER EVALUATIONS ARE TO BE HANDED IN AS THEY ARE COMPLETED.

Christian Service

Jesus came “not to be served but to serve.” (Mt. 20:28) The church is a servant community and all those accepting full membership in the church are also accepting the responsibility to serve. Candidates for the reception of confirmation are asked to select service opportunities geared to their own special talents and abilities. Candidates are asked to perform Christian Service to others as part of their preparation for Confirmation. The service should be performed freely and willingly. It should help the parish, neighborhood, or local community. This service is meant to represent the candidates’ intention to become full members of this servant community, the church and special followers of Christ-Christians.

- Candidates are required to complete four Christian Service Evaluations.
- Candidates must choose a service that is considered Christian Service and must be able to reflect and journal on this service.
- If possible choose a service that our parish may benefit as the recipient or through awareness of your service.
- Service projects may be worked on as a class providing that all participate in the project.
- Service Evaluations are due to the Office of Religious Education by **May 1**.

SERVICE EVALUATIONS ARE TO HAND IN AS THEY ARE COMPLETED.

Letter to the Pastor

Candidates preparing for confirmation must freely choose to be confirmed. Each candidate is required to submit a letter to the Pastor expressing your desire to be confirmed. At the confirmation ceremony our Pastor must testify to the Bishop that you have successfully completed your preparation for the sacrament and you desire to be confirmed. These letters will be reviewed and considered when our pastor testifies. Please follow the guidelines and suggestions in this packet when writing your letter. Your Letter to the Pastor is due to the Office of Religious Education by **May 1**.

Pastoral Interviews

It is the candidate's responsibility to complete and submit all of their requirements of this packet. Through your Christian Service and Spiritual Encounters you will become more familiar with our Pastoral Team as they will come to know you. Each candidate is expected to attend all the scheduled sessions and complete their independent Christian Service and Spiritual Encounters.

Your compliance and attendance is a sign of your desire to be confirmed. A pastoral interview will be scheduled for the candidates who do not comply with the requirements. A Pastoral Associate will meet with the candidate to discuss the candidate's preparation process including their Spiritual encounters, Christian Service. At this time the candidate should be able to express their desire to become a fully initiated Catholic Christian and should be assuming responsibility for their faith future.

Confirmation Names

If a candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation, however, it should be a name selected in honor of Jesus or Mary or from the list of recognized Saints of the Catholic Church. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life or virtues can be imitated.

- When choosing your sponsor you will also choose your confirmation (saint) name.
- Candidates are asked to learn and briefly report about their saint. (Are they known as a patron saint, if they have a feast day, or a special prayer or tradition in their honor)
- A brief summary, description or report of your "Saint" Name and reason why you are choosing your Confirmation Name will be submitted on the Gold Form by **December 1.**

Sponsor

Choosing a sponsor is an important part of the confirmation preparation process. When possible, Baptismal Sponsors should be chosen to show the connection between Baptism and Confirmation. If that is not possible, ideally the person you ask to be your sponsor should be someone who already has been involved in your faith formation.

When choosing your sponsor remember:

- They must be a practicing catholic who is fully initiated, meaning they have been Baptized, Confirmed and have received Holy Eucharist.
- If they are married, the marriage must be recognized by the church.
- Must submit a Letter of Eligibility from their Parish.
- Should attend Mass and Spiritual Encounters with the candidate when possible.

Sponsors must be chosen by **December 1**. The gold form provided in this packet must be completed and returned with your sponsor's name and their Parish. Letters of Eligibility are to be submitted to the Office of Religious Education by **January 31**.

- If the sponsor is an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew Church a sponsor eligibility letter is not necessary.
- If the sponsor is a parishioner of another parish, they must contact their parish office and request a "Sponsor Eligibility Letter" and submit it to the Office of Religious Education.

Information Sheet and Questionnaire

All candidates are required to submit the "Blue Sheet" to the Office of Religious Education.

- This form provides us with information to prepare for the ceremony and verifies your confirmation date.
- The questionnaire will indicate if you would like to be considered as a Reader or have a family member who would like to participate in the Mass.
- The form also assists the Parish Office in recording Sacramental information in our church records and to send notification to the place of your Baptism that you have been confirmed.
- If you need to order a robe or a DVD of the ceremony, your payment is submitted with the "Blue Sheet" by **July 31**

Candidate Review Guide

The following topics should already be mastered by anyone entering a Confirmation preparation program. Parents and sponsors should assist candidates in reviewing this material.

Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Sacraments

Of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

Of Healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick

Of Commitment: Marriage, Holy Orders

Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry

To give drink to the thirsty

To clothe the naked

To visit the imprisoned

To shelter the homeless

To care for the sick

To bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

To correct the sinner

To teach the ignorant

To counsel the doubtful

To comfort the sorrowful

To bear wrongs patiently

To forgive all injuries

To pray for the living and the

Laws of the Church

To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of obligation

To fast and abstain on the days appointed

To confess sins at least once a year

To receive Eucharist during the Easter time

To contribute to the support of the church

To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage

To contribute to the missionary efforts of the Church

Prayers Candidates Should Know by Heart

Our Father

Hail Mary

Apostles' Creed

Glory be

Act of Contrition

Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These gifts are:

Wisdom

Understanding

Right Judgment

Courage

Knowledge

Reverence

Wonder and Awe



Self-control
Love
Joy
Patience
Generosity
Gentleness

From the Gifts of the Holy Spirit come
the Fruits, which are:

Peace
Kindness
Faithfulness

Additional Information and Reminders

Handing in Papers

It is important that all Confirmation preparation work be handed in on time. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT AND HIS/HER FAMILY to assure that all paperwork be submitted to the Office of Religious Education. Evaluations should be hand written by the candidate to ensure prayerful thought was devoted to the responses.

Robes

All candidates are required to wear a white gown for the Confirmation Mass. Robes will be ordered and a fee of \$20.00 is required, payable to St. Bartholomew Church. The robe fee is handed in with the blue information sheet. For those candidates that order a robe it will be handed out at their rehearsal.

- Students of Saint Bartholomew who already purchased a graduation robe may wear that robe for confirmation providing it is in good condition.
- Students that have a robe from a sibling may wear that robe providing it is in good condition.

Dates of the Confirmation

In the spring the Bishop's Office will provide us the dates for Confirmation. In the past our dates have been in October. As they become available we will announce the dates by posting it in the church bulletin and the parish website. Emails and mailings may also be used to post reminders.

Practice

In the fall candidates will be called together for a prayerful practice. There will be only one practice for each celebration of Confirmation. That practice will be held on the Wednesday evening before the candidate's celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, **It is essential that the candidate and sponsor attend this one practice.** If the candidate's sponsor is unable to attend the practice we ask that another adult accompany the candidate to the practice and share any pertinent information with the sponsor before the ceremony.

Continuing Education

Each candidate is also encouraged to continue to learn and grow in their faith even though formal Religious Education classes have ended. Regular attendance at liturgy, continued faith sharing with practicing Catholics and participation in groups such as Youth Group or Youth Music Ministry are also essential as a Catholic Christian.

Christian Service Evaluation

Candidate's Name _____

Date _____

Signature of Parent _____

*Before you begin this evaluation remember to **Pray, Think, Write.** The purpose of this journaling is to reflect on your Christian service experience that you have just offered. Answer one of the following sets of questions as your guide. Try to vary your choice of sets of questions for your four evaluations. Please circle the set of questions you are responding to. It is preferred that you hand write your evaluation to ensure it is your own thoughts. Please write your paragraph in complete sentences and answer all the questions in the set and use the back of the sheet if necessary.*

1. What **service** did you perform? Was it what you **expected**? Why or why not? What did you **like most** about your service experience? What did you **like least**? How did you **benefit** from your service? Besides yourself, who did this service benefit? What did you **learn** from this experience? What did this service have to do with being a **Christian**, a follower of Jesus?
 2. What **service** did you perform? What **story from the life of Jesus** did it remind you of? Why? If Jesus was doing this service, what (if anything) would He have done differently from you? If you had this service to do over again, what would you do differently? What did you **learn** from this service – about **need**, about **you**, about being a **Christian**?
 3. What **service** did you perform? What **gifts** did you discover you had to offer through doing this service? How did you use those gifts? How did using your gifts make you feel? How will you **continue** to use those gifts in the future? What do you hope you will **remember** about this service when you are older? What did this service have to do with being a **Christian**, a follower of
-

Jesus?

Spiritual Encounter Evaluation

Candidate's Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

After you attend the Spiritual Encounter, take a moment and reflect on your experience. Think about this experience as you answer the following questions.

1. What did you attend? _____

2. When did you attend? _____

3. Where did this take place? _____

4. Who did you attend with? _____

5. Was this your first time experiencing this type of service or program? _____

6. What sacramentals were used? (Each Spiritual Encounter must have some form of a Sacramental; briefly describe them and how they were used)

7. How did this Spiritual Encounter bring you closer to God?

8. How will this experience help you in the future as a Catholic Christian?

Letter to the Pastor

All letters to the Pastor must be typed. They must be proof read before they are handed in.

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply...to worship witness and serve as a Confirmed Christian.

If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to your Pastor stating your desire to be confirmed. Follow the guidelines:

Greeting

Begin your letter with the greeting: Dear Father,

Body of the Letter

Paragraph 1:

Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family or background.

Paragraph 2:

Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3:

Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: Your prayer life, your celebration of other Sacraments, your Christian Service and your Spiritual Encounters.

Paragraph 4:

Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith.

Conclusion:

Conclude the letter and write your complete signature.

*Watch your spelling...Altar, Confirmation, sponsor are frequently misspelled.

*Always capitalize God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit

Information Sheet - "Blue Sheet"

(Please Print)

Name of Person Being Confirmed _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Name _____

Confirmation Name _____ Confirmation Date _____

Age at the time of Confirmation _____ Height _____

Your Address _____

Street

Town

Zip Code

Home Phone _____

Father's Name _____

First

Middle

Last

Mothers Name _____

First

Middle

Maiden

Baptismal Information

Date of Baptism _____

____ Baptized at St. Bartholomew Church

____ Baptized elsewhere

If Elsewhere: Name of Church _____

Address of the Church _____
Street

_____ Town State Zip Code

Confirmation Robe *(please check one)*

____ I have enclosed a check # _____ in the amount of \$20.00 to purchase a robe.

____ I will use a robe from a sibling that is in good condition.

____ I attended SBS and will use my graduation robe that is in good condition.

DVD Purchase *(please check one)*

____ I have enclosed a check # _____ for \$35.00 for the purchase of a DVD.

____ I do not want to purchase a DVD of the Confirmation Ceremony.

***Make checks payable to St. Bartholomew Church.**

***Return this form and payment to the Office of Religious Education by July 31.**

Questionnaire

Name _____ Phone _____

1. ____ I would like to be considered as a Reader at the Confirmation Ceremony.

____ I do not wish to be considered to be a Reader.

2. ____ I would like to be considered as part of the Offertory Procession.

____ I do not wish to be considered to be part of the Offertory.

3. ____ I would like the following to be considered as altar servers at my Confirmation.

Name

Grade

____ There are no altar servers I would like to be considered.

4. ____ I have a priest relative or friend who would like to concelebrate at Confirmation.

His name is:

His Address is:

Phone:

_____ I do not have a priest relative or friend who would like to concelebrate.

5. _____ I have a relative or friend who would like to serve as a Eucharistic Minister at my Confirmation.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

_____ I do not have a relative or friend who would like to be a Eucharistic Minister.

**Please return this Questionnaire No Later than July 31
to the Office of Religious Education
470 Ryders Lane East Brunswick, NJ 08816**

CHOICE OF SPONSOR FORM

Due December 1

Student Name _____

My Sponsor's name is _____.

I chose my sponsor because _____.

Their Parish is _____.

(City, State)

*Note: **This IS NOT** the sponsor eligibility letter. This is for information purposes only. If your sponsor is not a parishioner of St. Bartholomew, Please ask your sponsor to go to his/her church and request a sponsor eligibility letter now. Eligibility letters are due **January 31**.*

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CHOICE OF CONFIRMATION NAME

Due December 1

Confirmation Name: _____

On a separate piece of paper please briefly report on your Confirmation

Saint Name. Please use the answers to the following questions to write your Saint Report. This form and the report are due December 1.

1. Name of the Saint
2. Birthplace and Date if known
3. What is the Saint known for?
4. What virtues do you admire that this person practiced?
5. Is this saint a Patron Saint? If so, of what?
6. Saint's Feast Day?
7. Are there any practices or traditions that accompany the feast day?
8. What is it about this saint that inspires you to be a better Catholic?
9. How is this Saint a model for Christians today?
10. Why are you choosing this saint/name?