



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Sacrament of Confirmation
2012



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“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1316

Your Confirmation Sponsor

From the earliest days of the Church, specific people chosen from the community supported those seeking communion with the Church. At our Baptism, they were your parents and godparents who promised that you would be raised in faith. Your parents accepted the responsibility of training you in the practice of the faith. Your godparents promised to help your parents and committed to help and support you in your Christian life. Your sponsor is a person who will support you throughout your preparation, they will stand with and present you for Confirmation, and they will help you confront the challenge of being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Choosing a Sponsor

The Church encourages you to choose, if possible, one of your baptismal godparents to be your sponsor for Confirmation because this expresses more clearly the link between your Baptism and Confirmation, but is not required. You also have the option of choosing someone other than your Godparent.

The Church requires a Confirmation sponsor to:

- Be fully initiated in the church, meaning they are baptized, and have received Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Be a practicing Catholic, meaning they regularly receiving communion and other sacraments.
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Not be the candidate's father or mother

Here are a few questions that may help you choose your Confirmation sponsor:

- If your Godparents are available, is one of them a good choice for your sponsor?
- Is the person a good role model for the Catholic way of life?
- Does this person have time to spend with you as you prepare for Confirmation?
- Is he/she available to come to the rehearsal and Rite of Confirmation?
(even if not a person may still be a good choice, check with a catechist about this.)
- Does this person live near enough to me to be able to truly guide and support me? If not, will they be committed to communicate regularly with me despite the distance?
- Would you be comfortable talking about your faith with this person?
- Will this person be able to fulfill all or most of the responsibilities of a sponsor?

Responsibilities of a Sponsor

A sponsor must be a practicing confirmed Catholic of at least 16 years of age. He or she may not be the candidate's parent. A godparent is an excellent choice. It is encouraged for the sponsor to live in the area.

A Sponsor is expected to:

- Accompany the candidate to the Candidate/Sponsor night **February 8th**.
- Accompany the candidate to the Day of Reflection, **March 3rd**.
- Present the candidate during the Rite of Confirmation **Sunday, September 9th at 5:00pm**.
- Be present for the rehearsal **Saturday, September 8th at 10:30am**.
- Pray for and with the candidate
- Share the sponsor's faith story with his or her candidate.
- Spend time getting to know the candidate personally.
- Help the candidate choose a Saint name.
- Support the candidate in living as a disciple of Christ and model a faithful Christian life.

Parish Confirmation Catechesis

Wednesday Night Sessions

Preparation Sessions for Confirmation cover most of the spring semester. Classes will be held Wednesdays from 7:45pm to 9:00pm in the SVdP main space. We will need parent help with set-up and take-down each week.

Attendance

Candidates are expected to attend all Wednesday Night Sessions, the Day of Reflection, the Overnight Retreat, rehearsal, and of course the Confirmation Liturgy. Excessive absences (2 or more is considered excessive) will affect the candidate's ability to move forward in the program and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sports or other functions are not excused. Sunday Youth Night attendance is highly encouraged. If you are unable to attend the retreat you will need to make it up, please see Chris immediately if this is the case.

Participation

Candidates are expected to arrive on time and to be fully prepared to actively participate in large and small group sessions. All due dates are expected to be followed. The parish policy on behavior for Religious Education applies and can be found on the registration form and on the parish website. Teens are expected to be respectful of teachers and other students.

Class Materials

Each candidate will be given a copy of the YOUCAT (Youth Catechism). The YOUCAT should be brought to every session as well as the Day of Reflection and Retreat. Other materials may occasionally be sent home, in which case each person is responsible for bringing the materials to the next class.

Additionally, Bibles will be available for students at our Wednesday Night Sessions. It would be beneficial for each teen to have personal access to a Catholic translation of the Bible (i.e. New American Bible Revised Edition, New American Bible, or New Revised Standard Version) at home as well. We ask you to bring this with you to class if possible. We recommend and use the St. Mary's Press Catholic Youth Bible though this is not required.

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat will be held August 17-19, 2012 and is perhaps the most important part of the preparation process. Please make plans now to attend.

If you are unable to attend, you are asked to attend another retreat as a make-up. These are often early in the spring semester, talk to Chris immediately if this is the case.

The cost of the retreat is separate from the materials fee and will be published closer to the retreat date. If cost is an issue, see the Youth Minister. More information will be sent out in class.

Day of Reflection

The Day of Reflection will be held Saturday, March 3rd from 10:30am to 6:00pm (including the 5pm Vigil Mass).

Sponsors are asked to attend the Day of Reflection. This is a critical time for the Candidates to get to know themselves, their sponsors and one another. We will take the day for fun and prayer asking God to initiate us on this journey.

Sunday Liturgy

At the center of the Catholic Christian faith is the celebration of the Eucharist, the real presence of Christ in the bread, wine and the people who consume His body and blood. It is at Mass, at Liturgy, where we come together with all of our Catholic Christian friends to celebrate as one church. It is only fitting for the people of our parish community to celebrate and walk with you on your journey toward being a full member. Candidates are expected to attend Mass EVERY SUNDAY. Regularly participating at mass is the heart of the Catholic life.

Interview

Each candidate is required to have a short interview with an approved staff member. This is an opportunity for us to get to know the candidates better and for the candidates to ask any questions of the church. The schedule for interviews will be published in class.

Community Service

As Christians, we are called to service (Matthew 25:31-46). Candidates for Confirmation are asked to accept their share of this responsibility and participate in at least one project approved by Chris and submit a brief write-up reflecting on your experience. The Young Vincentians will be organizing a number of projects you may choose from and you may contact any of the below parish ministries about assisting in their work.

Write-Up Instructions: Write-ups should be one-page, double spaced, 12 pt font, 1-inch margins. They should include:

- Your name
- Date of the service
- Location of the service
- Description of the Project
- Answers to these questions: How do I think I impacted those I served? How did this experience impact me? Where was God present in this experience? How might you have improved or changed what you did? Do you think you'd be likely to continue doing this service some other time?

Parish Service Ministries :

Care Communities provide compassionate, practical and emotional support for people living with cancer or AIDS. Activities include visiting the care partner, making phone calls, providing transportation, doing light housekeeping/yard work, shopping for groceries and meal prep, giving primary caregivers a break and responding to requests of a spiritual nature. The Team provides a sense of love by being there for someone who might otherwise feel isolated.

Pauline Lewis
388-3436
plewis5@austin.rr.com

The Gabriel Project offers assistance to women in crisis pregnancies. The goal is for our parish to be the Good Samaritan to any such woman, responding in a loving, unconditional and non-judgmental manner with immediate, practical help and special concern for her and her child. We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Joy Latten
236-0144
255-1389

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization. We welcome all people to join us as we build simple, decent, affordable houses in partnership with those in need of adequate

shelter. Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 100,000 houses in more than 80 countries, including some 30,000 houses across the United States. Groups work to improve housing for the needs of the greater community. Activities are seasonal and training is provided.

Doug Raymond
218-9921
dougr@austin.rr.com

Hunger Awareness volunteers provide food and other assistance for those in need, educate parishioners about hunger in our community and ways to help, and collaborates with many community outreach programs (Austin/Leander/Round Rock food pantries, CROP Walk, Caritas, Meals on Wheels ,Thanksgiving Baskets and Capital Area Food Bank and Mobile Loaves & Fishes). This groups meets once a year but maintains contact throughout the year for the various programs. This is a great family ministry.

Beth K. Thorson
246-2023
423-4371
sonothor@austin.rr.com

Respect Life/Pro Life works to instill respect for human life at all stages, from conception until death, and to bring about a conversion of heart and mind for all to be open to God's special gift of life. The ministry works to educate the parish in all ways to nurture and protect life.

Steve Kienlen
791-3249
stevekienlen@yahoo.com

Saint Name and Project

Each candidate has the opportunity to choose a Confirmation name. It is encouraged that they first research their Baptismal name as this can be an excellent connection between the two Sacraments. In addition each teen may research additional Saints to determine which might fit them as a model and example of the faith they hope to live. We will discuss the Saint names in class and on the Day of Reflection. As this is a very personal decision, take the time to discern this name. This is a great activity to share with your sponsor.

A poster presentation on your saint will be due April 25th. More information will be given during classes.

Parent Involvement

Parents are the primary catechists (teachers) of their children's faith. They should absolutely be involved in the Confirmation Program in some way. This program relies completely on the volunteers to make it possible. With that in mind, we ask that you consider where your talents and time can be used to make our Confirmation Program the best! Each Parent Team will be known by their Patron Saint and we hope it will help to give you vision and inspiration!

- **St. Charles Borromeo Team-** St. Charles Borromeo is the Patron Saint of Catechists. We are always looking for parents to help facilitate the small group breakouts on Wednesday Nights and to help with Day of Reflection and Overnight Retreat. The commitment will involve 1 monthly meeting with the Youth Minister, Small Group Facilitation on Wednesday Nights, and possibly coordinating and teaching one session. Training and approval through the Diocese EIM Ministry is mandatory for this ministry.

- **St. Expeditus Team-** St. Expeditus is the Patron Saint of Procrastination and Organization. Every time we gather we will need parents to coordinate the Check-In process and nametag distributions. This is a volunteer ministry that requires that you come 45min. early to the Wednesday Nights to set-up check-in and nametags.
- **St. Catherine of Alexandria Team-** St. Catherine of Alexandria is the Patron Saint of Secretaries. Every week there are a variety of forms and data that need to be entered into our data system and reviewed, copies made, papers sorted, etc. This will be a 2-hour commitment weekly to help in the parish office and if we have more than one parent involved it can be broken down.
- **St. Peter Team-** St. Peter is known as the Gatekeeper. We are looking for parents to help set up the chairs, tables, etc. in the main space, and to tear down everything we use at the end of the night. This will require you to arrive either 45 minutes early to help with set-up or stay from 9:00 to 9:15 to tear down. We need more help with tear-down than set-up. The more parents we have, the faster this can go!
- **St. Martha Team-** St. Martha is the Patron Saint of Cooks. We are looking for parents who are willing to coordinate and provide food for our Day of Reflection and Overnight Retreats.

Guardian Angels- Guardian Angels are our Prayer Warriors and we are all called to be a part of this team. The purpose of this group is simply to pray for the teens of our parish. Whether for 10 minutes or an hour, please pray!

Dress Code for Confirmation Ceremony (Applies to Student and Sponsors)

Boys: Sunday best pants and shirt, suit or sport coat and tie are recommended. Dress shoes required, no sneakers.

Girls: No short dresses or skirts (knee length or longer is required), no scoop necks or low cut, no spaghetti straps, some sort of sleeve, shawl, or sweater is necessary.

(Those who arrive in inappropriate attire will be asked to change)

Candidate, Parent, and Sponsor Covenants

These forms are included in this packet. Please fill them out entirely and return at class or during office hours by **March 3rd**.

Supply Fee

To cover the expenses of the program all students are asked to pay a \$30 supply fee. This is separate from the retreat fee.

Behavior Policy

We believe that Catechists have the privilege to teach lessons and conduct workshops and students (with their families) have the responsibility to learn and incorporate these lessons into their daily lives in order to grow in their Catholic faith.

Therefore, we expect that our students (and their families) shall:

1. Be on time and ready to participate.
2. Behave in a way that does not disrupt teaching and learning.
3. Respect the safety, property, and rights of themselves and others.
4. Be cooperative and courteous to everyone.
5. Refrain from the use of cell phones (i.e., phoning, text messaging, videotaping) during class time.
All cell phones must be kept OFF.
6. Be registered in the RE parish program.

Questions and Concerns along the Way

We are happy to assist during this time of preparation as we are able. Chris Ochoa can be reached at the office at 512.255.1389 ext.224. Email is probably the best way to reach him chris@svdpparish.org. If a question arises on a class day, feel free to ask.

Diocesan Requirements

The policies printed below are taken from the Diocesan Pastoral Manual. Candidate's qualifications and readiness will be checked during the interview.

Diocesan Guidelines For the Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation of Adolescents

effective January, 2006

A. Qualifications of Candidates

1. Each baptized Catholic has the right and the obligation to receive the sacrament of confirmation, but the candidate has the personal responsibility to choose to complete initiation into the faith life of the Church.
2. Candidates may request the sacrament if they:
 - a. Are baptized and able to renew baptismal promises, unless a grave reason suggests otherwise
 - b. Exhibit an active faith life and knowledge of the Church
 - c. Participate in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Mass
 - d. Are willing to commit to active involvement in the parish confirmation catechesis
 - e. Are willing to respond to the call to active participation in the Church
 - f. Are willing to continue to learn and grow in faith following confirmation and throughout their lifetime

Diocese of Austin Policy on the Age of Confirmation

Revised June, 2011

In order to serve the needs of the people of God in the Diocese of Austin and to be responsible stewards of the gifts given to the diocese, the Diocese of Austin issues the following policy:

- I. Religious education and faith formation is a life-long process.
 - A. The sacramental preparation process is supplemental to regular participation in the parish or school religious education programs.
 - B. It is understood that each parish is responsible for providing the faith formation of the middle-school and high-school age members of the community.
 - C. At certain times in the life of the youth, they are more involved in school or other activities.
- II. The age for the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation will be the early years of high school (14 to 16 years).
- III. A minimum of two (2) years of formal religious education in a parish or Catholic school program precedes preparation for the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation. Many struggle with the attitude of confirmation being the "graduation" sacrament. Confirmation is part of a four-year high school catechetical program and the celebration of the sacrament can take place anytime within that period for those adequately

prepared.

- A. Confirmation preparation does not have to culminate in May.
 - 1. Confirmations may take place from August to May.
 - B. Note that confirmations in a particular parish do not necessarily take place every year.
- IV. Because the primary faith community is the local parish, preparation for the sacrament of confirmation is to take place in the local parish.¹
- V. Sacramental preparation for confirmation has a distinct catechesis with its own focus and elements (*Challenge of Adolescent Catechesis*, 1986: 46).
- A. This study and preparation should take place within a period not to exceed nine (9) to twelve (12) weeks and include the following:
 - 1. The elements of the rite of confirmation
 - 2. The meaning of the baptismal promises
 - 3. The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah and Galatians)
 - 4. The meaning of “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”
 - 5. The action of the laying on of hands and anointing with the Sacred Chrism
 - 6. The Lord’s Prayer: “because it is the Spirit who prays in us and in the Spirit the Christian says, ‘Abba Father.’” (*Rite of Confirmation* 14)
 - 7. The rights, responsibilities, duties, and obligations of full initiation in the Catholic community: Word, worship, community, and service B. All persons involved in the preparation process are required to study the introduction, the full prayer texts and Scriptures of the rite of confirmation, and to understand the theology of Christian initiation, especially the sacrament of confirmation.

¹ *Preparation for confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his action, his gifts, and his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end, catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmation. (CCC. 1309)*

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Diocese of Austin
9500 Neenah Drive
Austin, TX 78717
(512) 255-1389

Candidate Confirmation Covenant

It is my desire to be entered into Confirmation preparation, with the following goals:

- Form a closer relationship with God
- Achieve a deeper understanding of His love and will for me
- Participate in an opportunity to serve His people
- Use this time to spend time with my brothers and sisters in Christ

In order to accomplish those goals, I promise to:

- Attend Mass regularly
- Actively participate in the preparation process and sessions
- Openly participate in the Confirmation Retreat
- Use my gifts and talents to serve in my community service project
- Support my fellow candidates in the journey alongside myself
- Continue to be active in church ministries and faith formation opportunities
- Pray often

I understand that in signing this covenant, I am making a promise to God, to my pastor, my catechists, my parents, my church, and to myself. I am willing to be held accountable for my promise.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Diocese of Austin
9500 Neenah Drive
Austin, TX 78717
(512) 255-1389

Parent Confirmation Covenant

Student Name: _____

It is my/our desire to have my/our child attending Confirmation preparation this year at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. I/We desire to be faithful to the promise I/We made at his/her baptism.

In order to support him/her in their journey, I promise to:

- Regularly attend Mass with my son/daughter
- Pray for their journey and discuss with them often about their preparation
- Hold them accountable in participating in all required sessions and retreats.
- Continue to be a positive role model in my own Christian walk.

It is my/our intention to remain faithful to this promise. I/We am/are accountable to God, my/our child, and to my/our church.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Diocese of Austin
CONFIRMATION SPONSOR COVENANT

As a Confirmation sponsor, your role is to encourage the faith of your candidate and be an “example” to your Confirmation candidate and to reflect with the candidate on the meaning of a life of Catholic discipleship.

The Code of Canon Law (Church Law) specifies the requirements for serving as a sponsor at Confirmation (Canon 893) are the same as those for godparents at Baptism (Canon 874): You may not be the parent of the person being confirmed; you must be at least 16 years old; you must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); if married, be in valid Catholic marriage; and live a life of active faith in the Catholic Church.

I understand the requirements of being a Confirmation sponsor and I state that I received

the **Sacrament of Baptism**

at _____ Church in
_____ (City and State)

I received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**

at _____ Catholic Church in
_____ (City and State)

(And if married) celebrated the **Sacrament of Marriage**

at _____ in
_____ (City and State)

My candidate’s name is: _____

Name of parish and city where the **Sacrament of Confirmation** is to take place:

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Austin, Texas.

I am active in the Catholic Church, fully initiated into the Catholic Church, regularly attend Mass on Sunday and strive to live my faith.

Please print your:

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

2012 Confirmation Calendar

All Wednesday Sessions at St. Vincent de Paul from 7:45pm-9:00pm

Wed	January	11	<i>Adult Team Meeting</i>
Wed	January	18	<i>Peer-Leader Meeting</i>
Wed	January	25	
Wed	February	1	Parent/Candidate Welcome Night
Wed	February	8	Sponsor/Candidate Night
Wed	February	15	Session 1: Being a Candidate
Wed	February	22	Ash Wednesday- No Class
Wed	February	29	Session 2: Baptism- Waters of New Life
SAT	MARCH	3	Day of Reflection- Holy Family Catholic School (With Sponsors) 10:30am-6pm (including 5pm vigil Mass- parents encouraged to attend Mass)
Wed	March	7	Session 3: Renewing Baptismal Promises
Wed	March	14	Spring Break- No Class
Wed	March	21	Session 4: The Laying on of Hands
Wed	March	28	Session 5: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Wed	April	4	Holy Week- No Class
Wed	April	11	Session 6: Being Anointed by the Holy Spirit
Wed	April	18	Session 7: The Eucharist
Wed	April	25	Session 8: Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation
Wed	May	2	Session 9: Reflecting on God's Word
Fri-Sun	AUGUST	17-19	OVERNIGHT RETREAT
Wed	September	5	Confirmation Liturgy Review and Rehearsal
Sat	September	8	10:30am - Rehearsal
SUN	September	9	5pm: Rite of Confirmation
Wed	September	12	Mystagogy: Reflecting on the Rite of Confirmation