

# Confirmation Sponsor's Handbook 2011-2012



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# Confirmation Sponsor and Candidate Manual

Dear Sponsor,

Welcome to the St. Pius X Confirmation process. As a sponsor, you are taking on a commitment to pray for and work with the candidate this year as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. More importantly, you are also forming a bond of Christian fellowship with the candidate that will hopefully lead to a lifetime of prayer for one another. **A sponsor is to be an example of Christian living and represent the Church by supporting the candidate, praying with the candidate, and challenging him or her to live a Christian life.** As you work to prepare your candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, take this opportunity to discover more about yourself and learn more about the challenges and joys of being a Catholic; it is both an honor and a great responsibility to be a sponsor!

During this year of preparation the candidates were challenged to really begin to make the faith their own – through a commitment to prayer and weekly Mass and active participation in the parish. They were asked to prioritize their busy lives and see that God is the foundation of each day. It is emphasized throughout the year that God is meant to be a part of everything that we do, and that there is a direct connection between their openness to God and the graces that He wants to pour out into their lives. This year is so important in their faith, journey, and life; it will also be a time of many changes. Our team of catechists will pray that you too will have a year of great growth in your own faith.

This “Sponsor Handbook” will help you prepare your candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. **You will be asked to meet with the candidate on 5 separate occasions and go through the topics in this packet together. The questions will be answered by you, the sponsor, and you will be asked to give us your perception of the candidates readiness for the sacrament.** Your responses are read thoroughly and taken seriously and they are a large part of the candidates overall preparation for the sacrament. Throughout the following pages there are also activities that you may choose to do with your candidate throughout this year to help each of you grow more together in the faith. Finally, after all 5 sessions are met, you will be asked to write a letter explaining whether or not you are recommending your candidate for Confirmation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you!

In Christ,

*Elisa Tremblay*

Coordinator of Youth Ministry/Confirmation

***Come Holy Spirit, kindle in our hearts,  
the fire of your Love.***

# Sponsor's Expectations

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A SPONSOR?

According to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the sponsor is a man or woman who knows the candidate, helps them, and witnesses to their morals, faith, and intention. It is a responsibility in their life, to help candidates through doubts and anxieties, to their baptismal life. Their responsibility remains important when the new member has received the sacraments, and needs help to remain faithful to his or her baptismal promises. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Nos. 42, 43).

## Sponsor Checklist:

- Have at least 5 hours of discussion with your candidate between August and March.
- Complete each of the 5 discussion topics in the booklet. Turn in the sponsor booklet to the Faith Formation Office by **March 18, 2012**.
- Complete the letter of recommendation for the candidate regarding your candidate's readiness to receive the Sacrament. This letter should be filled out in the back of this booklet.
- Together with the candidate decide whether or not the candidate will request Confirmation from the Bishop. Be aware of the letter, which needs to be written by the candidate to the Bishop in which Confirmation is requested. The candidate's letter needs to be sent to the Faith Formation Office or be brought to class by **March 18, 2012**.
- Periodically, check in with your candidate regarding his/her fulfillment of the candidate's expectations.
- Attend the Rehearsal (April 27, 2012-6-7:30pm) and Confirmation Mass (April 28, 2012 – 5:45-7:30pm).
- Continue to pray and be a spiritual presence in the candidate's life!

# Session One – Creed

We begin our profession of faith by saying: “I believe” or “We believe.” Before expounding the Church’s faith, as confessed in the Creed, celebrated in the liturgy, and lived in observance of God’s commandments and in prayer, we must first ask what “to believe” means. Faith is man’s response to God, who reveals Himself and gives Himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #26).

## Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions about discipleship. (Special note: The Catholic Youth Bible also has reflections on the scriptures that are good discussion starters.)

*Mark 1:16-20*

*Mark 1:40-46*

*Mark 2:15-17*

## Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think God might be saying to you through this passage?
2. How do you respond to God?
3. How have you accepted Jesus’ challenge to be His disciple? How can you become a better disciple?

## Activity:

- Read the **Nicene Creed** together and discuss each line of it. Talk about why we say the Nicene Creed together at Mass.
- Discuss the different parts of the creed and what they mean to our faith as Catholics.

## THE NICENE CREED

- *We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.*
- *We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,*
- *God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the*



## Session Two – Prayer

Only when we humbly acknowledge, “we do not know how to pray as we ought,” are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2559).

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions. (Special note: The Catholic Youth Bible also has reflections on the scriptures that are good discussion starters.)

*Matthew, chapters 5-7*

*Luke 6:46-49*

*Luke 10:29-37*

*Luke 12:22-32*

### Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think is the purpose of prayer? How often do you pray and what importance does prayer have in your life?
2. What are some obstacles that affect your prayer life? Brainstorm to find practical ways to overcome these obstacles.
3. How will your prayer life improve your participation in the weekly Eucharist?

### Activity:

- Attend Adoration together
  - St. Pius X (every Thursday 5pm. – Continues until Mass at 5:30 p.m.)
  - St. Pius X Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel that is open 24 hours everyday. (contact Faith Formation Office/Parish Office for the code.)
- Go to Stations of the Cross.
- Attend Mass together; perhaps attend a local Catholic Church that neither of you have attended before.



## Session Three – Liturgy

In every liturgical action the Holy Spirit is sent in order to bring us into communion with Christ and so to form his Body. The Holy Spirit is like the sap of the Father’s vine, which bears fruit on its branches (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1108).

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

*Matthew 25:31-40*

*Luke 10:29-37*

*James 1:19-27*

*Mark 2:1-12*

### Reflection Questions:

1. What is your attitude toward going to Mass? Has this always been your attitude? If not, how has it changed and why?
2. What is something you would like to “improve on.” (Example: Paying attention more during Mass).
3. What prayers do you say after receiving the Eucharist, are there new ones that can be learned?

### Activity:

- Attend one of the following together and have reflection time after:
  - Sunday or Saturday Mass of Holy Obligation
  - Holy Day Mass
  - Vespers
- Talk about the liturgical seasons of the Church:
  - Learn the Holy Days of Obligation
  - Do something special together for one of the feast days.
  - Do a special devotion together during the season of Advent/Lent.



## Session Four – Service

The laity can also feel called, or be in fact called, to cooperate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for the sake of its growth and life. This can be done through the exercise of different kinds of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord has been pleased to bestow on them (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #910).

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

*Matthew 25:44-45*      *Isaiah 58:6-7*      *Luke 14:13-14*

### Reflection Questions:

1. How does the Bible discuss the topic of service?
2. What kinds of service projects are you involved in?
3. Would this be a service that you would want to continue? Why or why not?

### Activity:

- Do a Service Project together.
  - Example: St. Joseph Food Pantry, Saint Vincent de Paul, etc.
- Watch a movie together that focuses on Social Justice and then discuss the issues. Come up with a solution that you can carry out within the community.
- Discuss what parish ministries you can become involved with after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
  - Example: Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Reader, Youth Ministry, etc.
- Find opportunities for service within your family or neighborhood and work on a project together.



## Session Five – Witness

To be a confirmed member of the faith community requires a willingness to “go public” and to make Jesus visible to society at large by one’s own actions and behaviors. For youth and many adults, to witness essentially means that they will provide a good example to others by their words and actions. It takes a willingness to demonstrate to others what Jesus stands for and to oppose those evils that destroy the rights and dignity of others.

### Scripture:

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages. Then for each of the Scripture readings, answer the questions.

*Matthew 28:18-20*

*II Cor. 5:20*

*Acts 1:8*

*Romans 10:14-15*

*Matt. 10:7*

*2 Timothy 2:2*

### Reflection Questions:

1. What are some obstacles to being a witness that you face in your school, home, peers , etc?
2. What are some ways that you can be a witness to others by your words, actions, etc.?
3. Name some people who are a good witness to you in your life?
4. The Church recognizes many who are great witnesses to the faith, who is a saint you admire? What is it about their witness that is impressive to you?

### Activity:

- Read some of the lives of the Saints together.
  - Help the candidate focus on a Saint who will be a good role model to emulate for their Confirmation name.
- Discuss concrete ways that the candidate can be a witness in their surroundings.
- Encourage your candidate to attend one of the many events that inspire youth to witness to their faith:
  - Example: March for Life, Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally, National Catholic Youth Conference, etc

