

September 12, 2010

## Guidelines for Confirmation

1. Importance of Sacrament

The Sacrament of Confirmation makes the baptized Christian a mature, active member of Christ's Church. The candidate should not take this important step lightly, but thoughtfully, with the support of parents and sponsors.
2. Mass Attendance and Confession

The Confirmation candidate should be in the habit of participating in the sacramental life of the Church. Regular participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy is a minimal requirement for **all** Catholics sincere in continuing their relationship with Christ. Candidates for Confirmation should be properly disposed to receive the sacrament by being reconciled with God and the Church through the sacrament of Penance. For this reason, a frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all candidates.
3. Written Request for Confirmation

Candidates are required to write a letter to the pastor, Fr. Steve LeBlanc, stating why they want to be confirmed and what they intend to do to adequately prepare themselves to receive the Sacrament. A form is provided within this packet to help them do this. The letter will be due at the Session on **Sunday, March 13, 2011.**
4. Religious Instruction

Candidates should make a sincere effort to attend all of the Life Teen activities, especially those not attending a Catholic High School. Failure to do so may jeopardize the candidates' readiness for the sacrament. **Attendance records will be reviewed at the interview.**
5. Confirmation Preparation Sessions

We have a series of five (5) sessions on some areas of significant importance to young people completing their initiation into the Church. The

sessions will take place on Sundays at **3:30 p.m.** in the Parish Life Center Hall. Candidates are asked to arrive at least **fifteen (15) minutes** early so that they can sign in and find their small group table before the beginning of session. Candidates are required to attend each of these sessions. If candidate misses a session, two options will be given to the candidate for a makeup. If the student misses more than two sessions, the third session will be made up the following year along with making their confirmation that year. No cell phones, I-Pods or MP3 Players – no shorts, please!

6. Works of Mercy

Each individual will be required to participate in a Works of Mercy project. Students will be assigned to a small group for the sessions. Each small group will perform the Work of Mercy as a group. ALL WORKS OF MERCY PROJECTS will be done in the weeks of March 7 – March 31, 2011. A written report of the project must be submitted at the interview. (A form is included in this packet to help do this.)

7. Confirmation Sponsor

The sponsor should be a **practicing, confirmed Catholic** of some spiritual maturity, and be willing to assist the candidate in his/her preparation. The sponsor should be someone the candidate can relate to and have some contact with during this period of spiritual formation as well as after the celebration. The sponsor should be willing and able to share his/her faith with the candidate. Desirably the sponsor would be one of the candidate's baptismal godparents. **Parents may not serve as sponsors to their own children.**

8. Retreats

The Confirmation Retreats will be held at Acadian Baptist Center in Richard, Louisiana. The Confirmation Retreat consists of a series of activities intended to help our youth take a good look at their relationship with God, others and themselves. It is a very important part of the program and everyone is required to attend. Cost: \$75.00 per candidate. If for some grave reason a candidate cannot attend, please call

Barbara Boudreaux, 237-5059, or e-mail Barbara\_boudreaux@stpiuselementary.org, so other arrangements can be made. No cell phones or I-Pods, No electronic devices please!

9. Interview

Each candidate will be interviewed individually. Candidates may be questioned on anything concerning their preparation for the sacrament. The interview will take place in the Life Center Hall on **Sunday, May 8, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.**

10. Rehearsal

There will be a rehearsal for Confirmation on **Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.** Candidates and sponsors are asked to gather in the **Life Center Hall at 4:45 p.m.** Candidates are required to remain through the entire rehearsal.

11. Confirmation

Confirmation will be held on **Friday, May 13, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.** in the St. Pius X Church. Candidates and their sponsors are asked to meet in the **Parish Life Center Hall at 6:00 p.m.** Family and friends are invited. **There can be no picture taking during the Confirmation Mass.**

12. Dress Code

Wear your “Sunday Best.” **For young ladies: a dress...For young men: a coat and tie.** As always, please keep the beautiful virtue of modesty in mind when choosing your Confirmation outfit. Bare shoulders, short skirts and “flip flops” are not acceptable. If you are in doubt about your outfit, please consult Mrs. Boudreaux.

13. Reception

There will be a reception for candidates and their families and friends in the Parish Life Center Hall immediately following the Confirmation Mass. Confirmation certificates will be made available to the newly confirmed at that time.