



CHOSEN CONFIRMATION PACKET

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Chosen Confirmation program at St. Raphael Catholic church! Thank you for choosing St. Raphael and getting your child registered for Faith Formation. This packet will contain everything you need to know about our program as well as paperwork that will need to be filled out and turned in for our records. The following is a brief description about the Chosen program:

“Church leaders, catechists, parents, and—most importantly—teens themselves have acclaimed Chosen as an engaging, fun, and life changing experience. In just its first year of release, this award-winning program has been implemented in thousands of parishes around the country. Chosen calls teens to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and is designed to answer the Church’s call for a New Evangelization, offering a new approach to youth catechesis and sacramental preparation.”

The most important thing we can do through this program as teachers, leaders, and parents is to make sure our young church have that personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Our mission is the same as the Great Commission found in the gospel of Matthew (28:16-20) when Jesus told His apostles to go out and make Disciples. We want to be Disciples and to make Disciples of Christ.

Confirmation is the third and final sacrament of initiation that completes the grace we receive from baptism. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “by the sacrament of confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” (CCC 1285).

Our program at St. Raphael Catholic Church divides the students into small groups of around 15 that will meet in the homes of our catechists on Sunday afternoons or Sunday nights. We try our best to accommodate requests based on location or catechist preference, but unfortunately it may just not be possible to accommodate everybody. We start our confirmation preparation in the 8th grade and continue until the candidates are confirmed in the fall of their sophomore year in high school. They will meet approximately 2-3 times a month from October to May; however there will be other events through the program that may not fall into that timeframe.

Please utilize the parent’s guide and follow along with your teen through the Chosen program. This journey is not meant to be traveled alone! The parents and the teen’s sponsor should be walking and praying with the candidate on this journey and throughout the entire program. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact our office at any time. Thank you!

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

May God bless you and the confirmandi on this journey!

Director of Youth Ministry
Chris Traub
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Chosen Confirmation Program Completion Guide

PLEASE KEEP THIS GUIDE FOR YOUR RECORDS

- 1. REGISTER AND PAY FOR THE PROGRAM EACH YEAR VIA ONLINE REGISTRATION. Please register in May.**
 - a. 8th grade
 - b. Freshman year
 - c. Sophomore year –Only pay the sacramental fee.

- 2. ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SMALL GROUP AND LARGE GROUP GATHERINGS**
 - a. Attendance will be taken for each small group and large group event.
 - b. Participation while at small group is very important. We want the confirmandi to be actively engaged in the discussions, prayer, icebreakers, etc. They should be completing the work in the student workbook, doing the challenges, and their reading.
 - c. Large group gatherings will most likely include parents and/or sponsors.
 - d. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** If an SCC session is missed, **THE PARENTS** are responsible for checking out the DVD from the Youth Faith Formation Office to make it up within a week's time. If three or more classes are missed, the catechist will notify the director who will then contact the family and come to a resolution to make up the missed time. It may also be determined whether or not the student should continue in the program.
***MISSING FOUR OR MORE CLASSES COULD RESULT IN NEEDING TO REPEAT THE YEAR.**

- 3. CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM**
 - a. To be turned in as soon as possible! The sponsor should be chosen right away.
 - b. The parish seal of the sponsor's parish must be present on the form unless the sponsor is a member of St. Raphael's.
 - c. Please see page 21 in the Parent's Guide for details on how to choose a sponsor.
 - d. We want the sponsor to be involved throughout the confirmation journey. Please be sure they receive the Chosen Sponsor's Guide.
 - e. The sponsor form is included in this packet.

- 4. CONFIRMATION NAME FORM**
 - a. Please turn this form by May of freshman year.
 - b. The confirmation or saint name can be any saint that is recognized as such by the Catholic Church or can be the student's birth name so long as it is a Christian name.
 - c. Research on the history of the saint is highly encouraged so that the saint chosen is meaningful to the confirmandi. Example: if the confirmandi loves animals they might choose the patron saint of animals (St. Francis of Assisi).

5. SAINT PROJECT/PAPER

- a. Completed by the end of year two in the program at the direction of the catechist.
- b. The student may choose to do a paper OR
- c. A project may consist of creating a video, PowerPoint presentation, short story, conducting an "interview", or other options approved by the catechist.
- d. Projects and papers will be presented in the confirmation small group.
- e. More details can be found near the end of this packet.

6. LETTER TO PASTOR

- a. This one page letter should be turned in by the end of May in the freshman year of high school.
- b. Directions for the letter are included in this packet.

7. ATTEND A REFLECTIONS CONFIRMATION RETREAT

- a. Currently, there are two retreats offered for the confirmation program. One will be in the freshman year of the program (usually in February) and the other will be as a sophomore (September/October).
- b. The Reflections Retreat is a vital part of the confirmation journey and should be attended by all in the program except for a serious concern or major conflict. **School dances and sports games are not considered a valid excuse to miss the retreat!**
- c. The retreat is a weekend away at Dickson Valley Retreat Center in Newark, IL.
- d. Once a student has participated in a Reflections Retreat, they are welcomed back to be a leader for future retreats.
- e. If there is a major conflict with both retreat weekends then please contact Chris as there will be summer opportunities. There will be no make-up assignment. If a student cannot make any of the retreat opportunities offered then Confirmation may be deferred until they can attend a retreat.

8. COMPLETE 15 HOURS OF SERVICE (OVER THE COURSE OF TWO YEARS)

- a. Each group should strive to do a service outing as a small group. These will vary depending on what your small group leaders and small group decide.
- b. Other opportunities for service would include but are not limited to:
 - i. Packing food at Feed My Starving Children
 - ii. Preparing and serving a meal at Hesed House
 - iii. Attending our annual Mission Trip in the summer
 - iv. Volunteering at a nursing home
 - v. Doing yard work, shoveling snow, cleaning, or home repairs for elderly or disabled. (At your own house would not count for this!)

- vi. Serving at church functions like doughnut Sunday, the parish picnic, the confirmation reception, Vacation Bible School/Totus Tuus leader, office help, etc.
- c. The service hour form in this packet needs to be filled out for **EACH** service done. Please then turn the form into the office or your catechist. We record service hours based on the forms turned in.
- d. **There is a maximum of 4 hours earned for each service event.** For example: One cannot just do all their hours at Feed My Starving Children. The idea is to do different service outings.

9. RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR IN THE PROGRAM

- a. There will be a reconciliation service offered each year in the Confirmation Program that students are expected to attend.
- b. If it's not possible to attend the reconciliation service, other days for confession include special Parish Reconciliation Services during Lent and Advent or on Saturdays between 4-4:45pm.
- c. Parents/Guardians and sponsors are all invited to the services.

10. CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL

- a. The confirmandi AND sponsor need to be present at the rehearsal. This will typically take place around a week before confirmation.
- b. If a sponsor should live out of town or is unable to make the rehearsal, a proxy is welcome to take their place at the rehearsal to relay all of the necessary information to the sponsor before the ceremony.



Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

Please return this form to:
St. Raphael Religious Education Office
1215 Modaff Rd. Naperville, IL 60540

Congratulations on being chosen as a Confirmation Sponsor. The role of Sponsor is an important one. The person who chose you feels you are someone who demonstrates living a Catholic lifestyle that is admired and that they would like to imitate. The responsibilities are listed below.
If you are unable to attend the Confirmation the child's parent may stand in as your proxy.

To help you understand your role as a sponsor you will receive a booklet from your candidate to follow the Confirmation preparation process. Please read the booklet thoroughly and follow through on the involvement recommended.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I _____,

Sponsor's name

A REGISTERED MEMBER OF _____ IN _____

Parish name

City, State

ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO BE THE SPONSOR AT THE CONFIRMATION OF

Candidate's name

In accepting this responsibility,

- I am at least 16 years of age.
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- I am not married outside the Catholic Church.
- I attend Mass regularly on Sunday .
- I am not a parent of the Confirmation candidate.

I understand and accept the responsibility which I undertake as a Sponsor and I promise to be a support and example that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and I am prepared to assist the Candidate by my support, encouragement and prayer.

Sponsor's Signature

PRIEST'S CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this sponsor candidate is a registered member of this parish in good standing and to the best of my knowledge, is capable of assuming the duties and responsibilities of the role of Sponsor.

Priest's Signature

Parish

Date

PARISH SEAL (MUST BE PRESENT)

CONFIRMATION NAME

It is currently recommended in the church that the candidate use his/her baptismal name as their Confirmation name because of the close connection between these two sacraments of initiation. However, you may select a new name if you wish. In choosing a Confirmation name, determine whether your baptismal name does reflect that special mission to which you feel God calls you. Your Confirmation name should be the name of a saint you admire or wish to imitate.

In both the Old and New Testament whenever God had a new mission for a person, that person received a new name, e.g. Jacob/Israel. Even without a name change, your name always stood for who you were.

Baptism/Confirmation sends each of us on a mission to go into whatever world we live in and to build God's kingdom there. While all initiated Christians have that general mission, God calls each one of us to a particular mission that no one else can accomplish.

CANDIDATES NAME:

CONFIRMATION NAME CHOSEN:

Once a confirmation name is chosen, please return this form to the Youth Ministry office. The candidate's confirmation name needs to be chosen by the end of Freshman Year.

SAINT PAPER/PROJECT

SAINT PAPER

> Choose a Patron Saint (it might be the one you chose for your Confirmation name or another with special meaning to you).

> Research the life of that saint.

> Write a minimum of a one page paper on your saint. Include in your paper the answers to the following questions as well as a title page with a picture of your saint.

1. Provide a brief background of the saint including where they lived, when they lived, and how they died.
2. What are some of the significant things this saint did in his/her life? What are they best known for?
3. Why did you choose to write about this saint?
4. How can you strive to live like this saint in your everyday life?

OR

SAINT PROJECT

Be creative! Options include creating a video, making a PowerPoint presentation, writing/illustrating a children's book about them, doing an "interview", composing a song about them, etc.

1. Must be approved by your Catechist.
2. Please include the same information requested for the paper.

LETTER TO THE PASTOR

Please complete and turn in by the end of Freshman Year.

Each candidate will prepare a formal letter of request for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The letter of request will be presented to the Pastor. You will address your letter to Fr. Dan. The content of the letter should be in your own words. You should indicate why you want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and how you have prepared for the reception of the sacrament. Tell the Pastor how your faith has grown and who and what helped you in that growth process. Mention who your sponsor is and why you chose that person. Also indicate your Confirmation name and what significance that name has for you. Finally, relate to the Pastor how you are going to participate in the life of the church and contribute to the building up of God's Kingdom after Confirmation.

The letter should be prepared with respect for the Pastor, that is, on clean stationery or paper (not on loose leaf paper or sheets torn out of a tablet). It should be written neatly or typed, printed, and signed by the candidate. Please place the letter in an envelope marked 'Letter to the Pastor' with the candidate's name in the lower corner of the envelope.

SERVICE HOURS FORM

(complete this form for EACH event served at)

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: _____

PARTICIPANT'S GRADE: _____

PARTICIPANT'S SCC CATECHIST(S): _____

HOURS COMPLETED: _____

NAME OF SERVICE EVENT: _____ EVENT DATE: _____

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE (WHAT DID YOU DO?):

WHAT DID YOU LEARN OR LIKE BEST ABOUT SERVING AT THIS EVENT?

WHY IS SERVING OTHERS IMPORTANT AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH CONFIRMATION?

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

TITLE AND SIGNATURE OF PERSON IN CHARGE OF SERVICE EVENT:

TITLE: _____ PRINT NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____